

March 22, 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 March 22, 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

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March 22, 1976

A regular meeting of the Welfare Contact Committee was duly called and held on Monday, March 22, 1976 at 7 p.m.

Present: Commissioners Cheatham, Goldsworthy and Racine

Absent: Commission Anderson

In Attendance: Ms. Platt, Juvenile Director

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Racine.

It was mentioned that the Committee members have received a copy of the communication from Ms. Platt detailing the operation of the Juvenile Division. It was mentioned that what is basically needed is cooperation between the Department of Social Services and the Probate Court Juvenile Division staff.

Ms. Platt mentioned that she had met with Social Services Director Fontaine on Wednesday. Mrs. Fontaine had mentioned that at this point she feels there is not a duplication of services between the departments.

It was mentioned that a meeting was held, although the Probate Judge did not attend. The Committee feels that the Judge is in charge of where the children are placed. It is within his jurisdiction as to where the children are placed. The Judge is the one who decides which cases will be turned over to Social Services and which ones will not.

The Committee members mentioned that the Board is not questioning how department heads run their respective departments, but are concerned where money is involved. If the County is supporting a department financially, they do not want to see any duplication of services.

Ms. Platt mentioned that in late 1973, all the neglect and abuse cases were to be handled by D.S.S. At this time, D.S.S. did not have the staff to handle these type of cases. Through March of 1974, these cases were handled by the Juvenile Division staff. In April of 1974, the cases were turned over to Social Services and since then, the Juvenile Division staff has not done any work on neglect and abuse cases.

It was mentioned that when cases are turned over to D.S.S. the Judge has continued jurisdiction. He has requested a quarterly report on the progress made with each individual case. The Juvenile Division has the responsibility of checking to make sure that all quarterly reports are received. When they are received, the Judge reviews them. If he has any questions, either he calls or he asks the Juvenile Division to check and get the answer for him. Other than this, the only checking done by the Juvenile Division is to make sure that that the reports are turned in.

Ms. Platt mentioned that basically the differences between the two departments are philosophical. Weekly meetings have been established to work out any problems when they arise.

The Committee then briefly discussed the Child Care Fund. It is hard to predict how much money will be needed for this fund as it is unknown what the case load will be each year and how much that case load will cost.

It was mentioned that when a child is placed by the Juvenile Division with an outside agency, a billing is sent for 100% of the cost and the Child Care Fund is reimbursed 50% by the state. For placement with D.S.S., the Child Care Fund is billed at 50% of the cost.

It was mentioned that once a child is committed to D.S.S. no payments are made until the 50% billing is received from the state.

Ms. Platt mentioned that she would attend future meetings of this Committee when Mrs. Fontaine is in attendance.

There being no further business, meeting adjourned.

Sam R. Yoder  
Secretary

March 9, 1976

A regular meeting of the Environmental Quality Committee was duly called and held on Tuesday, March 9, 1976, at 7 p.m. at the Courthouse.

Present: Commissioners Cheatham, Coombs, Goldsworthy, May and Trapp.

Absent: Commissioner Anderson.

In Attendance: Sheriff Lasich.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Coombs.

#### I. Junk Car Ordinance -

The Environmental Quality Committee discussed with the Sheriff the Junk Car Ordinance passed one year and four months ago. He was asked if the ordinance is being presently enforced. The Sheriff replied that at present the Junk Car Ordinance is not enforced because he is waiting for authorization from the Prosecutor's Office that warrants will be issued for violation of this ordinance. After considerable discussion the Sheriff will follow up and see that the enforcement of the ordinance goes into effect in the very near future. He will also compile a list of all junk car dealers in Marquette County and the territory they serve.

In the spring the Committee will recommend to the Board that an ad be placed in the Mining Journal informing the public of a certain phone number they may call to report abandoned vehicles.

