

BENTON COUNTY HUMAN SERVICES BOARD  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
MAY 7, 2019

The Benton County Human Services Board met in regular session on May 7, 2019 in the Benton County Board Room in Foley, MN with Board members Jake Bauerly, Spencer Buerkle, Warren Peschl, Steve Heinen and Ed Popp present. Call to order by Chair Buerkle was at 9:43 AM.

Popp/Peschl unanimous to approve the amended agenda—add item: update on transportation issue.

Peschl/Popp unanimous to approve the Consent Agenda: 1) approve the Regular Meeting Minutes of April 16, 2019 as written.

Bob Cornelius, Human Services Director, reported that, recently, the St. Cloud Area Planning Organization (APO) and Department of Transportation came up with grant funds to attempt to provide a coordinated effort of transportation throughout the state (Regional Transportation Coordinating Council); the idea would be to hire three people in four counties to develop a network of transportation providers that would provide services for all of the transportation needs that we currently don't have. Cornelius stated that representatives from the APO and Department of Transportation would like to come before the Board and request a Resolution of Support for this process. He noted that while he feels this concept is a great idea, he does have some concerns—they would like to have investment by the Board for one year to help create this coordinating council; the Department of Transportation would fund the first year and then transition to either trying to secure grants, trying to secure membership fees, or having the counties start paying part of those costs. Cornelius questioned if one year is a reasonable time to hire people, set up this organization to do a needs assessment and coordinate a network of service providers. He stated he would be much more likely to support this effort if there was a two or three year track record of success; also, this would involve the creation of another government entity to handle transportation needs. Buerkle commented "...could we just move forward to coordinate with all the entities that have transportation vehicles...right now, it's a fragmented system...do we have to do a needs assessment...I'm not in favor of starting another government entity..." Bauerly commented "...I'm on the APO...they are talking about hiring three people and putting them in the APO office...I'm wondering if we couldn't just take this grant money and hire a third party/consultant or contractor to study this...the coordination needs to improve...the question is which model or structure is the best way to do it..." Cornelius stated that representatives from the APO/Department of Transportation will be invited to attend a future meeting of the Human Services Board.

Popp/Peschl unanimous to adjourn at 9:53 AM.

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Spencer C. Buerkle, Chair  
Benton County Human Services Board

ATTEST:

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Montgomery Headley  
Benton County Administrator

