

December 16, 1976

Honorable Chairman and Members of the
Marquette County Board of Commissioners
Marquette, Michigan

Ladies and Gentlemen:

A meeting of your Welfare Contact Committee was duly called and held on December 16, 1976 and copies of the minutes of that meeting have been furnished to all members of the Board of Commissioners and a copy of the minutes is attached hereto and made a part of this report.

Respectfully submitted,

WELFARE CONTACT COMMITTEE

Chairman

December 16, 1976

The Welfare Contact Committee was duly called and held on December 16, 1976 at 7:00 p.m. at the County Courthouse.

Present: Commissioners Gaboury, Cheatham, Racine, Goldsworthy and Anderson.

Absent: None.

In Attendance: Shari Platt, Juvenile Division Director; Mary Lou Fontaine, Social Services Department.

Chairman Racine called the meeting to order.

Mrs. Fontaine reported general assistance is increasing gradually, possibly due to the seasonal increase. Also, some applicants are now eligible as they have depleted financial resources and are below the State required limit. Mrs. Fontaine stated 131 general assistance cases were handled during November and 55 people were involved in work projects during November.

Mrs. Fontaine noted 360 applications for assistance were received in November: 85 for ADC; 156 for medical assistance; 104 for general assistance; 14 for hospitalization and other special programs.

Of the 131 general assistance applications made 46 were denied; 37 approved, and 20 are pending.

Mary Lou stated most families on ADC are the result of the absence of the father; desertion; an unemployed father at home.

Mrs. Fontaine reported that one of two protective services vacancies may be filled in the next couple weeks. She also stated they are short one case worker.

Mrs. Fontaine stated the 4% increase proposed in medical assistance programs may not be available. She added Department of Social Services personnel have the responsibility of identifying medical resources available to a person. There is \$31,000,000.00 collectable from other sources such as health insurance policies, court ordered medical payments, etc. From July, 1975 to June, 1976 2,000 recipients per month received \$300,000.00 per month for medical assistance.

Mary Lou stated basic care at Acock's Facility has increased \$1.00 per day and \$1.05 for skilled care.

There are 689 eligible cases for Supplementary Security Income (SSI) in Marquette County for November. 325 for those over 65; 11 blind; and 353 disabled. Houghton County has 903 eligible cases while Delta County had 803.

Support collections were up last month according to Mrs. Fontaine. 58.1% were collected for a total of \$25,694.15. She noted the increase may reflect a carry over from last month as the previous month collections were down.

Commissioner Anderson asked what percentage of people who applied for assistance actually received it in 1976 as compared to 1975. Mrs. Fontaine did not have that information available, although she noted the Department of Social Services carried double the assistance case load before February, 1976 when stricter regulations became effective. She also stated people participating in the work projects are down.

Shari Platt then reported on the Youth Home. She stated it cost approximately \$36.00 per day per child to run the facility. The Juvenile Division is conducting a cost analysis study and Shari will present the study to the committee at the January, 1977 meeting. She stated expenses at the Youth Home are between \$8,000.00 and \$9,000.00 per month.

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Expenditures for the Youth Home: Direct, such as clothing, medical and dental was \$26,654.81; Agency, \$690.99; Detention, \$9,131.19 and State Institutions, \$1,606.92 for a total of \$14,083.91. Shari stated expenditures have been averaging \$15,000.00 per month. Total expenditures for 1976 are \$170,417.85.

Reimbursements: Private individuals, such as parents who are able to pay, and Social Security, \$14,934.93; State of Michigan, \$80,302.87; Grant, \$8,631.28 for a total of \$103,869.08. Total cost to the County has been \$72,498.12.

Total children for November was 14 for 196 days. Three of these were referred from the Department of Social Services for 70 days, and one out-county child for 24 days. The total for 1976 has been 166 children for 1,825 days.

Shari stated the Youth Home account has received \$4,714.56 from other counties so far this year. Not yet received is a total of \$7,590.00.

There have been 746 Juvenile Court referrals to date, 115 of which were received in the month of November. Traffic court referrals total 236, with 15 for the month of November. Shari noted this was less than average. There were 53 adoption investigations in November. The total of all referrals to date is 1,035.

Shari reported the Youth Home is having a cash flow problem. The \$72,498.12 County figure shows the Youth Home is over the budget, but they will be receiving \$5,000.00 approved by the Board in November.

The Youth Home still has \$5,000.00 coming in from the State for September. A County court has not returned in their report for reimbursements, however, and the State will not send money to any Juvenile Division until this is received.

Shari noted a \$5,000.00 reimbursement for October will be arriving shortly and they still have not received \$6,000.00 for the month of November.

Shari reported between February and July, 1976: a) 29% of the children in the facility were out-county. b) 65% of the children received at the facility did not return.

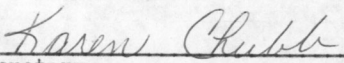
According to Shari, \$26.00 per day was charged originally for out-county children, however, they are now charging \$36.00 per day due to the results of their cost analysis study.

Shari informed the committee out-counties are charged for medical services provided while a child is at the Youth Home.

School representatives asked that Commissioner Racine suggest to the committee that school principals and truant officers meet with them on problems facing the schools.

As there was no further business to attend to, it was moved by Commissioner Gaboury, supported by Commissioner Anderson and carried unanimously to adjourn.

Respectfully submitted,


Secretary

November 18, 1976

Honorable Chairman and Members of the
Marquette County Board of Commissioners
Marquette, Michigan

Ladies and Gentlemen:

A meeting of your Welfare Contact Committee was duly called and held on November 18, 1976 and copies of the minutes of that meeting have been furnished to all members of the Board of Commissioners and a copy of the minutes is attached hereto and made a part of this report.

