

MEETING MINUTES
WATONWAN COUNTY HUMAN SERVICES
 February 15, 2023

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Watonwan County Human Services Board met in regular open session, in the Watonwan County Human Services Community Room, in the city of St. James, MN, on **Wednesday, February 15, 2023, at 10:00 A.M.**, pursuant to notice given as required by law. The meeting was called to order by Board Chair, Dillon Melheim.

ROLL CALL

ATTENDEE NAME	TITLE	STATUS
Jim Pettersen	Commissioner – District 1 : <i>2023 Board Vice Chair</i>	Absent
Bill Miller	Commissioner – District 2	Absent
Jim Branstad	Commissioner – District 3	Absent
Scott Westman	Commissioner – District 4	Present
Dillon Melheim	Commissioner – District 5 : <i>2023 Board Chair</i>	Present
Ted Hedberg	Citizen’s Representative	Present
Dr. Nicolas Castillo	Citizen’s Representative	Present
Amy Pluym	Director	Present
Erin Marks	Support Services Supervisor	Present
Jodi Halvorson	Financial Assistance Supervisor	Present
Barb Salmela-Lind	Community Health Services Manager	Present
Joan Stordalen	Social Services Supervisor	Present
Katy Goldschmidt	Social Services Supervisor	Present

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

3. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

A motion was made by Hedberg, seconded by Castillo to approve the minutes, as presented, from the **January 18, 2023**, meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

4. CORRECTIONS / REVISIONS / ADDITIONS to agenda – so noted

5. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Melheim motioned, Westman seconded and the motion carried unanimously to approve the agenda as amended.

6. NEXT REGULAR BOARD MEETING will be held Wednesday, **March 15, 2023 at 10:00 A.M.** (Location: *Watonwan County Human Services, Community Room, 715 2nd Ave. S., St. James*)

7. FOOD SHELF PRESENTATION – Katherine Petty

- Petty, who serves on the **Watonwan County Food Shelf** Board, as well as their treasurer, was present at today’s meeting to talk about how the food shelf in **St. James** is run and what type of funding they receive.

8. ADULT SERVICES PRESENTATION – Postponed due to staff shortage.

9. DIRECTOR’S REPORT OF AGENCY OPERATIONS – Amy Pluym

- Continued staffing changes and training in of staff
- Notification that the old director of **Southern Minnesota Behavioral Health** is no longer there and that the interim director has reached out and would like to re-initiate a new contract.
- Minnesota Association of County Social Service Administrators (**MACSSA**) **updates**:
 - Various updates on behavioral health and developing recommendations to the legislature on high acuity patients.
 - **MnCHOICES** platform to launch in April.
- Outreach projects:
 - Pluym met with David Walz, new CEO of **Madelia Health**, and had discussions on mental health, offering in-service trainings about our agencies services. An adult mental health presentation is planned for some time in March.
 - Meetings with new **Emergency Management** Director, Ryan Visser.

10. INCOME MAINTENANCE / CHILD SUPPORT UPDATES – Jodi Halvorson

- The eligibility workers are preparing for the changes that are to come with the ending of the public health emergency.
- Halvorson reviewed the current county burial policy with the board members in attendance and suggested that there be an “unusual circumstances” exception added to the charges allowed in the policy. More information will be gathered and further discussion will be had in future board meetings in regards to updating the policy on a more regular basis.

11. PUBLIC HEALTH UPDATES – Barb Salmela-Lind

- Granted a Children’s Dental Outreach grant in the amount of \$15,000 for a grant cycle beginning 2/15/2023.
- Interviews were done last week for the open WIC Coordinator position and Salmela-Lind is waiting to hear back from an offer made to an applicant.
- A recent outreach project done with our local grocery store to develop bilingual shopping cards for our Spanish speaking WIC recipients.

12. SOCIAL SERVICES UPDATES – Joan Stordalen and Katy Goldschmidt

- **Children’s Unit** - Stordalen:
 - Children’s Mental Health caseloads continue to creep up. The current case load for a worker is 15 clients.
 - Interviews for an in-home therapist through Greater Minnesota Family Services are scheduled for this week.
- **Adult’s Unit** - Goldschmidt:
 - There is currently a staffing shortage, of 4 social workers, within the adult’s social services unit. The job postings closed this week and we are waiting on the registers from MN Merit System of qualified applicants.

13. PERSONNEL

- Castillo motioned, Hedberg seconded and the motion passed unanimously to approve the **Pay for Performance** of:

- **Jill Bodick Grace**, County Agency Social Worker
- **Rachel Friesen**, County Agency Social Worker
- **Macee Krumwiede**, County Agency Social Worker
- **Joan Stordalen**, Social Services Supervisor
- **Amanda Sturlis**, Eligibility Worker
- **Kimm Symens**, County Agency Social Worker
- Melheim motioned, Hedberg seconded and the motion passed unanimously to approve the **Permanent Status** of:
 - **Desiree Garibay**, Eligibility Worker
 - **Jodell Wright-Sletta**, Public Health Nurse
- Hedberg motioned, Westman seconded and the motion passed unanimously to accept the **Resignations, in good standing**, of:
 - **Shania Hansen**, Family Planning & Immunization Coordinator
 - **Doug Kraus**, County Agency Social Worker

14. COMMITTEE MEETING REPORTS

- **SCHSAC** (State Community Health Services Advisory Committee) – *Melheim*
- **VFC** (Visions for Families and Communities) Collaborative – *Hedberg and Branstad*
- **Immtrack** (Regional Immunization Registry) Joint Powers Board – *Pettersen*
- **Brown County Evaluation Center** – *Westman*
- **Enterprise North Inc.** – *Pettersen*
- **MRCI** (Managed Resources Connections Inc.) Board of Directors – *Miller*
- **CHS** (Community Health Services) Advisory Board – *Hedberg*

15. STAFF TRAINING / DEVELOPMENT

16. MONTHLY FINANCIAL CLAIMS

- Melheim moved, Westman seconded and the motion carried unanimously to approve the regular **monthly claims** and the **monthly credit card payments** as submitted.

17. CONTRACTS / AGREEMENTS / POLICIES

18. OTHER

19. ADJOURNMENT

- Having no additional business, Castillo motioned, Melheim seconded and the motion carried unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 11:28 A.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Erin Marks, Support Services Supervisor

Dated: 3/15/2023

Dillon Melheim, County Commissioner – Board Chair

Dated: 3/15/2023