DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
SOCIAL SERVICES BOARD MEETING
WASHTENAW COUNTY
MAY 8, 2019

Board: Patricia Piechowski-Whitney, Ruth Kraut
Absent: None
Staff: Renee Adorjan, Director; Adelia Clark, Services Program Manager; Titicia Rosen, General Services Program Manager; Alice Seipelt, CRC/Contract Coordinator; Lisa Temple, Executive Secretary

1. CALL TO ORDER/APPROVAL OF AGENDA
Patricia Piechowski-Whitney called the meeting to order at 9:10 AM. A motion was made by Ruth Kraut to approve the May 8, 2019 agenda. Motion supported by Patricia Piechowski-Whitney. Motion carried.

2. PUBLIC COMMENTS
Ruth Kraut recommended new signage out front related to thanking/recruiting foster parents during the month of May. Patricia Piechowski-Whitney added this topic as a board member item.

3. APPROVAL OF APRIL 10, 2019 MEETING MINUTES
The Board reviewed the minutes from April 10, 2019. A motion was made by Ruth Kraut to approve the April 10, 2019 meeting minutes. Motion to approve was supported by Patricia Piechowski-Whitney. Motion carried.

4. FINANCIAL REPORTS
   A. Social Welfare Fund
      The Volunteer Services/County Projects April 2019 monthly expenditures were $92.65, leaving a balance of $31,979.99. The Board Account April 2019 monthly expenditures were $83.38, leaving a balance of $15,158.77. No Board Reserve Account monthly expenditures were recorded for April 2019.

   B. Child Care Fund
      Child Care Fund accounts are tracking well. All parties will begin looking toward next fiscal year to determine funding levels. The Washtenaw County Court is considering funding new initiatives that could impact current funding levels.

5. UPDATES/COMMUNICATIONS
   A. Director/Management Update
      Director Update
      o June 21st has been scheduled to celebrate Family Reunification Day from 4:00-6:30 PM at County Farm Park. DHHS licensing staff have been helping with the planning and organization of this annual event in conjunction with staff from the Court. Flyers will be provided.
      o Mrs. Adorjan informed the board that staff from DHHS and the Courts have been discussing the creation of a “resiliency docket” for cases/families that may need more monitoring or intensive services.
Mrs. Adorjan attended a Food Gatherers event, “The State of our Plate”, where DHHS Director Robert Gordon was a keynote speaker. The event also provided opportunity for both large and small group discussions. While Mrs. Adorjan was not able to speak directly with Mr. Gordon, he has stated he will visit all DHHS offices throughout the state.

Data Reports
- Assistance Programs and Services data was shared and reviewed. Services Statistics - No new/updated Services statistics were available for the May 2019 meeting. Adelia Clark noted that the total number of children in care for the month of April has decreased to 129.
- Assistance Payments Statistics - Titicia Rosen noted that the number of new registrations increased by more than 200 requests for the month of April. Staff was able to exceed state expectations and 96.66% of the application were processed timely. Ruth Kraut noted that Washtenaw Health Plan continued hearing reports of issues and delays with the scanning process. Mrs. Rosen reiterated her commitment to improving the office processes and workflow but noted that technology issues were beyond the local office’s control. Mrs. Rosen continues to document and provide examples to Lansing as they are brought to her attention.

Staffing Updates
- Locally, vacancies are being filled and new staff members are being trained. There are multiple job openings currently, including a Child Welfare supervisor position.
- Three (3) Assistance Payments staff members continue their work assisting UCL counties with a backlog of work. Currently, each staff member spends half their day working on Washtenaw casework and the other half on the UCL counties casework.
- One (1) Child Protective Services staff on loan to Monroe County DHHS has returned.
- BSC Director Doug Williams will be retiring June 28, 2019.

Policy Updates
- No notable Assistance Payments policy updates were released in the last month. Services saw the creation of the Expungement and Redaction units to provide workload relief to first line supervisors.

Community Involvement Updates
- In addition to State of Our Plate, Mrs. Adorjan was also able to attend the Blavin Scholar annual dinner, which featured a keynote speaker who graduated from the program 5 years ago and went on to attend Harvard Med school. There were 6 graduates this year (2019), for a total of approximately 50 throughout the 10-year duration of the program. Ruth Kraut suggested asking if DHHS could bring additional staff, as many as 10, to be able to witness the impact of this program. Ruth suggested the Board would be willing to pay a fee if more staff could attend the annual dinner.
B. Board Member Items
   o Ruth Kraut requests DHHS to explore purchasing new Foster Care Awareness signs, as the ones out front are older and have our updated phone number written in. Renee agreed and will investigate funding and pricing for new yard signs, possibly double-sided signs.
   o Patricia Piechowski-Whitney announced the MCSSA conference September 16-18, 2019. The conference will be held at the Great Wolf Lodge in Traverse City.
   o Ruth Kraut announced that Washtenaw County’s Health Officer, Ellen Rabinowitz, is planning to retire prior to the end of the year.
   o Board members continue to have issues receiving reimbursement through SIGMA for parking and mileage.

6. NEXT MEETING
   June 12, 2019  1:00 PM  *Please note new 1:00 start time

7. ADJOURNMENT
   A motion was made by Ruth Kraut to adjourn the meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 10:33 AM.

   [Signature]
   Renee Adorjan, Director