

**MEETING MINUTES**  
**WATONWAN COUNTY HUMAN SERVICES**  
February 16, 2022

**1. CALL TO ORDER.**

The Watonwan County Human Services Board of Commissioners met in regular session on February 16, 2022 at **9:00 A.M.**, at the Community Room of the Watonwan County Human Services Building, City of St. James. The meeting was called to order by Chair, Bill Miller.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**ROLL CALL** – The following committee members were present at today’s meeting, Chair, Bill Miller, Commissioners, Jim Branstad, Dillon Melheim, Jim Pettersen, and Bob Rinne; Citizen’s Representative, Ted Hedberg; Director, Naomi Ochsendorf and Social Services Supervisor, Amy Pluym.

- 2. REVIEW OF MINUTES** of the **January 19, 2022** Human Services Board Meeting. Melheim motioned, Pettersen seconded and the motion passed unanimously to approve the minutes as presented.

- 3. CORRECTIONS/REVISIONS/ADDITIONS** to agenda – so noted

- 4. APPROVAL** of the amended agenda – Pettersen motioned, Rinne seconded and the motion carried unanimously to approve the agenda as amended.

- 5. NEXT REGULAR BOARD MEETING** will be Wednesday, **March 16, 2022** at **9:00 A.M.**  
*(Location: Watonwan County Human Services, Community Room, 715 2nd Ave. S., St. James.)*

**6. ADULT MENTAL HEALTH PRESENTATION**

- Katy Sturm, Adult Mental Health Case Manager was present and provided information on the process of how an individual accesses mental health services through the county.

**7. DIRECTOR DISCUSSION / UPDATES - Naomi Ochsendorf**

- A monthly financial update was given, along with review of the budget as a whole.
- MACSSA (Minnesota Association of County Social Service Administrators) is working to involve legislators to address potential cuts to the AMHI (Adult Mental Health Initiative) funding.
- MACSSA continues to have system modernization and simplification of processes as a priority.
- Ochsendorf and Branstad attended the Dignitary Breakfast with legislators.
- Discussion on workforce shortages occurred with the viewing of a video from a provider’s prospective. Pluym will send Board members contact information for Representatives.
- Reviewed reducing COVID-19 response by Public Health. Testing request numbers are going down.
- COVID-19 At Home Testing Kits were received from the Department of Health and will be given to the county libraries, city offices, food shelf and Human Services to distribute.

## 8. PERSONNEL

- Branstad motioned, Hedberg seconded and the motion passed unanimously to approve the **Pay for Performance** of:
  - **Jill Bodick Grace**, County Agency Social Worker
  - **Rachel Friesen**, County Agency Social Worker
  - **Patrick Spellman**, County Agency Social Worker
  - **Joan Stordalen**, Social Services Supervisor
  - **Amanda Sturlis**, Financial Worker
  - **Kimm Symens**, County Agency Social Worker
- **Probationary Appointment** of **Maritz Lujan**, Office Support Specialist. (*Applicant withdrew her job acceptance, so this was removed from the agenda.*)
- Pettersen motioned, Rinne seconded and the motion passed unanimously to approve the **Retirement** of **Teresa Cooling**, Public Health Nurse.

## 9. COMMITTEE and MEETING REPORTS

### Board:

- **SCHSAC** (State Community Health Services Advisory Committee) – *Melheim* (N/A)
- **VFC** (Visions for Families and Communities Collaborative) – *Hedberg*
  - Met on February 15<sup>th</sup>
  - Presentations by 6 programs. All programs approved for grant funding for a total of \$81,000
- **IMMTRACK** (Immunization Registry Joint Powers Board) – *Pettersen* (N/A)
- **Brown County Evaluation Center** – *Rinne*
  - Working with architect on remodel project and waiting for final approvals from the State
- **Enterprise North, Inc.** – *Pettersen* (N/A)
- **MRCI** (Managed Resources Connections Inc.) – *Miller*
  - 8<sup>th</sup> Largest non-profit
  - Working with areas of disability, disadvantaged, and family services (2,700 served)
  - Average wage of clients is \$15.08 per hour
  - Brian Benshoof, CEO retiring next year
- **CHS** (Community Health Services Advisory Board) – *Hedberg* (N/A)

**10. STAFF TRAINING / DEVELOPMENT**

- **Board:** N/A
- **Director:** N/A
- **Staff:** N/A

**11. MONTHLY FINANCIAL CLAIMS**

- Branstad moved, Hedberg seconded and the motion carried unanimously to approve the regular **monthly claims** and the **monthly credit card payments**, as presented
  - Auditor Warrants, in the amount of **\$8,223.19**, paid on **1/21/2022**
  - Auditor Warrants, in the amount of **\$60,350.00**, paid on **1/11/2022**
  - Auditor Warrants, in the amount of **\$200.00**, paid on **1/27/2022**
  - Auditor Warrants, in the amount of **\$19,933.97**, paid on **2/4/2022**
  - SSIS Warrants, in the amount of **\$99,973.77**, paid on **2/17/2022**
  - Commissioner Warrants, in the amount of **\$100,998.25**, paid on **2/23/2022**
  - Monthly Credit Card payments, in the amount of **\$412.94**

**12. CONTRACTS/AGREEMENTS/POLICY:**

- Pettersen moved, Melheim seconded and the motion carried unanimously to approve the **South Central Community-Based Initiative Joint Powers Agreement**.

**13. OTHER:**

- Citizen’s Representative discussion.
- Pettersen moved, Melheim seconded and the motion carried unanimously to elect **Nicolas Castillo** to serve as a **Citizen Representative** for the remainder of the 2022 year.
- There was a brief discussion on lack of housing. Rinne is working with the EDA on housing development options.

**14. ADJOURNED**

- Having no additional business, Rinne motioned, Branstad seconded and the motion carried unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 10:10 A.M.

Respectfully submitted,

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 Amy Pluym, Social Services Supervisor

Dated: 3/16/2022

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Bill Miller, County Commissioner – Chair

Dated: 3/16/2022