

BENTON COUNTY HUMAN SERVICES BOARD  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
February 16, 2016

The Benton County Human Services Board met in regular session on February 16, 2016 in the Benton County Board Room in Foley, MN with Board members Spencer Buerkle, Warren Peschl, Jake Bauerly, Ed Popp and Jim McMahon present. Call to order by Chair Peschl was at 9:39 AM.

Buerkle/Popp unanimous to approve the amended agenda (move the “Drug Free Communities Grant” item after the Consent Agenda).

Bauerly/McMahon unanimous to approve the Consent Agenda: 1) approve the Regular Meeting Minutes of February 2, 2016 as written; and 2) approve the 2016-2017 Child Support IV-D Cooperative Agreement and authorize the Chair to sign.

Julie Willman, Benton County Public Health Educator and Jenny Kenning, Student Assistance Coordinator at Sauk Rapids/Rice School and Chair of the Benton County Substance Use Prevention Coalition, reported that the Local Public Health Community Assessment concluded that preventing substance abuse is one of the top priorities for our community. They provided statistics on reported usage of alcohol, tobacco, marijuana and prescription drug misuse by Benton County 8<sup>th</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> graders in the past 30 days. Willman stated that the Public Health Unit convened community partners to discuss the findings of the Assessment and other pertinent data, which led to the development of an action plan and the creation of a formal Coalition made up of dedicated community members who are passionate about the health and wellbeing of our youth. (Willman recognized the Coalition supporters, many of whom were in attendance.) Kenning outlined the goals of the Drug Free Communities (DFC) Program. Willman explained that the DFC Grant is a five-year Federal grant (with potential for up to 10 years of funding) at \$125,000 per year with a 100% match—cash or in-kind (the in-kind match can be satisfied through staff time/ community/coalition member time). Popp/Bauerly unanimous to authorize staff to apply for the Drug Free Communities Grant with a 100% match. Monty Headley, County Administrator, noted that, if the grant is approved, a grant agreement will be brought back to the Human Services Board for approval (Benton County Human Services would be the fiscal host).

Peggy Koscielniak, Fiscal Services Supervisor, reported that Benton County Human Services receives anonymous donations to cover client needs not otherwise eligible for State or County funds (i.e. Christmas gifts for children--wards of the state, send families to camps); these donations must be accepted through a resolution of the Board. Buerkle/Bauerly unanimous to adopt Resolution 2016-#1, accepting five anonymous 2015 donations totaling \$3,000, and authorize the Chair to sign.

Sandi Shoberg, Social Services Supervisor, informed the Board of her expectation of going over budget on two budget line items in 2016—state hospital costs and chemical dependency treatment. Shoberg explained that the competency restoration program, run by the Department of Human Services, provides evaluation and treatment of mentally ill adults who have been charged with crimes, but have been deemed not competent to stand trial; participants receive legal education, psychiatric medication and other services so they can become competent and return to the courtroom. Shoberg stated that Benton County and the surrounding counties have seen a recent increase in the number of persons sent for evaluation for their ability to stand trial, and also in the number then found unable to stand trial and, therefore, committed to the competency restoration program. She indicated that, while in this program, if the person is deemed to have a medical reason to be there, the county pays just over \$3,000

per month (10% of the cost of care at the state hospital); however, once it is deemed by state staff that the individual is medically stable, the cost increases to approximately \$30,000 per month (100% of the cost). Shoberg reported that, last year, one individual cost their agency well over \$120,000 just in costs for the “Treat to Competency” program; there is currently one client in this situation with no discharge options in site (have already spent \$90,000 of the \$175,000 budget for 2016). Bob Cornelius, Human Service Director, pointed out that many of the housing facilities for these types of clients have closed in past years and there is no “safety net system” in the state for these clients.

Shoberg explained that counties will also see increased costs for chemical dependency treatment, noting that the Consolidated Chemical Dependency Treatment fund pays for chemical dependency treatment for individuals who are on public health programs or who meet financial eligibility—for clients on state medical programs, the cost is split between the federal, state and county government; however, the federal share does not apply for IMD (Institution for Mental Disease) facilities. Shoberg stated that, late last fall, the state re-evaluated treatment facilities and found that 61 programs meet the IMD criteria and, effective that date, the federal funding for placements in those programs would end; the state also directed that clients still need to be placed in the most appropriate setting for their needs. Shoberg noted that the state is unable to calculate the cost increase to the counties due to the inability to know how many clients, on what type of insurance, will be placed in what facility; the cost increase per client could range from nothing to 22.95%. She reinforced the fact that this “unpredicted change” will cost Benton County taxpayers more money (the county is mandated to send eligible individuals to treatment in these programs).

Bob Cornelius, Human Services Director, referenced a recent Star Tribune article related to MNsure—anyone who applies for MNsure, whose income is at 138% of the Federal poverty guideline, are assigned to Medical Assistance; anything accrued as far as Medical Assistance is subject to a tax lien on their property by the county.

Chair Peschl adjourned the meeting at 10:12 AM.

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Warren Peschl, Chair  
Benton County Human Services Board

ATTEST:

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Montgomery Headley  
Benton County Administrator