

**COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE  
OF THE WHOLE  
Minutes of the Meeting  
Tuesday May 12, 2009  
9:00 a.m.  
Room L139, Western Service Center, Apple Valley**

**1. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL**

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m. by the Chair, Commissioner Nancy Schouweiler. Those in attendance:

Commissioner Joseph A. Harris  
Commissioner Kathleen A. Gaylord  
Commissioner Thomas Egan  
Commissioner Nancy Schouweiler  
Commissioner Liz Workman  
Commissioner Paul J. Krause  
Commissioner Willis E. Branning

Also in attendance were: Dave Rooney, Community Services Division Director, and Jay Stassen, County Attorney's Office, Karen Schaffer, County Attorney's Office, Matt Smith, Financial Services Director.

**2. REPORTS**

There were no reports.

**3. INTRODUCTIONS**

There were no introductions.

**4. AUDIENCE**

Chair Schouweiler asked if anyone in the audience wished to address the committee on an item not on the agenda or if anyone wished to discuss an item on the Consent Agenda. No one appeared.

**5. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Moved by Commissioner Gaylord, seconded by Commissioner Egan, and passed on a 7-0 vote to approve the agenda.

**6. CONSENT AGENDA**

Moved by Commissioner Workman, seconded by Commissioner Branning, and passed on a 7-0 vote to approve the following Consent Agenda.

**6.1 Minutes of the April 14, 2009 meeting**

**6.2 Distribution Of Funds For 2009 Memorial Day Activities**

**6.3 Authorization To Execute Grant Agreement With Minnesota Department Of Employment And Economic Development And Amend 2009 Employment And Economic Assistance Budget To Accept American Recovery And Reinvestment Act Funds**

WHEREAS, Dakota County administers Workforce Investment Act (WIA) program services to eligible and universal customers; and

WHEREAS, the Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development (DEED) has issued funds to allow additional enrollment and services into WIA programs; and

WHEREAS, DEED has notified Dakota County of \$1,608,784 of the total funds for immediate use.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Dakota County Board of Commissioners hereby authorizes the Community Services Director to execute a grant agreement(s) with the Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development (DEED) to accept American Recovery and Reinvestment Act Funds in the amount awarded, subject to approval by the County Attorney's Office as to form; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the 2009 Employment and Economic Assistance budget is hereby increased as follows:

<b>Expense</b>	<b>WIA DW ARRA</b>	<b>Youth Summer ARRA</b>	<b>Youth Year Round ARRA</b>	<b>Youth 5% Spec Proj ARRA</b>	<b>Adult ARRA</b>
Direct Program	893,785	274,502	92,256	19,563	164,800
<b>Total Expense</b>	<b>\$893,785</b>	<b>\$274,502</b>	<b>\$92,256</b>	<b>\$19,563</b>	<b>\$164,800</b>

<b>Revenue</b>					
DEED	993,095	305,002	105,840	21,736	183,111
Increase in Fund Balance	(99,310)	(30,500)	(10,584)	(2,173)	(18,311)
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>\$893,785</b>	<b>\$274,502</b>	<b>\$ 92,256</b>	<b>\$19,563</b>	<b>\$164,800</b>

**6.4 Ratify Grant Application Submitted To Minnesota Housing Finance Agency For Family Homeless Prevention And Assistance Program**

WHEREAS, Dakota County has received funding from the State of Minnesota's Family Homeless Prevention and Assistance Program (FHPAP) for the past six biennia to prevent homelessness and assist homeless households in Dakota County in maintaining their housing; and

WHEREAS, during this biennium Supportive Housing Unit (SHU) prevention cases nearly tripled, increasing from 21 to 59 households; and

WHEREAS, County staff and the FHPAP advisory committee are recommending additional funds be sought so that Dakota County can continue providing the same level of service to an increased number of families at risk of homelessness and youth attending school who are at risk of or experiencing homelessness; and

WHEREAS, the grant request is \$104,260 above 2007-2009 biennium for staffing, and \$196,190 for housing assistance, and \$16,744 for administrative expense.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Dakota County Board of Commissioners hereby ratifies the grant application submitted to the Minnesota Housing for the Family Homeless Prevention and Assistance Program, in the amount of \$701,622 for the period of July 1, 2009 through June 30, 2011.

