

BENTON COUNTY HUMAN SERVICES BOARD  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
FEBRUARY 6, 2024

The Benton County Human Services Board met in regular session on February 6, 2024, in the Benton County Board Room in Foley, MN with Board members Beth Schlangen, Scott Johnson, Ed Popp, Jared Gapinski and Steve Heinen present. Call to order by County Board Chair Heinen was at 11:21 AM.

Human Services Deputy Director Sandi Shoberg requested to add a State of Minnesota Micro-grant consideration to the Regular Agenda. Motion by Johnson and seconded by Gapinski to approve the amended agenda. Motion carried unanimously.

Johnson/Popp to approve Consent Agenda items 1 - 2: 1) approve the Human Services Regular Board Meeting Minutes of January 2, 2024 and authorize the Chair to sign; 2) approve the renewal of a yearly contract for Wendy's Wonderful Kids Program (Kindred) and authorize the Chair to sign. Motion carried unanimously.

Next, Social Services Supervisor Adam Maertens requested the County Board to consider a grant opportunity to get services established for a client that we have been working with for about a year. This was recently brought to Maertens attention, and needs fast action. The client has been in a hospital setting for about two years, and we are trying to find a way to move the client back to the community. Maertens has been working with the Department of Human Services (DHS), and in order to move forward with the transition of this client, we have to get funding approved for something that is not normally covered by our traditional waiver means. We need an assessment from an engineer saying they can do a home modification where the client would be moving into. We would not be using County dollars, but instead, we could request American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds to cover the costs. Maertens is asking for the County Board to enter into a contract to accept the funds from the State and to distribute those funds to the structural engineer so we can pay for that service. There is no liability from the County to pay for anything. If the structural engineer goes over \$5,000, then Maertens will work with the other agent where the client is currently residing to have them absorb the additional costs. It's a federal and state tracking of dollars that's being distributed and we are ensuring the funding is being used the way it was intended to be used. Motion by Gapinski and seconded by Johnson to approve a grant opportunity to get services established for our client. Motion carried unanimously.

Chair Heinen adjourned the meeting at 11:24 AM.

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Steven J. Heinen, Chair  
Benton County Human Services Board

ATTEST:

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Montgomery Headley  
Benton County Administrator