

BENTON COUNTY HUMAN SERVICES BOARD  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES  
JANUARY 2, 2024

The Benton County Human Services Board met in regular session on January 2, 2024, in the Benton County Board Room in Foley, MN with Board members Beth Schlangen, Scott Johnson, Ed Popp, Jared Gapinski and Steve Heinen present. Call to order by County Board Chair Gapinski was at 10:16 AM.

Popp nominated Heinen for the 2024 Chair of the Human Services Board. Seconded by Johnson. Nominations were closed and a ballot was cast for Heinen for Human Services Board Chair for 2024. Motion carried with Commissioners Schlangen, Johnson, Gapinski and Popp voting "aye". Heinen abstained from the vote. Next, Chair Heinen called for nominations for 2024 Human Services Vice-Chair. Popp nominated Schlangen for the 2024 Vice-Chair of the Human Services Board. Seconded by Gapinski. A unanimous ballot was cast for Schlangen for Human Services Board Vice-Chair for 2023.

Johnson/Gapinski to approve the agenda as written. Motion carried unanimously.

Next, Johnson/Gapinski unanimous to set the 2024 Human Services Board Meeting dates and times: the "first and third" Tuesday of each month at 9:00 AM with the last Human Services meeting on March 19, 2024 at which time the Human Services Board will sunset. Motion carried unanimously.

Popp/Johnson to approve Consent Agenda items 1 - 3: 1) approve the Human Services Regular Board Meeting Minutes of December 19, 2023 and authorize the Chair to sign; 2) approve the Tri-Cap renewal also making it a two-year contract and authorizing the Chair to sign; 3) approve the 2024 amended Respite Care Grant Contract with the Department of Human Services and authorize the Chair to sign. Motion carried unanimously.

Next, Social Services Supervisor Nikki Knowles provided an update on the Local Homeless Prevention Aid funding for 2023 and planning for 2024 allocation. Local Homeless Prevention Aid was created by the 2021 Minnesota Legislature to help local governments ensure no child is homeless within a local jurisdiction by keeping families from losing housing and helping those experiencing homelessness find housing. Benton County received an allocation of \$121,270 for 2023. This funding has been utilized in sustaining a family housing program with Lutheran Social Services and direct assistance to families in Benton County. The 2023 allocations need to be fully spent by the end of 2024. Benton County does not anticipate that funding will be fully spent by the end of the calendar year. This item was for informational purposes only.

Chair Heinen adjourned the meeting at 10:20 AM.

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Steven J. Heinen, Chair  
Benton County Human Services Board

ATTEST:

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Montgomery Headley  
Benton County Administrator