Respectfully submitted,

WELFARE CONTACT COMMITTEE

Chairman

November 18, 1976

The regular Welfare Contact Committee meeting was duly called and held on November 18, 1976 at 7:00 p.m. in the County Courthouse.

Present: Commissioners Anderson, Cheatham, Gaboury, Goldsworthy and Racine.

Absent: None.

In Attendance: Mary Lou Fontaine, Harold VanOverloop, Donald Kauppila.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Racine.

Mrs. Fontaine gave a report on various Social Services activities for the month. She reported that intake has been picking up in the last month due mainly to an increase in unemployment.

She reported that in October there were 119 active General Assistance cases. During the month she was contacted by Mr. Gerald Moore of the State Department who requested the County report on the affects of the State's take over of General Assistance. The local department is working with Mr. Moore on this request.

Mrs. Fontaine reported that during the month of October there were 370 applications for assistance. Broken down these applications would be 86 for ADC; 172 for Medical Assistance; 101 for General Assistance; and 11 for County Hospitalization.

She mentioned that out of the 11 applications for hospitalization three were approved, one denied and seven were pending at the end of the month.

She stated that it is very hard for her department to keep pace with the applications received. The State has imposed a freeze on job vacancies so that any vacancies that do occur cannot be filled. The State Department of Social Services is having financial difficulties due to the State's budget and as it stands right now they do not have enough money to handle the existing payroll.

The director then reported on the services activity for the month of October. There were 191 referrals which when broken down are as follows: 114 for Basic Family Services (mostly ADC); 57 for Adult Services (mostly supplemental security income people); 20 for Protective Services for Children. In this last area the department is having major problems. There should be three case workers and one supervisor. They are working with one case worker and one supervisor. For the last few months they did have two case workers handling 75 to 80 cases a piece. Affective in November one of these two case workers left the department.

In the area of food stamps, sales have been taken over since September 1, 1976 by the Post Office. The local department pays \$1.10 for each card submitted to the Post Office. During the month of October, \$1,476.00 was paid for 1,342 transactions.

In the area of Medical Assistance the director reported that physical therapy is now a covered charge. The basic rate is increased from \$23.00 to \$25.60 per day and the skilled from \$24.64 to \$27.40. If the facility costs exceed these rates payment will be made at the base rate plus 40% of the difference between that and the actual cost.

Mrs. Fontaine gave some S.S.I. statistics from September 1, 1976. There were 693 S.S.I. recipients. 325 of these are 65 years of age or older; 10 are blind; and 360 are disabled.

Marquette County has less S.S.I. recipients than other counties. This is due mainly because the average age in Marquette County is lower than that of other U.P. counties.

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Report on support payments of the month show \$18,023.80 collected out of a total of \$44,838.20 or about 41%. Incentive payments to mothers under this program ended October 1, 1976. The County will continue to receive 15%.

Mr. VanOverloop stated that collections have not been as good as they could be. About 50% of the fathers do not have the means to pay what has been ordered. It is possible to have the orders ammended on the basis of the person's ability to pay, making the payments higher or lower as the case may be.

The committee then discussed the function of the investigator in the Prosecuting Attorney's Office. It was noted that this employee is fully involved in fraud cases as well as referrals and is kept quite busy handling these activities.

Mr. VanOverloop passed around for the committee's review a sheet showing the investigator's duties as established by the State.

The committee then briefly discussed the remaining resolution regarding the Friend of the Court Offices. This resolution is rather confusing in its discussion of collection fees. Mr. VanOverloop has talked to other Friends of the Court in the Upper Peninsula and has written to the President of the Association for clarification of this resolution. To date he has not received a response from the President and suggested that the matter be tabled until an answer is received.

Mr. Kauppila then gave to the committee the Child Care Fund report and Juvenile Division report for the month.

The following are expenditures for the month of October: Direct, \$2,888.66; Agency, \$668.70; Detention, \$8,048.49; State Institutions, \$1,943.97. Total expenditures for the month of October were \$13,549.82 and for 1976 are \$156,333.94.

Total reimbursements through October, 1976 are \$97,221.36.

There were 15 children at the Marquette County Youth Home during October for a total of 186 days. 631 referrals have been received as of October 31, 1976.

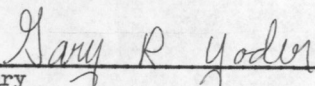
The report stated that 23 children were referred in October for traffic violations. The total of traffic violation referrals as of October 31, 1976 are 221.

Adoption investigations through October 31, 1976 total 51.

The committee then briefly discussed a communication received from Mr. Jerome Liebrecht concerning Brookridge and felt it was a proper item for the Budget and Executive Committee and was referred to that committee for review.

There being no further business, it was moved by Commissioner Anderson, supported by Commissioner Goldsworthy and carried unanimously to adjourn.

Respectfully submitted,


Secretary

October 21, 1976

The Honorable Chairman and Members of the
Marquette County Board of Commissioners
Marquette, Michigan

Ladies and Gentlemen:

Your Welfare Contact Committee held its regular meeting October 21, 1976. During the meeting a discussion was held concerning three resolutions from the Friend of the Court Association which were referred to the committee by the Board.

Your committee moved to recommend the Board approve the resolution opposing the passage of H.B. 5108 which would place the Friend of the Court under the jurisdiction of the County Board of Commissioners rather than the Circuit Court Judges as it is now.

Your committee also recommends the Board approve a resolution submitted by the Friend of the Court Association supporting increased communications between the Friend of the Court Association, Circuit Court Judges Association of the State of Michigan, and the Michigan Association of Counties through meetings between representatives from these three associations.

Action on a third resolution regarding incentive funds received by local governments has been tabled until the next meeting of your Welfare Contact Committee so that additional, clarifying information may be obtained from the President of the Friend of the Court Association. Copies of the resolutions are attached.

