

BENTON COUNTY HUMAN SERVICES BOARD
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
MAY 21, 2019

The Benton County Human Services Board met in regular session on May 21, 2019 in the Benton County Board Room in Foley, MN with Board members Spencer Buerkle, Warren Peschl, Steve Heinen, Ed Popp and Jake Bauerly present. Call to order by Chair Buerkle was at 9:25 AM.

Heinen/Popp unanimous to approve the agenda as written.

Peschl/Bauerly unanimous to approve the Consent Agenda: 1) approve the Regular Meeting Minutes of May 7, 2019 as written; and 2) approve 2019 contract renewal for *Lutheran Social Services*, a family advocate at Sauk Rapids Schools, and authorize the Chair to sign.

Bob Cornelius, Human Services Director, explained that better coordination between public transportation providers has long been an unmet need. He stated that, last year, MnDOT provided funding to develop plans for Regional Transportation Coordination Councils (RTCCs), which will serve as a single point of contact for the public and will broker trips to transportation providers. Cornelius noted that it takes four contiguous counties to make this happen; community resources are pooled together to provide more transportation options to all people. Brian Gibson from the St. Cloud Area Planning Organization (APO) explained that this is a joint effort of MnDOT and DHS to better coordinate resources we already have, identify gaps in transportation service, and connect customers with providers. He stated that this is a statewide initiative; MnDOT's vision is that all counties will be covered by at least one RTCC. Gibson point out that the state has agreed to provide 100% of funding for the first year; counties would move forward in establishing an RTCC and hiring staff. He stated that at the end of the first year, counties "would have another chance to say no" at that point (going forward would be an 80/20 split—80% paid by the state). Buerkle commented "...is this the model that is accepted...where you set up this regional entity...and have a board...and create another level of bureaucracy just to coordinate some local transportation issues..." Tom Gottfried from MnDOT, and currently working with DHS on this effort, explained that this process is very much a local discussion; there are a variety of different models across the country that tends to replicate the RTCC Council model. He added "...the Council creates the opportunity for you to decide the who, what, when, where and how...a memorandum of understanding or a joint powers...creates the opportunity for you to address what's currently happening here..." Bauerly inquired if an RTCC could decide to hire a consultant instead of hiring staff. Gottfried clarified that MnDOT does not dictate staffing requirements. Gibson commented "...until we reach a point where we have an agreement in place and a commitment to future funding, hiring of permanent staff is not recommended...for the first year, I'm recommending we go with a consultant..." Popp inquired when the twelve month period would start. Gibson stated "...Phase II starts July 1st...twelve months would be that phase...we are in the process of collecting resolutions from counties..." Peschl/Bauerly unanimous to adopt Resolution 2019-#2, a Resolution of Support for the Central Minnesota Transportation Council (CMTCC), and authorize the Chair to sign.

Peschl/Bauerly unanimous to adjourn at 9:43 AM.

Spencer C. Buerkle, Chair
Benton County Human Services Board

ATTEST:

Montgomery Headley
Benton County Administrator

