

BENTON COUNTY HUMAN SERVICES BOARD  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
FEBRUARY 5, 2019

The Benton County Human Services Board met in regular session on February 5, 2019 in the Benton County Board Room in Foley, MN with Board members Ed Popp, Jake Bauerly, Spencer Buerkle, Warren Peschl and Steve Heinen present. Call to order by Chair Buerkle was at 9:46 AM.

Heinen/Peschl unanimous to approve the agenda as written.

Popp/Bauerly unanimous to approve the Consent Agenda: 1) approve the Regular Meeting Minutes of January 22, 2019 as written; 2) approve 2019 contract with *Hope Community Support Program (Catholic Charities)* for community support services, and authorize the Chair to sign; and 3) approve 2019 contract with *Community and Family Based Services, LLC* for family based counseling services, and authorize the Chair to sign.

Peggy Koscielniak, Fiscal Services Supervisor, provided a summary of the 2018 Human Services final actual budget: Public Health (mainly funded by seven major grants; salaries/benefits came in \$157,000 under budget due to medical leaves/turnover; revenue came in \$3,000 over budget); Income Maintenance/ Financial/Child Support (salaries/benefits came in \$75,000 under budget; although several temporary workers were hired, there was an average of 15% position openings in this area—down \$130,000 in Federal Administration Revenue since employees weren't there to complete the "Random Moments" to earn the revenue); Social Services (salaries/benefits down \$150,000 due to employee turnover/medical leaves; MN Choice revenue came in \$200,000 over budget in this area; \$113,000 over in the Public Assistance expenditure; \$250,000 over in the area of Out-of-Home Placements (actually came in under budget with regard to St. Peter and Detox). Koscielniak noted that \$200,000 was slated for transfer from the Human Services budget to the Capital Improvement Plan budget; year to date transfer is about \$51,500, therefore the department came in about \$150,000 ahead as far as cash basis. Buerkle inquired if Benton County would benefit from a "per case study" rather than a "random moment study". Koscielniak indicated that she could do some research regarding this question. Bob Cornelius, Human Services Director, reported on trends appearing in the areas of Federal Revenue (shows that Human Services is maximizing their revenue—generating \$200,000-\$300,000 per year in additional revenue over budget); State Revenue (in 2018, actual revenue generated was close to the budgeted amount—cannot maximize revenue if we don't have "employees in the chair"); Salaries (in years 2016-2018, Benton County realized about \$432,000 in unspent salaries); Benefits (in years 2016-2018, Benton County realized about \$552,000 in unspent benefits); Tax Levy/Fund Balance (budget to actual numbers are pretty close over the past years; EDMS (Electronic Data Management Systems) and providing laptops to employees has attributed to the department's ability to get employees up to date technology-wise; fund balance has grown over the past years). Buerkle asked the question—do clients use services the same in good economic times as in poor economic times? Cornelius responded "...we are not necessarily in good times with the populations we serve...mental health continues to grow...commitments continue to grow..." He also reported on out-of-home placement costs—these costs have been growing by \$100,000 each year; by year 2024, it can be expected to eclipse \$2.5 million a year in out-of-home placement costs. Cornelius stated that, in the near future, we will be bringing forth some ideas/recommendations to the Board in an attempt to "stem this tide...and figure out a better way of doing business..."

Chair Buerkle adjourned the meeting at 10:15 AM.

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Spencer C. Buerkle, Chair  
Benton County Human Services Board

ATTEST:

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Montgomery Headley  
Benton County Administrator