Respectfully submitted,

WELFARE CONTACT COMMITTEE

Chairman

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the Circuit Court judicial employees of each County in the State of Michigan are under the employment jurisdiction of the Circuit Court Judges, and;

WHEREAS, the Friends of the Court of the State of Michigan and their respective employees are Circuit Court judicial employees in the State of Michigan, and;

WHEREAS, as Circuit Court judicial employees, the Friends of the Court and their respective employees are not directly subject to the job classifications and salaries developed by each respective County, but are rather subject to the job classifications and salaries as developed by the Circuit Court Judges of each County, and;

WHEREAS, H.B. 5108, now pending in the Michigan Congress, if passed by the Michigan House of Representatives and Michigan Senate and approved by the governor, would remove the Friends of the Court and their respective employees from the employment jurisdiction of the Circuit Court Judges of each County and make them directly responsible to, and under the control of, the job classification and salaries as developed by each County Board of Commissioners, and;

WHEREAS, it is in the best interest of the Friends of the Court and their respective employees to maintain their status as employees of the judiciary, and not as employees of the County, because of their close workings and statutory responsibility to the Circuit Courts:

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Friend of the Court Association of the State of Michigan is vitally opposed to the passage and implementation of H.B. 5108; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Friend of the Court Association of the State of Michigan make a copy of the Resolution known to the Michigan Association of Counties, Circuit Court Judges Association of the State of Michigan, each and every Michigan State Representative and Senator and communications media throughout the State of Michigan.

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the Friend of the Court Offices are empowered and mandated by state law to collect and enforce all child support orders entered by the circuit courts of this state, and;

WHEREAS, the Friend of the Court Offices are empowered and mandated by the state law and constitutional law to collect and enforce said child support orders for welfare and non-welfare cases equally, and;

WHEREAS, PL 93-647, known as the Federal Child Support act, effective August 1, 1975, provides for the payment of certain incentive funds directly to the local governing unit in each state, that being the general treasury of each county in the state of Michigan, said funds representing a certain percentage of child support collected by said Friend of the Court and sent to the state of Michigan, pursuant to state law, in cases where the minor children are recipients of ADC funds from the state and;

WHEREAS, one of the intents of the U.S. Congress as expressed in PL 93-647 is to provide funds to the local governing units in each state to develop and enhance child support collecting systems, and;

WHEREAS, the citizens of each county are not receiving the full service that was intended to be provided under PL 93-647 in that the local governing units in the State of Michigan have failed to provide for the child support system in the respective counties, reasonable and adequate incentive funds received under PL 93-647, and;

WHEREAS, there is a great deal of confusion as to what the intent of Congress under PL 93-647 really is, in that there has been no authoritative interpretation since the passage of said act;

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Friend of the Court Association of the State of Michigan:

1. Gather statistical data from all Friends of the Court throughout the State of Michigan as to the amount of Federal incentive funds received under PL 93-647 by each county from August 1, 1975 through July 31, 1976 and;
2. Gather statistical data from all Friend of the Court offices throughout the State of Michigan as to the amount of Federal incentive funds received by the child support collection system of each county (being the Circuit Court, the Friend of the Court, and the Prosecuting Attorney offices), from August 1, 1975 through July 31, 1976 and;
3. To publicly and directly advise local governing units of each county in the State of Michigan that it is the belief of the Friend of the Court Association of the State of Michigan that these local governing units are not complying with the intent of Congress under PL 93-647 by using any or all of said Federal incentive funds for any purpose other than to develop and enhance the child support collection system in their respective counties and;
4. To publicly and actively advise the local governing units of each County in the State of Michigan that it is the direct desire and intent of the Friend of the Court Association of the State of Michigan to work together with, and not in opposition to, said local governing units to develop a general state-wide

formula and percentage system as to how much of the Federal incentive funds should be put directly into the child support collection system for submission to the Michigan Association of Counties of their support and backing on a state-wide basis and;

5. To actively seek and promote the support of other state-wide associations which are part of the child support collection systems within the State, and to actively seek and promote any and all necessary legislative changes that might be necessary to reasonably carry-out the intent of Congress under PL 93-647.

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the Friend of the Court Offices of the State of Michigan are statutorily created on a single or multi-County basis and;

WHEREAS, the Friend of the Court Offices of the State of Michigan are directly responsible to the Circuit Court of their respective Counties and;

WHEREAS, the Friend of the Court Offices of the State of Michigan actively seek to be responsive to their respective County Board of Commissioners and;

WHEREAS, it is often difficult for any one Friend of the Court Office, by itself, to effectively communicate with their County Board of Commissioners to help them understand the operations and responsibilities of that Office and matters of vital and crucial concerns to both entities and the public at large and;

WHEREAS, it is often difficult for any one Friend of the Court Office, by itself, to effectively communicate with their County Board of Commissioners to help them understand the operations and responsibilities of that Office and matters of vital and crucial concerns to both entities and the public at large and;

WHEREAS, it is often difficult for any one Friend of the Court Office, by itself, to effectively communicate with their Circuit Court Judges as to matters of operations that have state-wide impact or may need state-wide legislative changes and;

WHEREAS, there exists the Circuit Court Judges Association of the State of Michigan which is representative of all member Circuit Court Judges in the State of Michigan and;

WHEREAS, there exists the Michigan Association of Counties which actively represents member County Commissioners as to state-wide legislative and operational matters and;

WHEREAS, the Friend of the Court Association of the State of Michigan has previously not had any formal direct liaison contact with, or representation to, either of the above Associations and;

WHEREAS, it is vital to the interests of the future operations of the Friend of the Court Offices of the State of Michigan that it continually know what these Associations and their members are doing, that there be developed an effective dual communication input and feedback system with each Association, and that the Friend of the Court Association provide direct and official liaison representation to each Association;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the President of the Friend of the Court Association appoint a delegation from this Association to meet with representatives of the Circuit Court Judges Association of the State of Michigan and the Michigan Association of Counties to work to develop an effective dual representation and communication input and feedback system with each Association with the purpose of promoting the mutual interests and concerns of each Association, by providing an adequate forum for the expression of ideas and concerns affecting each Association so that each better understands the others, and to provide a joint means of working together to achieve mutual and common objectives, goals and needs and;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the President of the Friend of the Court Association of the State of Michigan develop a responsible representation system to each of the above Associations consistent with the results of meetings with those Associations as resolved above.

