

BENTON COUNTY HUMAN SERVICES BOARD
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
AUGUST 2, 2016

The Benton County Human Services Board met in regular session on August 2, 2016 in the Benton County Board Room in Foley, MN with Board members Jim McMahon, Jake Bauerly, Ed Popp, Spencer Buerkle and Warren Peschl present. Call to order by Chair Peschl was at 9:24 AM.

Popp/Buerkle unanimous to approve the amended agenda: add item—update on extreme cost increases at Anoka Regional Treatment Center.

Popp/McMahon unanimous to approve the Consent Agenda: 1) approve the Regular Meeting Minutes of July 19, 2016 as written; and 2) approve 2016 contract with *Tri-County Action Program (Tri-Cap)* for coordination of the Benton County Children’s Mental Health Collaborative, and authorize the Chair to sign.

Sandi Shoberg, Human Services Supervisor, explained that Benton County has had very few clients admitted to the Anoka Regional Treatment Center over the years; recently, however, there has been an increase in admissions due mainly to Rule 20 exams. She stated that Rule 20 exams are ordered by the court when someone is charged with a crime and there is a question of his or her ability to stand trial due to either not understanding that committing the crime was wrong or not being able to defend one’s self in court. Shoberg stated that if it is deemed that the client is not capable of standing trial during this evaluation, the client is often committed and ordered by the court to the “restore to competency” program at the Anoka Regional Treatment Center; the county pays nothing for the first 30 days and then 20% for each day beyond day 31 that the client is determined to be clinically appropriate for treatment. She indicated that once the facility deems the client to be “medically stable” and no longer in need of medical treatment, the county pays 100% of the monthly cost of \$41,250. Shoberg pointed out that these individuals are not always committed by the Benton County Attorney’s Office—they could be charged in another county, but because they are a Benton County resident, Benton County pays the bill; to move the client out of the facility, they either need to become competent to stand trial, the county attorney must dismiss the charges, or another “treat to competency” program must be in place (the only other such program in the state is in St. Peter which is usually full). Shoberg reported that Benton County Human Services’ costs for all state hospitals in 2014 were \$164,399; 2015 costs were \$302,443; 2016 year to date costs are \$356,000 (primarily in Anoka). She noted that there is no way to predict future costs; this issue is affecting all counties, therefore AMC, as well as other organizations, have been approached for assistance in pursuing legislative changes.

Shoberg reported on another new cost being passed down to counties from the state—beginning July 1, 2016, counties must pay 100% of the costs (\$1,866 per day) for clients in community-based health hospitals (the new mini hospitals that were to replace the state hospitals), including day of admission, when the facility determines that it is not medically necessary for the client to be there (the client may be deemed dangerous, however). Shoberg noted that the county is not allowed to seek reimbursement from the client, the client’s estate, nor from the client’s relatives. She added that state-operated IRT (intensive residential treatment) facilities do not contract with the state health plans; therefore, counties must pay those costs as well. Bob Cornelius, Human Services Director, stated his belief that “...the State has systematically dismantled the mental health safety net system...it started out with regional treatment centers closing...it was supposed to bring people into the community and we were supposed to have those resources...slowly, but surely, all these safety nets have gone away...the pay has

gone down to the county...they've made it hard for us to find places for these people to go...if we are lucky enough to find places for these people to go, we have to pay \$40,000 a month to do it...at some point in time, us counties have to band together...it's helping the state budget, but it certainly isn't helping our budget..."

Bauerly requested that Shoberg email Board members with pertinent information regarding this issue so that Board members can forward the email to legislative members.

Chair Peschl adjourned the meeting at 9:40 AM.

Warren Peschl, Chair
Benton County Human Services Board

ATTEST:

Montgomery Headley
Benton County Administrator