#### II. Animal Control -

A statement that was passed by the Michigan Veterinary Medical Association was read. In conclusion, they state that the problem of animal control is real and there is no single or easy solution to the problem. A solution can be brought about, however, by the combined efforts of the veterinary profession, local Humane Societies and animal control officers, State and local legislators, and the vast pet-owning public. Without the cooperation of all of these groups, a solution is impossible. Their first and utmost recommendation is that municipalities should re-evaluate existing animal control ordinances and broaden the provisions to include both dogs and cats. They also recommend that fines to retrieve animals which have been impounded should be substantial. For example, many cities have invoked fines as follows:

\$25 for first occurrence  
\$50 for second occurrence  
\$100 for third and subsequent occurrences

The Committee then asked the Sheriff for his views on the problem. The Sheriff stated that he enforces all state laws regarding animals. He feels that the County should hire an animal control officer and equip him with a vehicle to coordinate all township and city animal control officers in the County. He stated that this means of controlling animals is not inexpensive. The only other alternative, that is cheaper, is to just answer dog complaints.

It was also brought to the Committee's attention that there is no County ordinance regarding animal control. After considerable discussion the Committee came up with four areas that need both work and implementation of to help solve the animal control problem. These areas are: 1) that ordinances on licenses and dogs running at large be adopted; 2) that ordinances in regard to pet owners having the dog under control, such as on a leash, be adopted; 3) that fines be adopted and made mandatory on all dogs that are picked up in Marquette County; 4) that the area of general enforcement by way of an animal control officer be thoroughly reviewed.

The Assistant Controller is in the process of reviewing the City of Marquette's ordinances in regard to animals. He will recommend a list of the different ordinances to handle the four problem areas mentioned above. This report will be submitted at the next meeting of this Committee.

#### III. Flooding on Chocolay River -

The Committee reviewed a follow-up report from the Emergency Services Office in regard to the flooding situation on the Chocolay River. The report is quite lengthy and can be found in the Controller's Office for your review. In summary, he has spoken to Mr. Dorman, Representative Jacobetti's assistant in Lansing. He was informed that Mr. Jacobetti is working on the problem and has met with people from the Water Resources Commission and the DNR.

March 9, 1976

It is the opinion of the Emergency Services Director that corrective action should be taken as soon as possible, and that prior to such action the problem be researched from all angles so that we do not create a greater dilemma than we now face. Mr. Zorza feels that the agency having responsibility for that waterway be required to at least look into the situation before property damage suffered by residents reaches major proportions. The report was ordered placed on file.

#### IV. Department of Army Report on Permits Issued.

None of the permits issued by the Corps of Engineers for construction of structures in or over any navigatable water was in the state of Michigan. Thus, the report was ordered placed on file.

#### V. A-95 Reviews

1. City of Marquette Police Support Personnel - cost, \$27,869, continuation project.
2. Austin-Princeton Water Distribution System - cost, \$157,350, new project.
3. Community Development Block Grant Program - cost, \$246,000, continuation project.
4. Northern Rail Passenger Study - cost, \$27,000, continuation project.
5. Playground Project II, City of Ishpeming - cost, \$7,500, continuation project.
6. Bancroft Park, City of Ishpeming - cost, \$7,500, new project.
7. Marquette County Equipment and Staffing, Youth Home - cost \$27,420, continuation project.
8. Northern Michigan University Police In-service Training - cost, \$124,886, continuation project.

It was moved by Commissioner Trapp, supported by Commissioner Gaboury and unanimously adopted that the above listed A-95 Reviews be approved and ordered placed on file.

#### VI. Call For Projects -

A communication from Mr. Bill Tansey, Environmental Planner to all local units of government in the central region. The subject of this communication was a call for water and waste water projects for the 1977 regional list.

CUPPAD will be putting together a new regional project list for the above improvements to be undertaken during the calendar year 1977. The purpose of this letter is to formally invite our local unit to nominate projects to be included on the list and to explain the nomination procedures. County priorities will be set in April and May and the final regional list will be adopted by the CUPPAD Commission in late May.

Marquette County in itself has no projects at this time. Thus, the communication was ordered placed on file.

#### VII. Big Bay Harbor Dredging -

A letter was received along with an in-depth environmental impact study from the Corps of Engineers regarding pollution sediments and the on-land disposal of the sediments. The report of the study is very lengthy and Chairman Coombs is now in the process of reviewing the environmental report. Chairman Coombs will voice his views at the next meeting of this Committee.