October 21, 1976

The Welfare Contact Committee meeting was duly called and held on October 21, 1976 at 7:00 p.m. at the County Courthouse.

Present: Commissioner Goldsworthy, Cheatham, Gaboury, and Racine.

Absent: Commissioner Anderson.

In Attendance: Shari Platt, Juvenile Division; Mary Lou Fontaine, Department of Social Services; Harold VanOverloop, Friend of the Court; and Commissioner Leadbetter.

Commissioner Racine called the meeting to order.

Mary Lou Fontaine stated there were 103 applications for ADC for the month of September, 182 for medical assistance and 107 General Assistance applications. Of the 107 applications for General Assistance, 35 were approved; 44 denied and 28 are still pending. The General Assistance active caseload for September was 134.

There was a total of 195 service applications. 128 of these were for basic family services, 53 for adult services, and 14 for protective services for children.

Mary Fontaine stated there is no food stamp program report for September as the Post Office has taken over this service. No complaints have been received regarding obtaining food stamps from the Post Office other than those initially received concerning the switchover.

Mary Lou Fontaine stated there were only 43 people participating in Work and Training Programs in September. The coordinator for this program is working with the food stamp out-reach programs and volunteer services because of the decrease. Only 26.3% of eligible people for food stamps in Marquette County are receiving them.

In any non-public assistance household, if one individual is earning more than the designated cut-off point to be eligible for food stamps the household cannot receive them, according to Mary Lou Fontaine. Mary Lou noted some people do not apply for stamps because they are sensitive toward using them at check-out counters.

Volunteers are being used to make a person-to-person survey regarding the food stamp program. This is also an educational approach for people who are eligible and not receiving stamps. Mary Lou believes the program reduces the stigma of using them.

Commissioner Racine questioned the financial reserve an individual may have and still be eligible for aid. Mary Lou Fontaine stated individuals can have up to \$1,500 in resources and married couples up to \$2,000.00 and still obtain assistance. She added the homestead and one car is exempt from this total.

A discussion was held on striking employees receiving welfare assistance.

Mary Lou Fontaine stated they received a letter from the Emergency and Disaster Relief Organization requesting volunteers be trained to operate disaster centers when needed. These centers would be open three or four days following a disaster.

Mary Fontaine stated it would be difficult to train individuals for this type of work just in case a disaster might occur. They are thinking of training volunteers currently used in many other areas for this service.

Commissioner Goldsworthy stated by training individuals already working with the department constant contact would be maintained.

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If a disaster did occur it would be necessary to have this service and it would involve working with Mike Zorza, Emergency Services Director, according to Mary Lou.

Mary Lou related that the support specialist reports incentive payments to the County were \$5,386.82 and client incentive payments total \$4,542.44. Over 200 warrants were issued and \$19,611.33 support money was collected out of a possible \$45,300.00, which is 33%.

Harold VanOverloop stated a recipient of ADC does not have to let known his whereabouts. He also stated county incentive reimbursements will be reduced from 25% to 15%. From August, 1975 to August, 1975 \$61,000.00 were received by the County.

Mary Lou stated there is one coordinator dealing with fraud cases in the Upper Peninsula. This person works directly with the Prosecuting Attorney. It was felt that the Upper Peninsula is too large an area for one person to cover. Currently the coordinator is behind in the caseload. It was noted it is up to the discretion of the coordinator whether a case will be referred to the Prosecuting Attorney or not.

A discussion was held on duties of the Prosecuting Attorney's investigator. It was noted that the investigator is receiving a \$11,296.00 salary.

Commissioner Goldsworthy reported he had checked out how various rooms at Acock's are being used. He stated the maintenance man and his wife are staying in one room, and several nurses are using the remaining rooms. He does not know if this is a fringe benefit for the employees, or if they are paying for the use of the rooms.

Shari then presented the Child Care Fund report.

Child Care Fund expenditures for the month of September were as follows: Direct, \$1,755.70; Agency, \$690.99; Detention, \$12,192.17; and State Institutions, \$8,709.79. The State Institutions figure is normally \$2,000.00 less than the September figure. Total expenditures for this year are \$142,784.12.

Reimbursements for 1976 are \$12,191.79 from private individuals, social security, and other counties; State of Michigan, \$74,325.19; and grant, \$7,445.60. Total reimbursements are \$93,962.58.

Shari stated it is possible to get a third year grant but the county will have to put up half the funds. She is checking to see if this will be an advantage, and on the possibility of using Child Care Funds as matching funds for Office of Juvenile Justice Services monies.

She stated the Child Care Fund was in the red by \$5,000.00 in 1975. The actual cost to the County for Child Care so far this year has been \$54,770.89. Shari stated Judge DeFant will be requesting an additional \$5,000.00 for the budget.

Shari noted during the last four or five months serious crimes committed by juveniles have increased.

The Youth Home has served 137 children as of September for a total of 1,443 days. During September 25 children were served for a total of 178 days. Shari noted that September was higher than usual. Five children from the Department of Social Services were placed in the Youth Home for a total of 59 days and two out County children were placed for 15 days.

