

Cedar – Muscatine Decategorization Board
Monday, November 30, 2009

Cedar – Muscatine Decategorization Board met on Friday, August 14, 2009 in the Jury Room of the Tipton County Courthouse. The following members were in attendance: Leroy Moeller, Scott Hobart, Mike Johannsen, Kas Kelly, Russ Hayes, Brittney Stevens, Shawn Lucas, and Dana Echelbarger. Staff present: Marcy Mendenhall and Nicole Mann

Call to Order

Leroy Moeller called to order at 12:00 pm.

Approval of Minutes:

Kelly moved to approve the Friday, August 14, 2009 minutes as presented. Seconded by Hobart. All ayes. Motion carried.

Old Business

End of Year Reports

Marcy reminded Board members of their request for formal letters to be sent to all FY 09 contract holders for end of year reports. At this point, all but North Cedar County after school programming has been submitted. There is a transition in staff and Nicole is in contact with administration.

New Business

Fiscal Reports

Cedar County FY 10 Budget

Marcy presented the FY 10 budget to members. She stated the LSI contract is in place for In Home Brief Intensive Service. She stated staff is actively researching how to implement mental health services and CFSR outcome services.

TANF dollars

Nicole presented DHS and Cedar County Decat reconciled their final numbers and additional TANF funds need to be programmed. She stated \$9124.00 of TANF funds can be allocated to In Home Brief Intensive services contract because it provides direct service to children and youth. Nicole stated this would require an amendment to the current contract between Cedar County Decat and LSI and the total amount of the contract would not change, just the amount of TANF dollars.

Lucas made the motion to amend LSI Cedar County In Home Brief Intensive Services contract to reflect an increase of \$9124.00 of TANF funds. Seconded by Hobart. All ayes. Motion passed.

Cedar County FY 10 Expenditures

Marcy directed members to review the FY 10 expenditure form. She stated the LSI In Home Brief Intensive Gap Contract only expended 39% of the contract leaving \$3033.00 dollars unspent. Summer Community Services has completed one month of the service

and utilized 37% of their allocated funds. Decat Coordination is running high at 43% due to RFP review and contract writing regarding In Home Brief Intensive service contracts.

Muscatine County FY 10 Budget

Marcy stated that Family Advocacy, CPPC Safe Streets, Summer Community Services, Victim Restitution, and Coordination contracts are all signed and implemented.

Muscatine Board has allocated \$312,462.00 to programming leaving a balance of \$118,739.00 to meet community needs.

TANF funds

Nicole shared DHS and Muscatine County Decat reconciled final numbers and additional TANF funds need to be programmed. She stated that \$21,089.00 of TANF funds can be allocated to Family Advocacy Program because program services beneficiaries are children and youth. Nicole stated this would require an amendment to the current contract between Muscatine Community Services and Muscatine County Decat and the total amount of the contract would not change, just the amount of TANF dollars.

Kelly made the motion to amend Muscatine Community Services contract to reflect an increase of \$21,089.00 of TANF funds. Seconded by Hobart. All ayes. Motion carried.

Muscatine County FY 10 Expenditures

Marcy shared that Family Advocacy is trending at 33% of spending and Summer Community Services contract has spent 51% of their allocation. Coordination has spent 18% of their contracted amount. CPPC Safe Streets spent 75% of their total allocation of funds having an unspent balance of \$2156.00 at the end of their contract. Marcy reminded members CPPC is on a federal fiscal year ending September 30th.

Legislative Update

Marcy stated that State of Iowa is over budget and State funded programs have implemented 10% across the board cuts. At this time, Decat has not had to implement the 10% reduction. However, she reminded members our FY 10 allocation was significantly reduced. It is still unknown if additional funding reductions will be required from the State of Iowa and FY 11 funding is predicted to be reduced as well.

Marcy shared with all members that staff is researching agencies and Administrative rules to determine how to retain unspent funds for the FY 11. Members encouraged her to continue researching programming options.

