

**Minutes of the March 9<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Sawyer County  
Health and Human Services Committee  
Of the Sawyer County Board of Supervisors  
Assembly Room; Sawyer County**



**Voting Committee Members Present:**

- Chair: Dale Schleeter
- Tweed Shuman
- Chuck Van Etten - Virtual
- Dale Olson
- Dawn Petit - Virtual
- Lorraine Gouge
- Jennifer Vobornik
- Carol Pearson
- Dr. Sabrina Dunlap

**Others Present:**

Tom Hoff  
Alex Butterfield  
Lynn Fitch  
Paul Grahovac  
Patty Dujardin – Virtual  
Julia Lyons – Virtual  
Joey Johnson – Virtual  
Karla May Kay – Virtual  
Timothy James Carroll

**Call to Order** – Chair Dale Schleeter called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm.

**Roll Call** was taken.

**Certification of Compliance** with the open meeting law was met. Quorum was met.

**Meeting Agenda**

**Public Comments** Public comment by Mr. Carroll were heard.

**Minutes from previous meeting** – A motion was made by Ms. Pearson to approve the minutes of the February 9, 2021, meeting; second by Mr. Shuman. Motion carried without negative vote.

**Committee Reports** – Ms. Gouge provided an oral report of activities from LCO. The Health Center vaccinated 186 Hayward School employees last week; approximately 240 tribal members and an additional 240 are to be vaccinated on Wednesday, March 10<sup>th</sup>. Approval has arrived for 16- and 17-year olds to be vaccinated and LCO is getting that message out. Additional vaccines arrive weekly. They are seeing a downward trend in testing and positive cases. The tribal governing board is addressing the broadband issue, the transitional housing shortage, and focusing on keeping their members safe. Mr. Olson made mention that he recognized the good partnership between the tribal organizations and the community during the pandemic.

**Senior Resource Center** – a written report was provided. Ms. Johnson provided an update on the current bus issues and plan to replace the bus; temporary bus services have been provided by Timber Ford while their bus remains out of commission. Donations for the Meals-on-Wheels program remain strong. In 2021-22, all senior sites will need to be licensed at the State level and they will move toward licensing Sawyer’s remaining sites, as currently only the Hayward site is licensed. Frandsen Bank has forgiven the Payroll Protection loan program so the Senior Center remains in a position of no outstanding debt; they will now begin to rebuild reserve funds.

**Adult Long Term Care** – A written report was provided. Mr. Grahovac reported that all staff have now completed their functional screen tests and results will be available at the end of march. He explained the three-tiered funding sources of ADRCs and mentioned that Sawyer County is in the lower funding tier. They are seeing many guardianship requests coming from nursing homes, and he will have a proposal for the board in a future meeting on how to address those requests.

**Behavioral Health** – Written reports were provided. Mr. Grahovac advised that NorthLakes Clinic has agreed to allow one of their therapists involved in CCS services. Sawyer County currently has 40 children on long-term support waivers and there is a growing need to have sufficient county staff available to handle the number of families in the programs. He and Joe Bodo are having ongoing discussions at the State level to look for alternatives for placements.

**Child Protective Services** – Written reports were provided. Sawyer County experienced \$547,528.36 expenses over budget in child welfare out of home placements in 2020, and costs continue to increase.

**Youth Justice** – A written report was provided. Youth Justice has ten cases pending with 88% being related to truancy.

**Economic Support** – A written report was provided. A new support specialist started in February. The Northern Income Maintenance Consortium launched a new employee website which is more user-friendly than the SharePoint site.

**Public Health** – Ms. Lyons presented a slide presentation regarding current Covid stats. Indicators are moving in the right direction with our risk level moving to Orange (10-24 cases per 100,000 per day). Testing is down in the area and the State but is still readily available. In March the vaccine eligibility requirements changed to include more demographic groups. Currently Sawyer County has 23.6% of county residents vaccinated with at least one dose and we are getting closer to opening hospitals and nursing homes to visitors.

**Fiscal** – Written reports were provided.

**Future Agenda Items** – Mr. Hoff advised that on April 13<sup>th</sup>, the WCA is holding virtual health and human services zoom meetings to hear issues and talk about budget concerns. He recommended attending and will provide details on time and access.

**Meeting Date/Time** – The next meeting of the Health and Human Services Committee will be Tuesday, April 13, at 6:30 pm in the Assembly Room.

Meeting adjourned at 7:37 pm  
Minutes recorded by Lynn Fitch, County Clerk