

Ward County Social Service Board
Minutes
February 5, 2019 – 8:00 AM
Ward County Commissioner's Chambers

PRESENT:

Shelly Weppler
John Fjeldahl
John Pietsch
Jim Rostad
Alan Walter

Also present were Melissa Bliss, Director; Karen Schultz, Recording Secretary and Connie Zieske, Account Budget Specialist.

MOTION:

It was moved by Jim Rostad, seconded by John Fjeldahl and unanimously carried by the Board approval of the Minutes of the January 2nd, 2019 Regular Board Meeting.

MOTION:

It was moved by Alan Walter, seconded by John Fjeldahl and unanimously carried by the Board approval of the bills for February 5, 2019.

MOTION:

It was moved by Jim Rostad, seconded by Alan Walter and unanimously carried by the Board to receive and file the Budget Recap Expenses for December 2018.

MOTION:

It was moved by John Pietsch, seconded by John Fjeldahl and unanimously carried by the Board to receive and file the Revenue Report for December 2018.

The Board reviewed the General Assistance approvals and denials. No appeals were scheduled.

The 2018 Annual Department Report for Ward County Social Services was presented to the Board. Economic Assistance Programs were down slightly from 2017 in TANF, Food Stamps and Medicaid. In Home Services reflected the most significant increase in cases from 2017.

Regarding personnel vacancies within the agency, Melissa Bliss indicated that interviews are beginning today for the Office Assistant III positions and interviews for the Family Service Specialist vacancies for (3) Foster Care (1) In Home and (1) CPS are pending the applications being received from Human Resources at the State Office.

Director Bliss informed the Board that the computer storage lockers have arrived and are installed in the offices needing that requirement. She also indicated that 64 chairs have been placed in the offices in need of new chairs. Those that are no longer in use have been placed in the storage rooms with one group of chairs needing to be disposed of and another group of

chairs that are still in good working condition with discussion as to whom those chairs could be offered to at this time.

MOTION:

It was moved by John Fjeldahl, Seconded by John Pietsch and unanimously carried by the Board to advertise the availability of the workable chairs to other Department Heads so that they may inquire with Social Services about accessing them. Those that remain can then be offered for sale to the employees with the money obtained going into the General Fund.

Director Bliss updated the Board as to ongoing discussions regarding SB 2124, relaying that the County Directors feel that the timeline is too aggressive and not realistic as many pilot projects have not yet been started and they need outcomes before knowing how to proceed. Board member John Fjeldahl stated that he would like to have someone figure out a way to best help the Board have a better understanding of this Bill, indicating that there is a concern that they may lose control. Chairperson Shelly Wepler indicated that she is on weekly legislative conference calls. Melissa stated that she would send out information she acquires from conference calls and meetings to keep them informed as well.

In closing, Chair Wepler asked if any information had yet been received regarding space in lieu of rent. Auditor Devra Smestad who was also present at the meeting, indicated that no progress has yet been made as she has not received any information upon her inquiry into the situation. Chair Wepler then asked that it stay on the agenda until it is resolved.

Meeting adjourned at 9:00 am.

Shelly Wepler , Chairperson

Date

Karen Schultz, Recording Secretary