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LANGLADE COUNTY



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MEETING MINUTES

Committee: Social Services and Veterans Committee Meeting
Date: January 8, 2026
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 Bauknecht.
2. Pledge of Allegiance and observe a moment of silence as final recognition is given to fallen Veterans.
3. **Recognize members to be excused.** Motion by Bardo, second by Poltrock, to excuse Livingston. All ayes, motion carried.

SOCIAL SERVICES & VETERANS COMMITTEE			
Name	Role	Status	
Andrew Bauknecht	Chairman	Present	
Teresa Poltrock	Vice-Chair	Present	
Joel Wagner	Member	Present	
Carol Bardo	Member	Present	
Bill Livingston	Member	Absent	
Non-Committee Members Present			
Name	Interest	Name	Interest
Sheila Rine	Office Manager DSS/Health	Randy Adair	Veterans Officer
Robin Stowe	Corporation Counsel	Amber Resch	Economic Support Supervisor
Becky Rank	Deputy County Clerk/Recording Sec.		

4. **Approve previous meeting minutes of November 4, 2025:** Motion by Poltrock, second by Bardo to approve the previous meeting minutes of November 4, 2025. All ayes, motion carried.
5. **Review Veterans Office Budget:** Veterans Officer Adair updated the Committee on the Veterans Office Budget. Adair stated the 2025 Budget will end in good shape. Adair stated there will be some carryover into 2026. The travel line item shows it is over budget; however, there is a travel grant that will cover that overage.
6. **Veterans Office Update:** Veterans Officer Adair presented the Veterans Service Commission Assistance Program, a local county-run initiative offering emergency aid grants for basic needs such as food, housing, utilities, and medical bills for Veterans and their families. This program acts as a crucial safety net for immediate crises, complementing long-term VA benefits. Adair noted the Commission itself consists of three resident Veterans, each appointed to a staggered three-year term by the County Executive or Board Chairperson. Regarding program financials for the 2025 year, the Veterans Commission Relief Fund received \$3,810.00 in donations, raised an additional \$4,221.06 at the Thank-A-Vet Brat Fry, and disbursed a total of \$4,590.48 in assistance to local Veterans.
7. **Review Social Services Budget:** DSS/Health Office Manager Rine presented the Committee with an overall department budget. Rine stated the total DSS budget is \$4,087,929, with 94% spent as of November 30, 2025. Rine stated that the budget is projected to be under budget. Information only.

Meeting Minutes (Continued)

8. Correspondence and Reports:

a. **Updates from Youth Justice:** DSS/Health Office Manager Rine presented the Youth Justice Budget to the Committee. As of November 2025, the Department has expended \$1,451,882.95, representing 181% of the original \$800,000 allocation, leaving the budget overdrawn by \$651,882.95. Rine attributed these costs to out-of-home placements for six youth, including three in residential facilities, one in a group home, one in the 180 Secure Detention Program, and one in secure detention. Rine discussed the cost per day for each facility. Information only.

b. **Updates from Child Protective Services:** DSS/Health Office Manager Rine presented the Social Services Budget to the Committee. Rine reported that the Kinship Care Budget was \$125,000, with \$129,057 expended, resulting in an overage of \$4,057. Subsidized Guardianship was budgeted at \$102,000, with \$90,027 expended, leaving a balance of \$11,973. Foster Care was budgeted at \$550,000, with \$283,885 expended, leaving a balance of \$266,115. Rine further reported that Child Protective Services (CPS) Staff currently has 3.5 vacancies. Youth Justice has filled all three Youth Justice Worker positions. The Department's goal is to cross-train the three Youth Justice Workers with CPS staff to help alleviate caseloads in the event of vacancies.

Rine also reported that the Case Manager position currently has four active cases, one voluntary case, and four out-of-county courtesy cases. This item was presented for information only.

c. **Updates from Economic Support and Energy Assistance:** Economic Support and Energy Assistance Supervisor Resch presented the Committee with statistics for the Langlade County FoodShare Program, outlining benefits issued from 2021 to the present. As of November 2025, Langlade County had issued \$445,843 in FoodShare benefits to residents. Resch also updated the Committee on the Energy Assistance Program. The 2025–2026 Home Energy Plus Program year began on October 1, 2025. Resch reported that 500–600 early applications were mailed to individuals on fixed incomes. As of January 2, 2026, a total of 791 applications had been processed, with 683 households already receiving energy assistance benefits. Resch noted that nine households had received crisis assistance. The average heating benefit per household is \$483.00.

Resch reminded the Committee that no county funds are allocated for benefits through Economic Support Programs or the Wisconsin Home Energy Assistance Program, as all benefit funding is provided through State and Federal sources.

9. **New Business:** Corporation Counsel Stowe addressed the Committee and stated that, in the absence of a Social Services Director, all contracts have been reviewed and approved by him, and noted that day-to-day operational needs have been managed by DSS/YJ Supervisor Bricko, Economic Support Director Resch, and Office Manager Rine.

10. Old Business

a. **Director's retirement update:** Corporation Counsel Stowe addressed the Committee and reported that an offer had been made to and accepted for the Director of Social Services position, with a projected start date of January 26. Stowe asked for Committee approval to meet with the incoming Director, along with DSS/YJ Supervisor Bricko, Economic Support Director Resch, and Office Manager Rine, to review the work plan. The Committee approved

Meeting Minutes (Continued)

the request. Stowe also discussed the need to develop a succession plan for the Director position in the event of an absence. Information only.

- 11. Referrals and Recommendations for the next meeting:** No referrals or recommendations.
- 12. Set the next meeting (March 3, 2026, 3:30 pm)**
- 13. Adjourn meeting:** Motion by J. Wagner, second by Poltrock, to adjourn the meeting at 4:33 p.m. All ayes, motion carried.

Minutes submitted by:

Becky Rank, Deputy County Clerk, Recording Secretary