

February 09, 2021

Original to be filed with Sawyer County Clerk, Lynn Fitch

Committee Meetings of Sawyer County

COMMITTEE: Health & Human Services Meeting Minutes

PLACE: Sawyer County Court House – Assembly Room

DATE: February 09, 2021

CALLED TO ORDER: 6:30 P.M.

The meeting was called to order by Dale Schleeter at 6:30 P.M.

Committee Members in Attendance:

Roll call was taken. Members present included: Dale Schleeter, Chuck Van Etten, Lorraine Gouge, Tweed Schuman, Dawn Petit, Dr. Sabrina Dunlap, Carol Pearson, Dale Olson

Members absent: Jennifer Vobornik

Staff Members in Attendance:

Paul Grahovac, Tom Hoff, Patty Dujardin, Julia Lyons, Joe Bodo, Shawna White, Tanya Armsbury, Alex Butterfield

Others in Attendance:

Carol Lund

Agenda

The agenda was approved as presented.

Audience Recognition

Timothy James Carroll spoke of his continuing healing and sobriety, acknowledging Joe Bodo's help in the past.

Approval of Minutes

A motion was made by Carol Pearson, seconded by Tweed Schuman to approve the minutes of the January 12, 2021 meeting as presented; motion carried.

Reports

a. LCO Liaison

Lorraine Gouge reported that:

- LCO team has tested 109 people for COVID in the past 2 weeks. There were 8 positives, indicating a downward trend. They may see a surge of positive cases after people gather for the Super Bowl
- LCO Health Center has administered over 800 vaccinations to date, vaccination 40 people per day this week with a vaccination clinic planned for Feb. 17th.
- The daycare facility is complete but they are still working to staff it as well as the new fire hall
- The Tribe has been sending members to Tennessee for treatment, aftercare, and detox. They have ordered 10 more beds there. They are working on transitional housing for recovering addicts. The Tribe has future goals of possible detox and treatment facilities.

Tweed Schuman added that the Tribe has a significant homeless population. They have been housing members in motels in Hayward and it is a significant financial burden on the Tribe. Ms. Gouge stated that the Tribe is also working to refurbish some of the homes that have been boarded up for various reasons, to use them for additional housing.

b. Senior Resource Center

There was nothing to report under this item.

Economic Support

a. Economic Support 2020 Year End Report

Shawna White presented a PowerPoint review of the Northern Income Maintenance Consortium (NIMC) for 2020. The review went over some of the many policy and operational changes due to COVID-19, as well as performance measures and statistics from the year. Ms. White stated that NIMC was lucky to have already been planning on allowing staff to work remotely and had taken steps toward that before COVID. It was also reported that virtual training was implemented and has been working out well.

Public Health

a. COVID-19 update

Julia Lyons gave a PowerPoint presentation. Cumulative cases since we started tracking in March of 2020 show 1441 positive cases, 1379 recovered, 42 active, 19 deaths, and 69 ever hospitalized. The state as a whole is seeing a lower number of positive cases. The vaccine demand is far outreaching the availability; Sawyer County Public Health is getting less than half of what they order for doses. The hospital was able to get vaccine and so they are pooling their vaccine with Sawyer County; joining together in mass vaccination efforts. As more vaccine is available the hope is to expand to other locations for vaccination clinics. There have been a lot of volunteers and they are getting signed up and trained so that they are ready when more vaccine is available. A new phone line and web link for the public to sign up to receive the vaccine will hopefully be activated this week.

Fiscal

a. Placement Cost Update and Impact

Paul Grahovac addressed the board regarding the costs of and impacts of adult mental health placements. Mr. Grahovac presented several documents summarizing the costs for 2020, as well as the potential savings of diverting clients to less intensive settings when appropriate. Joe Bodo presented a flowchart on adult mental health placements. Mr. Bodo talked about some of the adult services and referrals, the factors that can lead to placements, and why it is difficult to predict the costs of those placements. The importance of the Community Support Program (CSP) was discussed along with the issues of staff burnout, turnover, and shortage of mental health therapists in the state as a whole. Past efforts to alleviate the issues and costs were reviewed and ideas to address future challenges were briefly discussed.

b. Budget Performance Report

The HHS budget performance report for December was provided to the Board.

c. Purchased Services Recap

A copy of the purchased services recap for December was provided to the Board.

Any Items for Discussion Only

Adjourn

Meeting adjourned at 8:16 P.M.