

**MINUTES OF THE VILAS COUNTY  
BOARD OF SOCIAL SERVICES  
March 12, 2009**

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Present: Al Bauman, Chris Mayer, Emil Bakka, Erv Teichmiller, Leon Kukanich, Greg Schiek, Bob Rickard and Helga Low.

Absent/Excused: None

Meeting called to order at 9:30 AM by Chairman Bauman.

Roll call taken.

**Motion by Kukanich, seconded by Mayer, to approve the agenda as published. Carried.**

**Motion by Mayer, seconded by Teichmiller, to approve the February 13, 2009 minutes. Carried.**

**Approval of Administrative Vouchers-Juvenile Intake**

**Motion by Mayer, seconded by Bakka, to approve Juvenile Intake Administrative Vouchers. Carried.**

**Juvenile Intake Supervisor's Report**

Rickard indicated there were 38 referrals for the month of February. He also indicated his budget sheets didn't come out of the clerk's office yet; and he is full staff now. Chairman Bauman asked some questions as to the high number of referrals, noting that he believed it was the highest he had seen. Rickard indicated they are seeing a lot of theft and it appears to be very random. Bakka, Mayer, and Teichmiller also asked about the types of crimes Rickard is seeing increasing. Rickard reiterated thefts were an issue but also things like the destruction of mail boxes. Rickard indicated they were utilizing the Juvenile Justice Program. Discussion.

Rickard had no training requests.

Rickard asked to purchase a Lap-top computer for his Intensive Supervision Worker for \$1,318.13. Mayer indicated he didn't have any comparative price quotes. He stated the policy is to get three quotes or a least two. Schiek indicated he thought Information Systems usually does the price quoting for technology equipment. Rickard indicated he has no problem getting more quotes. Mayer suggested Rickard talk with Information Systems to get more than one quote. Discussion.

**Motion by Teichmiller, seconded by Kukanich, to table the request for a Lap-top computer until next month's meeting. Carried.**

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**DSS Budget Report**

Schiek passed out the Monthly Budget Report and noted areas high-lighted by the Financial Manager. Bauman indicated Substitute Care will have to be paid one way or another because the placements are court ordered. Mayer indicated it's early yet to tell. Discussion.

**DSS Property Requests**

None

**DSS Training Requests**

1. Three Adult Unit Social Workers and Director to attend "Financial Exploitation" on Thursday, March 26<sup>th</sup> in Rhinelander.
2. Two Children's Unit Social Workers to attend "Together for Children" on March 30<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup> in Middleton.
3. Financial Manager and Bookkeeper to attend Financial Managers Conference from May 6<sup>th</sup> through May 8<sup>th</sup> in Green Lake.

**Motion by Mayer, seconded by Bakka, to approve the trainings as presented. Carried.**

Schiek passed out the Monthly Training Report.

**DSS Personnel**

Schiek introduced Helga Low, Social Worker in the Child Protection Unit. Low talked about her role as an ongoing social worker in the Child Protection Unit and answered the board's questions. Bauman explained the purpose of meeting the staff and understanding what they do.

Schiek passed around the Resolution to hire a fifth Economic Support Worker filling a vacancy that has been held open. Mayer expressed his concern from the financial responsibility to taxpayers when hiring staff; he talked about decreasing property values, higher unemployment and the overall economic condition. He indicated the board has the responsibility to draw the line somewhere. Schiek indicated if the boards cut he asked that it be looked at by areas of critical need, not just cut all. Kukanich expressed frustration with automatic salary increases. Discussion.

**Motion by Teichmiller, seconded by Mayer, to sign and approve the Resolution for the fifth Economic Support Specialist position, pending full county board approval. Carried.**

**Motion by Teichmiller, seconded by Bauman, to convene into closed session pursuant to Wis. Stat. Section 19.85(1)(c) for the purpose of considering employment, promotion, compensation, or performance evaluation data of any public employee over which the government body has jurisdiction or exercises responsibility. (Consider prospective candidates for the Economic Support Specialist vacancies) Carried.**

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**Motion by Teichmiller, seconded by Kukanich, to re-convene into open session. Carried.**

**Motion by Teichmiller, seconded by Bakka, to approve Marcie Farness and Carol Bowman to fill the vacancies in the Economic Support Unit pending county board approval. Carried.**

**DSS Administrative Vouchers**

**Motion by Teichmiller, seconded by Mayer, to approve the Social Services Administrative Vouchers. Carried.**

**DSS Director's Report**

Schiek indicated the numbers in Economic Support continue to rise, from January through February Medical Assistance and FoodShare rose about 8%.

Schiek also indicated Indian Child Welfare hired two part-time people and added their Juvenile Justice people to the unit. Schiek thought this was a positive move. Teichmiller asked to understand more about the tribe/county relationship. Bauman indicated Schiek could do that at the next meeting. The board also thought Schiek should invite the Indian Child Welfare Director over for that meeting. Bauman indicated we could hear that during the worker portion under Personnel on the agenda.

**Next Meeting Date: (Note Meeting Change)**

**Thursday, April 9, 2009, at 11:00 AM  
Conference Room # 1**

**Motion by Mayer, seconded by Kukanich, to adjourn. Carried.**