As of September 31, 1976 they have received 538 referrals. 78 of these were for the month of September and five for out County children.

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The cost of maintaining a child at the Youth Home, not including the grant, is \$37.50 per child per day and including the grant the cost is \$42.00 per day per child. \$26.00 per day is charged to out of County children placed in the Youth Home. Judge DeFant is asking that this be raised to \$36.00 as of November 1, 1976.

The cost per day includes salaries for two child care workers every 8 hours (six per day); a Supervisor; Assistant Supervisor; clothing; food; medical care; medical examination on every child coming into that facility; transportation, etc.

The last grant was for \$29,300.00 for 15 months and the next grant request will be for \$28,100 for 12 months, according to Shari. This would allow raises for some staff members.

Shari believes the average cost per child will go down as they continue to operate.

Discussion was held on resolutions referred to the committee by the Board.

The committee felt the resolution regarding PL 93-647 dealing with incentive funds received by local governments contradicted itself. Harold VanOverloop will contact the President of the Friend of the Court Association for clarification and will report back to the committee.

One resolution deals with the Friend of the Court Association's opposition to H.B. 5108 which would remove the Friend of the Court from the jurisdiction of the Circuit Courts to the Board of Commissioners. Harold VanOverloop stated he opposes the bill.

It was moved by Commissioner Goldsworthy, supported by Commissioner Gaboury and carried unanimously to recommend to the Board of Commissioners that they approve the resolution opposing passage of H.B. 5108.

Harold VanOverloop stated he is having trouble having papers served. He said at times one of four papers to be served are actually served. Harold recommended that service be made by people familiar with the area.

Commissioner Goldsworthy stated Bud Wiseman has been contacted by the Sheriff's Department to serve papers and he may do this in a limited capacity.

Harold VanOverloop stated that in one instance four people were called within one hour of the hearing. Law states a person must be given four days advance notice.

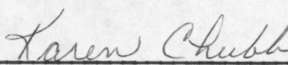
The committee felt this problem should be checked out.

A third resolution from the Friend of the Court Association was noted which deals with cooperation between the Friend of the Court Association, Circuit Court Judges Association, and the Michigan Association of Counties.

It was moved by Commissioner Cheatham, supported by Commissioner Goldsworthy and unanimously carried that the committee recommend the Board's approval of this resolution.

There being no further business to come before the committee it was moved by Commissioner Goldsworthy, supported by Commissioner Cheatham and carried unanimously to adjourn.

Respectfully submitted,


Secretary

September 16, 1976

Honorable Chairman and Members of the
Marquette County Board of Commissioners
Marquette, Michigan

Ladies and Gentlemen:

A meeting of your Welfare Contact Committee was duly called and held on
September 16, 1976 and copies of the minutes of that meeting have been furnished
to all members of the Board of Commissioners and a copy of the minutes is attached
hereto and made a part of this report.

Respectfully submitted,

WELFARE CONTACT COMMITTEE

Chairman

September 16, 1976

A Welfare Contact Committee meeting was duly called and held on September 16, 1976 at 7:00 p.m. in the County Courthouse.

Present: Commissioners Racine, Cheatham, Goldsworthy, Gaboury.

Absent: Commissioner Anderson.

In Attendance: Mary Lou Fontaine, Social Services Department; and Don Kauppila, Juvenile Division.

Commissioner Racine called the meeting to order.

Mary Lou Fontaine presented the Social Services report for the month of August. In August, 1976 there were 223 registered applications for General Assistance. 16 ADC requests were approved and 18 were denied. A carry over to September for medical assistance numbered 83: 32 were approved, 33 denied, and the remaining are pending.

The department is still denying more applications than approving because of the rigid standards set by the State. Requirements for assistance are being revised and if the revisions pass there will be more approvals. The Social Services Department is in disagreement with the current State standards, according to Mary Lou. She informed the committee social services may be nationalized. A minimum income level for the whole nation would be devised. She stated MAC is endorsing a three pronged approach to welfare: income for those who cannot work; jobs for those who can; social services for those who are eligible.

Mr. Kauppila stated he has been informed caseworkers feel there is too little time to do the job because of the time involved in filling forms requested by various agencies.

There were 17 requests for hospitalization. Two were approved and six denied. Nine are still pending. Most pending cases are involved with Medicare or Medicaid; it must be determined that these sources are not available before requests can be approved.

During August, 85 requests for family services were received, 43 for adult services, and 20 for protective services for children. This is average according to Mrs. Fontaine.

Food stamp participation is below average. Mrs. Fontaine stated there are only five areas for postal issuance of food stamps in the county. An itinerant service worker delivers to areas without this postal service.

Commissioner Racine asked if the Department of Social Services is responsible for the food stamp program. Mrs. Fontaine stated reports are made to the department and they in turn report to the Federal agency in Chicago.

Mrs. Fontaine stated a lot of people did not get the required ATP (Authorization to Purchase) cards necessary to acquire food stamps. Another problem encountered since the distribution service was transferred to post offices is that people lack the required I.D. cards.

Although Social Services is no longer issuing food stamps they must still certify a person's eligibility to receive the stamps. Mrs. Fontaine stated the only expense incurred by the County is the \$3,500.00 salary for a part-time itinerant service worker.

Participation in the food stamp program is down. \$98,244.00 worth of food stamps were issued during August which is about \$3,000.00 below average. There are 516 public assistance households involved with the program and over 300 non-public assistance households. The decrease is in the non-public households.

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Total number of people eligible for food stamps in Marquette County is over 10,000. Only 2,808, however, are involved in the program, which is 23% of those eligible.

Mrs. Fontaine stated the work and training program also reflects the decline in general assistance. 58 individuals were assigned to the work and training program for the month of August.

Mr. Kauppila asked if these people work full-time. Mrs. Fontaine stated they work part-time to allow time to seek jobs.