**6.5 Ratify Grant Application Submitted To Minnesota Department Of Human Services Office Of Economic Opportunity For Emergency Shelter Grant Program And Emergency Services Program Funding**

WHEREAS, the Minnesota Department of Human Services (DHS) Office of Economic Opportunity (OEO) announced the anticipated availability of Emergency Shelter Grant Program (HUD-ESGP), Emergency Services Program (ESP), and Transitional Housing Program (THP) funding; and

WHEREAS, funding may be used to pay the costs of providing homelessness prevention services, shelter (including motel vouchers), transitional housing, and supportive services to homeless persons (including outreach); and

WHEREAS, due to the short timeline, this grant application was submitted requesting funding for two purposes for the 2009-2011 biennium: 1) \$407,000 for motel vouchers to provide temporary emergency shelter to homeless individuals and families; and 2) \$84,436 for outreach to homeless individuals to help them locate shelter, services, and permanent housing.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Dakota County Board of Commissioners hereby ratifies the application submitted to the Minnesota Department of Human Services, Office of Economic Opportunity for Emergency Shelter Grant Program and the Emergency Services Program in the amount of \$407,000 for emergency motel vouchers and \$84,436 for outreach services to homeless persons for the period of July 1, 2009 through June 30, 2011.

## **7. REGULAR AGENDA**

### **7.1 Overview Of Dakota And Scott County Financial Empowerment Collaborative**

Ruth Krueger, Employment and Economic Assistance Director presented this item and introduced three agency participants: Suzanne Sheridan, University of Minnesota, Extension; Roger Walia, US Bank; and Darrell Lindemann, Prince of Peace Lutheran Church. Ms. Krueger explained how and why the Collaborative was formed. Ms. Sheridan described the goals and objectives and she, along with Mr. Walia and Mr. Lindemann, explained how and why they became involved in the Financial Empowerment Collaborative. This item was Information only; no action requested.

### **7.2 Authorization To Replace County-Owned Client Driven Support Option Checking Accounts At Mainstreet Bank With Other Consumer Directed Support Options**

Patrick Coyne, Social Services Director, Kay Dickison, Social Services Deputy Director, and Matt Smith, Financial Services Director, presented this item. Mr. Coyne explained client driven/consumer directed supports, history of the checking book option, and summarized the recommendation before the Board. Mr. Smith addressed the risk liability to both the County and to the client. Ms. Dickison detailed the changes to the client as well as the services that will remain the same.

The following individuals from the community with personal experience in using the checking account option addressed the Board: Mike Garrison, Apple Valley; Gayle Hoffman, Apple Valley; Scott Schifsky, ARC Public Policy; Deanne Lankow, St. Paul Park; Karen Hosch, Eagan; and Dennis Casey, Burnsville. Staff answered questions from each of the Commissioners as the Board expressed their concern regarding fiscal impact on the client as well as fiscal liability for the County.

Motion by Commissioner Harris, seconded by Commissioner Krause and passed on a 6-1 vote (with Commissioner Egan casting the opposing vote), to recommend the County Board adopt the following resolution. The Board of Commissioners request this item be placed on the regular agenda at the May 19, 2009 Board Meeting.

WHEREAS, the County Board, by Resolution 98-115 (February 24, 1998), authorized the establishment of county-owned individual checking accounts to allow clients to create and pay for services and supports that meet their needs; and

WHEREAS, Dakota County is the *only county in the state* to offer a check book option; and

WHEREAS, this check book option started with 30 clients with developmental disabilities and has since grown to now include almost 700 clients across other long term care program areas; and

WHEREAS, as valuable as the check book option has been, staff have concluded that the design of the program presents an inherent financial control risk that the county cannot overcome; and

WHEREAS, there are other payment mechanisms to support consumer directed options; and

WHEREAS, staff recommends discontinuation of the Dakota County check book option as soon as practical and recommends that provision of consumer directed options be transitioned to Fiscal Support Entities (FSEs) under contract with the County to provide these service; and

WHEREAS, in doing so, Dakota County families will have the same consumer directed options available to them as do families in the other Minnesota counties.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Dakota County Board of Commissioners hereby directs staff to discontinue the county-owned Client Driven Support Option checking accounts at Mainstreet Bank as soon as practical and that the County's administration of fiscal support services be transitioned to Fiscal Support Entities (FSEs) under contract with the county to provide fiscal support services; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That staff will work with families to help them choose an FSE to administer their funds to effect as smooth a transition as possible.

<b>10. COMMUNITY SERVICES DIRECTORS REPORT</b>
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Each Commissioner received a copy of the Director's written report. Dave Rooney introduced Bonnie Brueshoff, Public Health Director, as a recent Robert Wood Johnson Fellowship graduate; Bonnie gave a brief description of the program and introduced her mentor, Tom Engels.

<b>8. LEGISLATIVE UPDATE</b>
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Jack Ditmore presented a preliminary summary of bonding proposals. Margaret Schreiner presented the legislative update.

<b>9. OTHER BUSINESS</b>
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There was no other business.

<b>11. ADJOURNMENT</b>
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Commissioner Schouweiler adjourned the meeting at 12:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Betty Sedlacek  
Senior Administrative Assistant