Programming Updates

Cedar County BIS

Marcy shared that Cedar County BIS services provided by LSI has struggled with fully understanding their contracts. In June 2009 email and telephone correspondence Scott Caldwell, program manager, stated there was urgency from LSI staff to implement a BIS Bridge contract to continue services for families during the RFP and contracting process. Staff had sent a letter to Mr. Caldwell regarding the contract ending on April 1, 2009. Cedar County Board members implemented the Bridge contract but as the members

heard earlier only 39% of the contract was spent down. There was delay in implementing the FY 09 contract due to contract negotiations. Marcy shared she contacted LSI's CEO Doug Johnson to express concern regarding LSI's contract management. Marcy stated at this time there are no violations in the contract but staff is monitoring the contract closely.

Muscatine County Family Advocacy

Marcy shared she has been working with LSI and Muscatine Community Services on obtaining new Memorandum of Understanding. With the implementation of a new contract a new MOU needed to be signed. At this point, signatures are being obtained.

FY 10 Programming

Parent as Partners Grant

Marcy stated there is a grant to support Parent as Partners programming which provides peer support to DHS involved families. Marcy questioned if Cedar and Muscatine boards would like separate applications or one joint application. Russ stated that this programming would assist in determining when or if parental rights should be terminated. Parent as Partners programming has success throughout the state of Iowa in having lower termination cases. Shawn asked about benefits of joint application versus submitting separate applications. Marcy responded that joint application would show collaboration and may increase chances for funding. Russ shared there were no more than seven families in Cedar County who required DHS formal removals. He continued that this program would be supportive of families.

Kelly moved to submit joint Parent as Partner application for Cedar and Muscatine county Decats. Seconded by Lucas. All ayes. Motion carried.

Safe Streets Proposal

Marcy stated she received a program proposal from Safe Streets to increase their services to include family resources centers at Cedar Park and Cedar Hills apartment complexes. Kas stated this additional programming would assist residents in connecting to resources and it is statistically proven that Family Resource Centers are proven to reduce involvement within DHS child welfare based on University of Maryland data. Shawn questioned the difference in current programming and expanded programming. Kas stated there would be increased time from one visit per month to weekly visits. The apartment complexes were chosen due to the diverse populations and the identified need for increase neighborhood connections.

Lucas made the motion for Muscatine County Decat to amend Muscatine CPPC Safe Street contract for \$25,000.00 from the CFSR line item to enhance the four CPPC strategies. Johannsen seconded. All Ayes. Kelly abstains. Motion carries.

Leroy asked if Cedar County CPPC had made the same request. Marcy responded that no Cedar County had submitted any proposal. Leroy requested that staff contact Cedar County CPPC to determine if they could provide additional services. If staff determined if CPPC could he would like to fund this CPPC enhancement.

Community Involvement

Marcy stated she and Kas attended a meeting hosted by Christy Roby Williams, Muscatine Empowerment to discuss community resource guides. Ms. Williams invited community people together who would be interested in developing a community resource guide similar to Scott County. United Way was going to follow up on 211 system and resources. Additional meeting may be scheduled.

Decat Services**Annual Plans**

Marcy reported Decategorization annual plans were submitted timely on behalf of Muscatine and Cedar County Decategorization boards.

Annual Reports

Marcy reported Decategorization end of year reports were submitted timely on behalf of Muscatine and Cedar County Decategorization boards.

Committee Member

Marcy asked members about the current representation of the Decategorization boards. Leroy provided historical perspective on how many community members attended meetings and forums but didn't want to attend board meetings on an ongoing basis. Leroy tabled the discussion for recruitment of additional Decat board members until funding is stabilized.

Next Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for January 25th at noon (12:00 pm) in the Tipton County Courtroom in the Jury Room.

Adjournment

Kelly made a motion to adjourn. Seconded by Echelbarger. Meeting adjourned at 1:10.
