

**DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
SOCIAL SERVICES BOARD MEETING
WASHTENAW COUNTY
JUNE 10, 2020**

Board Members Present: Ruth Kraut, Lillie Pinder
Board Members Absent: Javon Jason
Staff: Renee Adorjan, Director; Titicia Rosen, Assistance Payments Program Manager; Alice Seipelt, CRC/Contract Coordinator

1. CALL TO ORDER/APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Ruth Kraut called the meeting to order at 1:06 PM. A motion was made by Lillie Pinder to approve the June 10, 2020 agenda. Motion supported by Ruth Kraut. Motion carried.

2. PUBLIC COMMENTS

No public comments.

3. APPROVAL OF MAY 13, 2020 MEETING MINUTES

The Board reviewed the minutes from May 13, 2020. A motion was made by Lillie Pinder to approve the meeting minutes. Motion supported by Ruth Kraut. Motion carried.

4. FINANCIAL REPORTS

A. Social Welfare Fund

The Volunteer Services/County Projects May 2020 monthly expenditures were \$0.00, with a balance of \$37,342.90. The Board Account May 2020 monthly expenditures were \$75.00, leaving a balance of \$13,674.22. No Board Reserve Account monthly expenditures were recorded for May 2020. The balance is \$7,749.08.

B. Child Care Fund

Child Care Fund accounts are tracking well and within allocation. No unusual expenses, questions or concerns were noted. Renee Adorjan noted that budget planning meetings have begun to take place for the 2021 fiscal year and no changes were anticipated.

5. UPDATES/COMMUNICATIONS

A. Director/Management Update

Director Update

- Renee Adorjan shared updates and noted MDHHS is working on plans to resume in person casework for both Child Welfare and Assistance Payments.
- Based on the Governor's Executive Orders and under the direction of BSC 4 Director Doug Williams, it is anticipated that all Child Welfare staff who are physically able to do so will resume face to face visits.
- Work groups will be formed to determine how to expand the eventual resumption of in person activities for the entire local office, including plans to resume in person appointments, hearings, and document drop off.

Data Reports

- Assistance Payments Statistics - Statistics were reviewed. It was noted that Washtenaw County had a significant spike in the number of program applications during the months of March and April. May application numbers are showing the

begin of a return to “normal”. The overall Standard of Promptness (SOP) for application processing was 98.20%, the highest mark in 2020.

- Children’s Services Statistics - Statistics were reviewed. It was noted that the number of CPS complaints and assigned investigations had continued to decrease. The local office continued to move youth into Independent Living situations.

Staffing Updates

- The entire Department is currently under a hiring freeze; however, Washtenaw has an exception to fill up to 2 CPS and 2 FC vacant positions.
- Washtenaw DHHS remains overstaffed by 1 clerical employee and 1 non-Child Welfare first line supervisor.
- All staff apart from the Field Team Workers are furloughed one day each week through July 25th.

Policy Updates

- A number of policy exceptions related to the COVID-19 pandemic were noted and discussed relating to streamlining processes and waiving of program limits and requirements.
 - There are provisions in place to prevent the closure of Medicaid cases after 2/15/2020.
 - Many FAP customers are noting a reduction in benefits due to the interface with UCB benefits timely reporting the payment of unemployment benefits.
 - The expanded eligibility criteria for FAP benefits has been extended to June.
 - Refugees arriving in the U.S. after April 2020 will be eligible to receive 18 months of Refugee Assistance rather than the previous 8 months of benefits.
 - Child Welfare policy has been expanded to include additional criteria to provide services to more families and youth.

Community Involvement Updates

- Community Resource Coordinator is working with local Barrier Busters staff to assist with an application for additional community wide funding through FEMA.
- An ongoing effort is being made to develop and share resources to all employees, customers, and members of the community as a whole.

B. Board Member Items

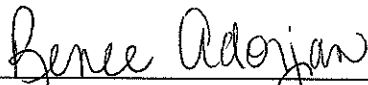
- The Board would like ideas on how to reward/recognize staff not only for Public Service Recognition Week (May 3-9), but also during the COVID-19 crisis. Staff will be surveyed.
- It was noted that the details for virtual Board meetings should be published to allow for public access.

6. NEXT MEETING

July 8, 2020 at 1:00 PM

7. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 2:23 PM.



Renee Adorjan, Director