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## MEETING MINUTES

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**Committee:** Department of Social Services  
**Date:** Monday, March 12<sup>th</sup>, 2018  
**Time:** 10:00 a.m.  
**Location:** Health Service Center Board Room, 1225 Langlade Rd., Antigo WI 54409

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

1. Meeting called to order at 10:00 a.m.
2. Reminder to silence cell phones
3. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited
4. Roll call was conducted. Motion by Cahak, seconded by Benishek to excuse Holly Matusheski. Motion carried. (Matusheski called in at 10:30 a.m. to state she couldn't attend the meeting today.

DSS COMMITTEE		
Name	Role	Status
Robert Benishek	Committee Member	Present
Richard Hurlbert	Committee Member	Present
Holly Matusheski	Chair	Absent
Joe Novak	Committee Member	Present
Vern Cahak	Committee Member	Present
Non-Committee Members Present		
Name	Interest	
Craig Hotchkiss	Juvenile Justice	
Sheila Rine	Administrative Assistant	
Patsy Rolo	ES Supervisor	
Ron Barger	Health & DSS Director	
Tracy Chernetski	CFS Supervisor	
Kim Schwartz	Juvenile Justice	
Alisha Resch	HR Director	
Tina Verhagen	HR	

5. Approve previous meeting minutes (February 12<sup>th</sup>, 2018). Motion by Cahak, seconded by Benishek to approve the minutes from February 12<sup>th</sup>, 2018. All ayes. Motion carried.
6. Public comment on agenda items, and consideration of requests for items to be added to future meeting agendas – None
7. Bills were reviewed.

## Meeting Minutes (Continued)

8. Correspondence and Reports:
  - a. Update from Economic Support and Energy Assistance – Rolo passed around her report on economic support and WHEAP. Rolo stated they are fully staffed with 6 Economic Support Workers. Continue to process cases consortia wide rather than county based. Energy is continuing to stay busy as well booking into April. Disconnections will start on April 15<sup>th</sup>, therefore, the agency will be expecting an increase in calls and walk-ins requesting crisis assistance.
  - b. Update from Children and Family Services – Chernetski introduced Rachael Tulickas, Social Work Aid who replaced Karen Smith who retired the end of Dec. Chernetski passed around her report. 17 screened in reports and 26 screened out. 1 staff member is currently out on FMLA, expected to return in April.
  - c. Update from Juvenile Justice – Hotchkiss reviewed the 5 cases he currently is working with.
  - d. Legislative Update – Barger stated that on March 20<sup>th</sup>, the State Senate convenes. Discussion regarding shutting down Lincoln Hills and Copper Lake will take place. If all approved, the shut down will occur over 3-4 years. Discussed that if this happens, does Langlade County want to build a facility here?
9. Directors Report and Personnel Update – See other agenda items.
10. Old Business:
  - a. Barger mentioned that the transfer of the Sheriff’s Department vehicle to Juvenile Justice has occurred. The sale from the Crowne Victoria will help cover the repairs on the vehicle obtained from the Sheriff’s Department.
  - b. Recommendation from Finance Department to transfer \$260,000 from the General Fund will go to the County Board for approval in March to cover out of home placement cost shortfall. Barger explained that when he starts to work with the budget for next year, he would like to increase the amount by another \$100,000 to show more of an actual cost. Every director has struggled with the out of home placement costs. Drugs and mental health issues have continue to increase and you can’t turn a blind eye on these situations without putting clients, the public or the county at risk.
  - c. Ron attended the last Personnel Committee to discuss increasing his hours to 37.5, to match the work that he has been doing. After the request from both BOH and DSS oversight committees to put this on Personnel agenda, it wasn’t on the agenda nor the amended agenda, so Barger attended and asked to speak in closed session. Benishek asked where the members who are questioning this is – where are they? They don’t attend any of the meetings where this is discussed, nor have they approached him to ask. Benishek stated that the County Board works on land issues and they want nothing to do with “the people”. They don’t want to serve on committees that involve services to people. Discussed development of lead workers. Some Personnel committee members question if DSS department would be better served by having a Social Worker as the Director. Rolo stated that she doesn’t need a social worker for a director, she needs someone to work the business aspect and Barger has been doing a great job with her department and the consortia. Chernetski stated she has been employed by the county for a total of 14 years and it has been the best it has ever been since this reorganization change occurred. We have great teams – why change something that is working? Benishek asked what are we doing now that is wrong? Discussed having a joint meeting with BOH, Personnel and DSS to discuss this issue. Also to have Robin Stowe, Dave

## Meeting Minutes (Continued)

Solin, Hotchkiss and Judge Rhode and HR attend to discuss the future direction of DSS. Benishek stated the reorganization of the Health and Social Services was done by resolution and was discussed and reviewed 1 ½ years ago. “We can’t keep bringing this up.” A joint meeting will be tentatively scheduled for Monday, March 26<sup>th</sup> at 10 a.m. pending Personnel chairpersons approval.

### 11. New Business

- a. Conference and Workshop attendance for staff and/or committee members - Motion by Benishek, seconded by Novak to allow any member to attend necessary meetings with per diem and mileage. All ayes. Motion carried.
- b. Update on Action Alliance activities – Continues to meet 2x/mo and focuses on alcohol and drugs with youth. Strengthening Families and ACE training will be coming up soon.
- c. Elizabeth Gebert will be having a community listening session on Monday, March 19<sup>th</sup> at 6 p.m. in the Volm Theater. Also working on Coordinated Community Response team that will focus on a variety of community issues such as sexual assault, drugs, mental health, etc.

12. Referrals and Recommendations for the April meeting – None.

13. Set date for next regular meeting: April 9<sup>th</sup>, 2018 at the Health Service Center Board Room at 10:00 AM.

14. Adjourn meeting. Motion by Cahak, seconded by Benishek to adjourn the meeting at 11:10 a.m. All ayes. Motion carried.

Minutes transcribed and submitted by:  
Sheila Rine  
Administrative Assistant