

800 CLERMONT STREET  
ANTIGO, WI 54409-1948  
[WWW.CO.LANGLADE.WI.US](http://WWW.CO.LANGLADE.WI.US)

LANGLADE COUNTY



TELEPHONE: (715)627-6200  
FAX: (715)627-6303

## MEETING MINUTES

**Committee:** Joint Social Services and Veterans Committee Meeting  
**Date:** Tuesday, January 14, 2025  
**Time:** 3:30 PM  
**Location:** County Board Room, Lower level of the Safety Building

The following discussion was held by the Committee at the meeting detailed above:

1. The meeting was called to order at 3:30 p.m. by Chairman McDougal.
2. Pledge of Allegiance and observe a moment of silence as final recognition is given to fallen Veterans.

SOCIAL SERVICES & VETERANS COMMITTEE			
Name	Role	Status	
Bruce McDougal	Chairman	Present	
Andrew Bauknecht	Vice-Chairman	Absent	
Joel Wagner	Member	Present	
Teresa Poltrock	Member	Present	
Carol Bardo	Member	Present	
Non-Committee Members Present			
Name	Interest	Name	Interest
John Zenkovich	Director of Health & DSS	Jason Hilger	County Administrator
Becky Rank	Deputy County Clerk/ Rec. Secretary	Randy Adair	Veterans Officer

3. **Recognize members to be excused:** Motion by J. Wagner, second by Bardo to excuse Bauknecht. All ayes, motion carried.
4. **Approve previous meeting minutes of November 12, 2024:** Motion by J. Wagner, second by Bardo to approve the previous meeting minutes of November 12, 2024. All ayes, motion carried.
5. **Review Veterans' Office budget:** Veterans Officer Adair presented the Committee with a printed budget. Adair stated the 2024 budget will stay in the black, stating they had a good year with donations and fundraising. Information only.
6. **Veterans' Office Update:** Veterans Officer Adair presented the Committee with printed handouts on the Veterans Service Commission Assistance Program and the 2024 Langlade County Veterans Commission Relief Fund. Adair stated the Commission Assistance Program aids needy Veterans, spouses, surviving spouses, minor and dependent children of Veterans, and needy parents of Veterans who qualify. The Veterans Service Commissioners and the CVSO have the authority to administer funding. Adair stated to be eligible the individual must complete a Veterans Service Commission Assistance Application. Adair stated that once approved, commission assistance checks are not made out or sent to the applicant but to the business providing the service. Adair stated he has the authority to distribute gas/grocery gift cards for immediate relief to a qualified person in need. A logbook has to be maintained to track pertinent information for the purchase and distribution of the cards and to maintain a chain of custody for each card. Discussion held. Information only.

## Meeting Minutes (Continued)

**7. Review the Social Services budget:** DSS/Health Director Zenkovich presented the Committee with a printed Social Services budget. Zenkovich stated the Energy Assistance budget is in good shape. Zenkovich stated CPS and YJ are both over budget. Zenkovich stated CPS, Kinship is over budget by 19%. The Youth Justice Budget is over by 20%. Zenkovich stated these budgets are hard to set due to the unknown out-of-home placement costs. Zenkovich stated the budget is monitored closely and YJ tries to find the most cost-effective placements for the youth, what is best for the youth, family, and community. Information only.

**8. Correspondence and Reports:**

**a. Updates from Youth Justice:** DSS/Health Director Zenkovich presented the Committee with a written Youth Justice report and current 2025 facility rates. Zenkovich stated Lincoln Hills rates may change mid-year. Discussion held on current placements of Langlade County Youth and cost of facilities. Zenkovich reported there are 75 youth referrals YTD, a current caseload of 29, and 7 awaiting court hearings. Information only.

**b. Updates from Child Protective Services:** DSS/Health Director Zenkovich presented the Committee with a written CPS report. Zenkovich stated there are currently 53 youths placed out of home. Zenkovich reported the Community Case Manager has 5 cases for open assessments, 3 voluntary, 3 informal, and 2 courtesy cases. Zenkovich stated the Department is doing well but still transiting with the change in leadership. Information only.

**c. Update from Economic Support and Energy Assistance:** DSS/Health Director Zenkovich presented the Committee with a written Energy Assistance and Economic Support Report. 2025 Energy Assistance began on October 1, 2024, with 936 applications received. Zenkovich reported that 834 households received assistance with \$531,281 paid out.

Zenkovich stated he is working with HR on filling the vacant Economic Support Specialist position. Zenkovich presented the Committee with a presentation on Economic Support CoVID Unwinding and Post Unwinding Workloads. Zenkovich stated the Economic Support Consortium is proposing adding more staff to decrease the mandatory overtime and burnout of its employees. Zenkovich stated the consortium consists of 4 counties (Langlade, Marathon, Oneida, and Portage). Per the presentation, 53 staff maintain 32,578 cases with a case increase of 4,600 (many first-time recipients) since CoVID. Zenkovich stated Langlade County would increase 1 full-time Economic Support Specialist with funding coming from the consortium. Zenkovich would like the Committee to approve and forward it to the Personnel and Administrative Committees. Zenkovich would like to have both positions filled at the same time to make the transition and training easier. Motion by Bardo, second by J. Wagner to approve the hire of an additional Economic Support Position in Langlade County, forwarding onto Personnel and Administrative Committees. All ayes, motion carried.

**9. New Business:** None

**10. Old Business:** None

## Meeting Minutes (Continued)

- 11. County Administrator Update:** County Administrator Hilger stated the Veterans Office runs smoothly and is financially in good shape. Hilger stated the DSS Department is working through a change in leadership. Hilger stated the 2024 DSS budget is not finalized. Hilger stated DSS has its own fund balance to offset overages. Hilger explained how the DSS fund balance works. Hilger stated that Zenkovich is on top of the budgets and reviews them on a regular basis. Hilger stated he has reached out to both State Senator Felzkowski and Representative Callahan on the increased cost of Lincoln Hills. Hilger encourages the Supervisors to also reach out with concerns about cost increases. Information only.
- 12. Referrals and Recommendations for the next meeting:** Supervisor J. Wagner would like to have an ADRC representative at the next meeting to discuss programs for Langlade County Residents. J. Wagner would like to also invite Langlade County Senior Center Director McCann to the discussion.
- 13. Set the next meeting (Mar 11, 2025, 3:30 pm)**
- 14. Adjourn meeting:** Motion by J. Wagner, second by Bardo to adjourn the meeting at 4:30 p.m. All ayes, motion carried.

Minutes submitted by:  
Becky Rank Deputy County Clerk, Recording Secretary