

ONEIDA COUNTY SOCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE
April 24, 2012

Members present: Ms. Carol Pederson, Mr. Paul Dean, Mr. Bob Metropulos, Ms. Candy Sorensen, Mr. Bob Martini.

Staff: Mr. Paul E. Spencer, Jr., Ms. Amy Mayo, Ms. Mary Rideout, Ms. Donna Levknecht

1. Call to Order. Approval of Agenda:

The regular meeting of the Oneida County Social Services Committee was brought to order at 9:00 a.m. by Ms. Carol Pederson, Chairperson. The Chairperson noted that the meeting had been properly posted and mailed in accordance with the Wisconsin Open Meeting Laws. Motion made by Mr. Paul Dean, seconded by Mr. Bob Martini to approve the agenda as posted. Motion carried unanimously.

2. Election of Vice-Chairman:

Motion made by Mr. Paul Dean to nominate Mr. Bob Metropulos for Vice-Chairman, seconded by Mr. Bob Martini. There were no other nominations. Motion carried unanimously.

3. Election of Secretary:

Motion made by Mr. Bob Metropulos to nominate Ms. Candy Sorensen for Secretary, seconded by Mr. Paul Dean. There were no other nominations. Motion carried unanimously.

4. Minutes of March 27, 2012:

Motion made by Mr. Paul Dean, seconded by Ms. Carol Pederson to approve the minutes of March 27, 2012. Motion carried unanimously.

5. Public Comment:

None

6. Aging and Disability Resource Center - update:

A handout was provided to the committee. The Department of Social Services is the fiscal agent for the ADRC. Oneida County has entered into a contract with the State of Wisconsin. A Regional Manager has been hired, however the Department does not have the policy to support expenditures (such as the benefit package), so only wages will be paid out until the supporting documentation is received. A request will be made to Ms. Dianne Jacobson, Director of the Department on Aging will be asked to send new committee members an information packet on the ADRC. Ms. Jacobson will be invited to next month's meeting to provide information on the ADRC to new members.

7&8. Income Maintenance Consortia – status and Income Maintenance/Child Support Program Review:

The committee was provided with an organization chart of the Department, and explained the line of succession.

Ms. Amy Mayo gave the committee a handout on the IM Consortium which the previous committee decided to join. If we did not join the consortium we may have had to eliminate employees, or not have the programs handled locally. Instead of the State taking over our case load, we joined with Langlade, Marathon and Portage County to establish the IM Central Consortium. Marathon County is the fiscal agent, and Oneida County contracts with them to pay bills.

The Call Center was explained to the committee. There are 8 employees from the consortium manning phone daily, and 2 assigned to handle daily work. Oneida County has one staff person in the rotation daily. There is one central toll free number to handle telephone calls, calls do not go directly to the worker. The committee was provided with a handout on the Center's flow chart. Two supervisors monitor daily on call volume, and can add staff as necessary. The Call Center schedules appointments for clients with their actual worker in the county in which they reside. All cases connected between the counties can be pulled up in each county. The Call Center makes comments in the cases so everyone has a clear understanding of what is going on in the case.

Supervisors from each county meet monthly to address any concerns that arise. Directors meet as necessary now, as there is no need to meet monthly.

Ms. Mayo explained the Economic Support Programs and provided handouts to the committee. There are 7 Economic Support Specialist in Oneida County. Applications are taken via mail, by appointment in agency, or through telephone interviews. Walk-in's at the front desk have increased dramatically as we have one worker each day assigned to assist with questions for people who come in to the agency. Each worker has an average of 602 cases.

There is a big turnover in staff in the Economic Support unit. Currently there is one staff member in training, and we utilize the mentors in Marathon County.

The committee was advised that we have just enough staff to make this system work. If one is absent for any length of time, there are problems.

A handout was provided to the committee on the fuel assistance program. The heating system runs from October 1, 2011 – May 15, 2012. So far this season 2143 applications have been taken. \$680,000 has been spent for heat, and \$312,000 toward electric for a total of \$992,000.

There is a crisis heat program in which the department works with the client on a payment plan. With the match program, the client pays a set amount, and then we match that payment.

Handout was provided to the committee on the Child Support Program. Staff was decreased this past year by the elimination of the manager. Services from the child support unit are available to anyone who requests their services. There are currently 1839 child support cases handled by 2 Specialist, 1 Secretary and 1 Typist. An Assistant Corporation Counsel handles necessary cases in court.

The committee was advised of future concerns in the Child Support unit as the system is currently working well, but could be affected by future funding changes. Funding for Child Support each year decreases

9. 2012 Financial/Statistical/Flex Time Reports:

The committee reviewed the Financial/Statistical/Flex Time Reports. It is projected that approximately \$375,937.76 will be returned to the county. Motion made by Mr. Bob Martini, seconded by Mr. Bob Metropulos to approve the 2012 Financial/Statistical/Flex Time reports as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

10. Audit of Payments and final 2011 Line Item Transfers:

The bills and Line Item transfers were reviewed by the committee. Ms. Mary Rideout will be requested to appear at the May meeting to provide information to the committee on the Department's finances. Motion made by Mr. Paul Dean, seconded by Mr. Bob Metropulos to approve the bills as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

11. Agenda items for the May 22, 2012 meeting:

Next meeting will include a presentation by Ms. Dianne Jacobson, Director of the Department of Aging on the ADRC, Ms. Beth Hoerchler, Social Work Supervisor on Long Term Support and Ms. Mary Rideout to go over Department finances .

12. Adjourn:

There being no further business to be brought before the Committee, it was moved by Mr. Paul Dean, seconded by Mr. Bob Metropulos to adjourn the meeting at 10:42 a.m. The next meeting of the Social Services Committee will be May 22, 2012 at 9:00 a.m. Motion carried unanimously.

Ms. Candy Sorensen, Secretary