There are 56 approved work sites and only 17 are being utilized because of the lack of people in the program. Commissioner Goldsworthy said most of these people are working at the Lake Superior Village. Six people worked in the Courthouse. The purpose of the work and training program is to give people the opportunity to work off grants they have received.

Commissioner Gaboury asked if people in the program could be used to clean up construction debris in the combined Fire and Police Department in Ishpeming. Mary Fontaine stated the project would be eligible, however, there is not enough people to fill the openings.

Mrs. Fontaine stated referrals for fraud have increased. There were four referrals and nine cases are still pending. She stated repayment plans in support cases are behind. She feels the County should have a support specialist. Support collections for the month amounted to \$22,568.99 of the possible \$46,361.30 or 48.6% of the collectable amount. Payments have not increased as much as had been anticipated. Payments to the County were over \$10,000.00 and to clients close to \$8,000.00. Twenty-two warrants were issued for non-payment. Mrs. Fontaine suggested the Friend of the Court should take these cases to Circuit Court because support payments may be increased if the supporter's income increased.

Hospital rates for Marquette General Hospital are \$90.00 per day for a semi-private room, \$80.00 per day for the Alcoholic Unit, and \$95.00 for the Psychiatric Unit. Francis Bell Hospital charges \$68.00 per day.

Don Kauppila presented the Child Care Fund report. Expenditures for August were \$16,175.34 and to date have been \$119,435.47. Reimbursements total \$72,709.74 through August, 1976. Don reported September reimbursements have been high. \$17,335 have been received from the State and \$3,917 from private individuals at this time. More money will be collected in September than is being spent.

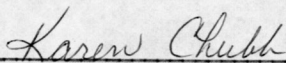
96 children have been referred to the Youth Home through July 21, 1976 and 16 for the month of August. Nine children have been placed in the Youth Home since January, 1976 from outside of Marquette County.

Mr. Kauppila stated the Youth Home has a 12 person capacity. They have been filled to capacity a few times since they have opened.

Mrs. Fontaine stated the Child Care Plan has not yet been approved. CUPPAD informed Mrs. Fontaine this is because the plan was not a joint plan involving other counties. This had been optional when the plan was devised.

As there was no further business to attend, Commissioner Cheatham moved to adjourn, was supported by Commissioner Gaboury, and the motion was unanimously carried.

Respectfully submitted,


Secretary

August 19, 1976

Honorable Chairman and Members of the
Marquette County Board of Commissioners
Marquette, Michigan

Ladies and Gentlemen:

A meeting of your Welfare Contact Committee was duly called and held on August 19, 1976 and copies of the minutes of that meeting have been furnished to all members of the Board of Commissioners and a copy of the minutes is attached hereto and made a part of this report.

Respectfully submitted,

WELFARE CONTACT COMMITTEE

Chairman

August 19, 1976

The Welfare Contact Committee was duly called and held Thursday, August 19, 1976 at the County Courthouse.

Present: Commissioners Goldsworthy, Gaboury, Racine, Anderson and Cheatham.

Absent: None.

Commissioner Racine called the meeting to order.

Neither Shari Platt, Juvenile Division, or Mary Lou Fontain, Social Services Department were present as both were on vacation. They each submitted reports for the committee to study, however.

A discussion took place on the amount of referrals to the Youth Home from outside the County. It was moved by Commissioner Goldsworthy and supported by Commissioner Cheatham that Ms. Platt be requested to list the number of children referred to the Youth Home from outside the County separately from those who reside in Marquette County. The motion was carried unanimously.

Total expenditures for Child Care in the month of July, 1976 was \$12,986.17; total to date for 1976 is \$103,260.13. Reimbursements from private individuals, Social Security, Other Counties, the State of Michigan and the Staffing Grant amount to \$71,033.61 for 1976.

A discussion was held on who would be responsible for maintaining the Youth Home should the State withdraw its responsibility. It was felt the detention facility was under the control of Judge of Probate and could not be handled by the County Board of Institutions.

There have been 400 referrals to the Youth Home as of July 31, 1976; 71 of these were in the month of July, 1976.

It was noted that reimbursements from the State to the Child Care Fund have totaled \$56,989.49 to date. Expenditures now exceed reimbursements by approximately \$32,000.00 as of July 31, 1976. An average of 13.7 children per month have been cared for at the Youth Home.

\$54,000.00 in expenditures by the end of the year can be expected if the current figures are consistent.

The Receipts and Disbursements Analysis of the Social Welfare Fund was studied. The ending balance as of July 31, 1976 was \$254,532.67, which is less than the June 1976 ending balance by approximately \$17,000.00.

Commissioner Anderson noted the cost of the food stamp program was up slightly from last month.

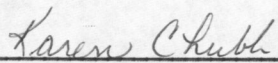
Total disbursements for July 1976 was \$30,494.16 and receipts totaled \$13,778.40, a difference of \$16,715.76. A balance of approximately \$170,000.00 for the end of the year can be expected.

It was suggested that alternates be requested from the Juvenile Division and the Social Services Department in the event either Ms. Platt or Ms. Fontain cannot attend a scheduled meeting.

The Work Project Report showed 490 persons have been assigned to work projects for a total of 27,747½ days as of July 31, 1976. Five individuals worked in the County Courthouse under this program during July, 1976.

As there was no further business, it was moved by Commissioner Goldsworthy, supported by Commissioner Anderson and unanimously carried that the meeting be adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,


Secretary

July 15, 1976

Honorable Chairman and Members of the
Marquette County Board of Commissioners
Marquette, Michigan

Ladies and Gentlemen:

A meeting of your Welfare Contact Committee was duly called and held on July 15, 1976 and copies of the minutes of that meeting have been furnished to all members of the Board of Commissioners and a copy of the minutes is attached hereto and made a part of this report.

