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LANGLADE COUNTY



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## MEETING MINUTES

**Committee:** Social Services and Veterans Committee Meeting  
**Date:** May 13, 2025  
**Time:** 3:30 PM  
**Location:** Langlade County Resource Center, Wolf River Room

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 acting Chairman Bauknecht
2. Pledge of Allegiance and observe a moment of silence as final recognition is given to fallen Veterans. The Veterans' Officer read the list, and a moment of silence was observed.

SOCIAL SERVICES & VETERANS COMMITTEE			
Name	Role	Status	
Bruce McDougal	Chairman	Absent	
Andrew Bauknecht	Vice-Chairman, Acting Chair	Present	
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	Randy Adair	Veterans Officer
Becky Rank	Deputy County Clerk/Recording Sec.	Reinhardt Balcerzak	Supervisor

3. Recognize members to be excused:
4. Approve the previous meeting minutes of March 11, 2025: Motion by J. Wagner, second by Bardo to approve the previous meeting minutes of March 11, 2025. All ayes, motion carried.
5. Public requests for items to be added to future meeting agendas: no requests.
6. Review Veterans Office budget: Veterans Officer Adair stated the 2025 budget is in good shape. Adair stated he and Administrative Assistant Mary Lex recently attended a conference, cost will reflect on the next budget. Adair stated the attendance of these conferences are necessary for training accreditation. Cemetery Flags will be ordered. The cost for the flags is in the budget. Information only.
7. Veterans Office Update: Veterans Officer Adair updated the Committee on Veterans Office Personnel. Adair stated that Administrative Assistant Mary Lex will be retiring on July 31, 2026. Adair updated the committee on a Veterans program called the Veterans Readiness and Employment (VR&E) Program. This provides job training and employment-related services to Veterans. Adair stated there is an individual interested in this program and learning how to work in the Veterans Office and train with Mary Lex. This program is at no cost to the County. The applicant is from Langlade County with family ties in the area. Adair stated he will work with Corporation Counsel on the necessary contracts.

Adair presented the Committee with a written handout on VA Healthcare. Adair stated that the VA maintains a healthcare system throughout the country by establishing clinics and hospitals in various locations. Langlade County Veterans who desire to use VA healthcare choose between using the

## Meeting Minutes (Continued)

Rhineland Clinic, which has Iron Mountain VA Medical Center as its hospital, or the Wausau Clinic, which has the Tomah VA Medical Center as its hospital. These clinics and hospitals offer services similar to other healthcare systems, from annual physicals, hearing aids, and shots, to major surgeries, prosthetics, and hospice care.

8. **Review the Social Services budget:** Director of Health & DSS Zenkovich updated the Committee on the Social Services budget. Zenkovich stated that the Youth Justice budget is projected to go over budget, they are currently at 51% of total budget used. CPS is currently at 30% used between Subsidized Guardianship, Kinship and Foster Care. Information only.

9. **Correspondence and Reports:**

- a. **Updates from Youth Justice:** Director of Health & DSS Zenkovich updated the Committee on the Youth Justice Department. Zenkovich stated that in Wisconsin, a Judge determines out-of-home placement for a Youth Justice case after considering various factors, including the juvenile's needs, the safety of the placement, and the best interest of the child. The Judge will also consider recommendations from the DA and YJ case managers. Zenkovich reported on current Youth Justice case placements, stating there are 2 in residential facilities, 1 in a group home, 1 in secure detention 180 program, 2 in secure detention, and 3 awaiting placement. Zenkovich stated that 1 youth has been removed from Rawhide due to behaviors. YJ worker Hotchkiss has found placement for that youth at Cove Prep Treatment Facility in Pennsylvania. Zenkovich stated that there are only 2 YJ workers, and they are unable to make this transport. Zenkovich has reached out to the Sheriff's Office for assistance. The Sheriff's Office was able to recommend a transport service that they use to transport inmates. Zenkovich is looking into this service. Information only.
- b. **Updates from Child Protective Services:** Director of Health & DSS Zenkovich updated the Committee on the CPS Department. Zenkovich stated the CPS Supervisor position is currently vacant due to separation of employment. Zenkovich stated that one IA worker is working as the Interim Supervisor. Zenkovich stated he is working with HR on filling current vacant positions. Zenkovich stated there are 1 full-time and 1 part-time Social Worker positions vacant, along with the Supervisory position. Zenkovich stated that there is currently an applicant pool to fill the vacancies. Zenkovich states the case load is as follows: 44 total reports; 14 screened in; 1 child removed; 1 child returned; 45 total children out-of-home. The Case Manager position has been taking IA case types to help cover the current vacancies. Information only.
- c. **Update from Economic Support and Energy Assistance:** Director of Health & DSS Zenkovich presented the Committee with a written Economic Support and Energy Assistance report. Zenkovich stated the Energy Assistance program will end on May 15. The program runs October 1-May 15. The total household applications received is 1,217. The total households assisted is 1,133. The total amount of benefits given out since October 1 is \$856,823. Zenkovich stated the Food Share Program has distributed around \$450,000 in benefits. Zenkovich stated that these benefits are used locally. Information only.

## Meeting Minutes (Continued)

### 10. New Business

- a. **Discuss Resolution supporting the Provision that Wisconsin State Statutes be amended to require that state mandates on Counties be Fully Funded:** Committee was presented with a proposed resolution that supports the provision that Wisconsin State Statutes be amended to require that state-mandated programs within the County be fully funded with State funding. Director of Health & DSS Zenkovich stated that the state does not fully fund mandated programs, causing the local taxpayers to incur the remainder of the costs. When counties have to budget for state-mandated services, it redirects funding away from local services. Motion by Bardo, second by J. Wagner, to support the Resolution that supports the provision that Wisconsin State statute be amended to require that state mandates on Counties be fully funded, moving the Resolution to the full County Board. All ayes, motion carried.

11. **Old Business:** None

12. **County Administrator Update:** None

13. **Referrals and Recommendations for the next meeting:** Director of Health & DSS Zenkovich presented the committee with a DSS organizational staffing chart. Zenkovich stated he is planning to retire in 2026 and is recommending splitting DSS with Health. Zenkovich stated the Social Services Director would focus solely on DSS and have nothing to do with the Health side. Zenkovich stated he recommends the creation of a Youth Justice Supervisor with 2 youth justice workers. Zenkovich would like to see this item on upcoming agendas to be added to the 2026 budget. Information only.

14. **Set the next meeting (July 8, 2025, 3:30 pm)**

15. **Adjourn the meeting:** Motion by J. Wagner, second by Poltrock to adjourn the Social Service Meeting at 4:28 p.m. All ayes, motion carried.

Minutes submitted by:

Becky Rank, Deputy County Clerk, Recording Secretary