Respectfully submitted,

WELFARE CONTACT COMMITTEE

Chairman

July 15, 1976

The Welfare Contact Committee meeting was duly called and held on July 15, 1976 at 7:00 p.m. in the County Courthouse.

Present: Commissioners Cheatham, Gaboury, Goldsworthy and Racine.

Absent: Commissioner Anderson.

In Attendance: Mary Lou Fontaine, Department of Social Services and Shari Platt, Director of the Juvenile Division.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Racine.

Mary Lou Fontaine gave the monthly report from the Department of Social Services. During the past month there were 78 general assistance applications. 27 were approved and 45 were denied. Five of nine hospitalization applications were approved. Five pendencies were carried over.

ADC case load is still rising. There were 87 medical assistance applications in June, with a carry over of 60 from past months. 30 were denied and 63 are still pending.

133 general assistance cases remain; this has remained stable. The percentage of approvals and denials are the same. There were 231 registered services applications in June. 97 are for family and adult services and 39 are for other services, such as protective services for children. 25 cases are pending which were not processed.

The food stamp program is continuing at the same level. There are still nine cases pending on alleged fraud; some date back to 1974 and 1975. There were 30 repayment plans which are in lieu of prosecuting fraud cases. The Support Specialist secured ten stipulated orders for support. An average of \$1,348.00 in support collections per month are received. In June the Friend of the Court obtained 61% of possible support collections whereas in May 41.6% of the collections were obtained. This is a substantial increase.

Support Incentive Payments:

March 1976 - 222 warrants were issued and \$4,146.02 was obtained.
April 1976 - 313 warrants were issued and \$5,728.39 obtained.

This is a substantial increase.

Friend of the Court intake:

January 1976 - \$4,561.59
February 1976 - \$6,165.33
March 1976 - over \$5,000.00
April 1976 - \$6,559.28

Twenty-five percent of funds obtained will be turned over to the County General Fund. County total portion from August 8, 1975 to April 1976, since this new program took effect, is \$43,130.00. \$60,000.00 to \$80,000.00 per year will be taken in by the County through this program.

Commissioner Goldsworthy noted there is more cooperation on delinquent support payments between counties and other States than there has been in the past.

Payment of delinquent ADC support monies have increased in Marquette County from \$141,000.00 in 1973 to an estimated \$300,000.00 in 1976. However, ADC cases have increased proportionately.

Mary Lou Fontaine read a letter from Mr. Walker, Juvenile Justice Services, acknowledging receipt of the Child Care Plan.

Welfare Contact Committee
July 15, 1976
Page 3

Shari Platt believed the budget submitted for the Youth Home is realistic. Projection was made on the basis of two or three months of operating the Youth Home.

Four out-county residents can be provided for at the Youth Home at one time. If it is filled with Marquette County people when an out-county makes a request, as a Regional Facility, provisions should be made to comply with the request, however, they can be asked to wait a day or two until room can be provided.

Of the Child Care Fund \$29,300.00 will be for staffing at the Youth Home. It also pays for an Assistant Supervisor and some staff training. This fund covers a fifteen month period because of re-shuffling of the fiscal year. Marquette County will be eligible to apply for this fund one more time.

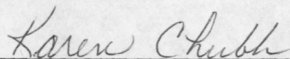
Youth Home expenditures for the month of June were \$15,694.40. Summary expenditures for 1976 total \$90,273.96. The State cost figure will change because there was a delay in receiving bills from the State. Reimbursements as of June 30, 1976 are \$64,707.50.

Number of children in the Youth Home through June 1976 has been 79. There have been 753 referrals through June 1976 and 75 referrals for June 1976.

There was a brief discussion on accommodations for disabled individuals. These people should be trained and filtered back into the community. People would return to their homes for the evenings. Day Care Facilities do not have to comply with State licensing. Residential facilities would have too.

There being no further business to come before the committee, it was moved by Commissioner Gaboury, supported by Commissioner Cheatham and unanimously carried that the meeting be adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,


Secretary

June 17, 1976

Honorable Chairman and Members of the
Marquette County Board of Commissioners
Marquette, Michigan

Ladies and Gentlemen:

A regular meeting of your Welfare Contact Committee was duly called and held on June 17, 1976, and copies of the minutes of that meeting have been furnished to all members of the Board of Commissioners and a copy of the minutes is attached hereto and made a part of this report.

Respectfully submitted,

WELFARE CONTACT COMMITTEE

By _____ Chairman

May 20, 1976

Honorable Chairman and Members of the
Marquette County Board of Commissioners
Marquette, Michigan

Ladies and Gentlemen:

A regular meeting of your Welfare Contact Committee was duly called and held on May 20, 1976, and copies of the minutes of that meeting have been furnished to all members of the Board of Commissioners and a copy of the minutes is attached hereto and made a part of this report.

Respectfully submitted,

WELFARE CONTACT COMMITTEE

By _____, Chairman

May 20, 1976

A regular meeting of the Welfare Contact Committee was duly called and held on May 20, 1976, at 7 p.m. at the Courthouse.

Present: Commissioners Cheatham, Gaboury, Goldsworthy and Racine.

Absent: Commissioner Anderson

In Attendance: Mary Lou Fontaine, Director of Department of Social Services; Harold VanOverloop, Friend of the Court; and Shari Platt, Director of Children's Services.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Racine.

Mrs. Fontaine then took over the meeting. The first item discussed was the Work Training Program. She stated that the number of participants for the month of April is down from 70 to 56. She went on to state that the reason for the large decrease is because the State is now taking over partially General Assistance and their policies in regards to eligible participants in this program are much more restrictive and stringent than when the County was funding the program. Thus, she notes that the work and training since the beginning of the year has decreased by 50%.

Department of Social Services has the task of organizing a group of volunteers to aid in any disasters that may occur in our area. This program falls under the Emergency Preparedness Plan for Marquette County which has been recently drawn up and submitted by Mike Zorza, Emergency Services Director. A volunteer coordinator from the Department of Social Services was needed to head up this organizing. Thus, she took the Work and Training Director and has designated him the volunteer coordinator and 50% of his time will be devoted to this task.

Mary Lou Fontaine went on to discuss the Food Stamp Program. In the month of April, \$119,806 was spent towards this program. This figure includes a bonus of \$59,430. They have done considerable work on the Food Stamp Outreach Program which is a program to reach people who are eligible for food stamps but are either unaware or unable to participate.

Mrs. Fontaine went on to discuss General Assistance. She noted that the case load receiving assistance is down by a great percentage. Again, she went on to state that the reason for the large decline is because of the new restrictive eligibility requirements put on by the State of Michigan. In the month of April, of 226 applicants 58 were denied. One of these restrictive requirements is the new "Household Ruling." It states that if anyone in a household is working, his income must be used to support the other members of the household and be taken into consideration when applying for General Assistance. Another requirement is that the applicant must not have more than \$50 in total assets, except for home and automobile.

NOTE: May is Foster Care Month as designated by the Governor of Michigan. In recognition of this month, the Department of Social Services will be holding an open house on May 26, 1976. At this time, two foster care homeowners will be honored. One has been taking in children for 18 years; the second one has been of assistance in this area for 22 years.

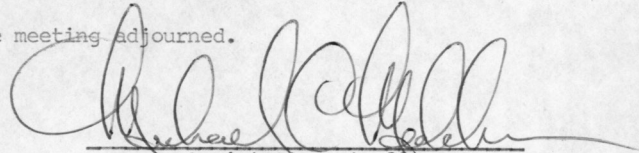
Harold VanOverloop, Friend of the Court, then spoke. He noted that through April of 1976 his office has been responsible for the collection of approximately \$100,000 in ADC support payments. This compares with approximately 76,000 collected for the same period in 1975. Under the new reimbursement program, Marquette County has received large sums of money. The County's share for the month of March alone was \$6,165.

Shari Platt, Director of Juvenile Division, then spoke. She noted that referrals thus far in 1976 number 400. This is up 30 for the same period in 1975. Ms. Platt also noted that the Marquette County Youth Home has served 32 different children since its opening in February 1976. Of these 32, 9 were from other counties or from the Department of Social Services. These 9 are charged \$26 per day per child until June when we figure our actual costs to care for these individuals. They have been averaging between 8 or 9 kids, Shari noted. The last area she discussed was in reference to Public Act 280

Welfare Contact Committee
May 20, 1976
Page 2

which went into effect January 1, 1976. A copy of this proposed program under the Act is located in the Controller's Office should you wish to refer to it.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned.



Assistant Controller

April 20, 1976

Honorable Chairman and Members of the
Marquette County Board of Commissioners
Marquette, Michigan

Ladies and Gentlemen:

A regular meeting of your Welfare Contact Committee was duly called and held on April 20, 1976, and copies of the minutes of that meeting have been furnished to all members of the Board of Commissioners, and a copy of the minutes is attached hereto and made a part of this report.

Respectfully submitted,

WELFARE CONTACT COMMITTEE

By _____, Chairman

April 20, 1976

A regular meeting of the Welfare Contact Committee was duly called and held on April 20, 1976, at 7 p.m. at the Courthouse.

Present: Commissioners Goldsworthy, Anderson, Cheatham.

Absent: Commissioner Racine

In Attendance: Mrs. Mary Lou Fontaine, Director D.D.S., and Harold VanOverloop, Friend of the Court.

The meeting was called to order by Vice Chairman Goldsworthy.

Mrs. Fontaine then took over the meeting. First item discussed was the Work Training Program. She stated that the number of participants for the month of March is down from 91 to 70. She went on to state that the reason for the large decrease is because the State is now taken over partially general assistance and their policies in regards to eligible participants in this program are much more restrictive and stringent than when the County was funding the program.

The next area discussed was the food stamp program. Mrs. Fontaine stated that the month of March showed an increase of \$22,000 more than the month of February. Total participants in this program was 2,111 made up of households participating, people on public assistance programs and people no on public assistance programs.

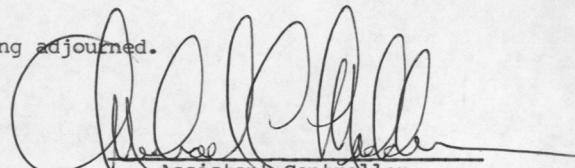
Next area of discussion was general assistance. Mrs. Fontaine noted that the case load is down from 185 in February to 149 in the month of March. Again, she went on to state that the reason for the large decline is because of the new restrictive eligibility requirements put on by the State of Michigan.

ADC was then discussed. At present, there are 899 ADC participants in Marquette County. It is noted that the number of participants is going up and that this trend reflects the number of unemployed in our area.

Mrs. Fontaine went on to discuss a public forum that was held on March 29, 1976. You will find copies of the minutes and results of this public forum attached to these minutes. This public forum was held to get local input on the needs of the local people in regards to social services. Also, the purpose was to reapportion the total dollars to what these people want in Marquette County. Mrs. Fontaine mentioned that the area received the highest priority in our County was education and training for the unemployed. She felt that the forum was a great success and 91 people registered for the forum. Besides taking local input, the meeting was also held to explain to all the people present the different services that the of Social Services has to offer.

The last area discussed was the child care load, which now has increased to 220. This area includes children that are either in foster care of protective services. She mentioned that children unvr protective services are only this status until they become a ward of the court.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned.



Assistant Controller