VIII. Herpes Disease -


Commissioner Coombs voiced concern in regard to the increase in known cases of Herpes Disease in Marquette County. To his knowledge, this disease is acquired through sexual intercourse and may go undetected because of its lack of symptoms in the female. Because of the Committee's concern, Dr. Potter will be contacted for information on the disease and will be asked if the public in Marquette County is being made aware of this information.

IX. Land Use Bill -

Chairman Coombs reviewed the recent laws and acts passed regarding land use, a copy of which may be found in the Controller's Office. One of the acts that has not been passed but is under consideration, is an amendment to the Michigan Land Use Bill, which is under consideration. This Bill is one being highly pushed by Senator Mack which would not allow citizens or groups to bring an environmental suit against a firm before they have substantial evidence that the environment is being damaged.

After considerable discussion it was moved by Commissioner May, supported by Commissioner Cheatham and unanimously adopted that the Committee recommend to the Board adoption of a resolution to Senator Mack, Representative Jacobetti and other state legislators strongly opposing the amendment of Senator Mack's on the Land Use Bill. This resolution is to be drawn up by Commissioner May for the next regular Board meeting.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned.



Secretary

February 19, 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 February 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

By \_\_\_\_\_, Chairman

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A regular meeting of the Welfare Contact Committee was duly called and held on Thursday, February 19, 1976, at 7 p.m. at the Courthouse.

Present: Commissioners Anderson, Cheatham, Goldsworthy and Racine.

Absent: None

In Attendance: Social Services Director M. L. Fontaine.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Racine.

The Director reported that the food stamp administrative costs have increased somewhat. An employee has been hired in a post office area distributing stamps. There is a reimbursement by the State for a portion of the increased expenses. She mentioned that there is a charge by the post office of \$1.50 for each food stamp transaction.

In another matter, the Director mentioned that the Indo-China refugee program is 100% reimbursed by the Federal Government. She mentioned that the County's refugee program is working very well. The Director reported that the general assistance case load has stabilized after only one additional person added in January.

She mentioned that the Department has just completed a project for the Central Upper Peninsula Man Power Consortium. This group is trying to get federal funds to employ welfare recipients. Only welfare recipients able to work would qualify for the federal funding. Of the general assistance case load of 240, about 1/2 would be eligible for the program. The project completed was a listing of the recipients showing their age, sex and whether or not they are able to work. At this point, the Department is waiting for further word from the Consortium as to whether or not the federal funding has been obtained.

The Director mentioned that of the total general assistance cases, (242), 217 involved single persons between the ages of 18 and 65. The State and Federal guidelines recently established are much more conservative than those previously used. This is causing many more referrals and denials to applicants for the various welfare programs. The case load for the next month will probably be down from the January figures, but should increase over a period of a few months.

The Director then reported on the food stamp program for the month of January. For this program, there was a total of 109,383 food stamps issued. Of this total, 50,845 were bonus coupons. She mentioned that there were 1,050 households totaling 2,850 persons on the food stamp program in January. Of the total households, there were 615 which were also receiving public assistance. There has been much discussion on the Federal level lately about food stamp reforms. At this point in time, the Department has taken the "wait and see" provision. The Director reported that there were 299 applications for assistance made in January. The breakdown of these showed, 71 ADC; 103 medical; 120 general assistance; 4 County hospitalization; and 1 other. Of these cases, 72 general assistance cases were denied and 56 approved. Forty-five medical assistance denied and 71 approved, with 3 being transferred out of the County. Of the applications for ADC, 17 were denied and 43 approved.

The Director reported that their office is now to supply office space for the 7 workers on the WIN program. These employees are presently located at the MESC office. It will be difficult to find space for these employees as the Social Services area located in the Annex will be filled to capacity with Social Services employees.

The Committee then reviewed and discussed in some detail the financial report submitted by the Department. It was mentioned that the total hospitalization cost to the County for 1975 was about \$75,000. The Department has recently received a notice from Marquette General Hospital that the room rate will be increased from \$65.00 per day to \$85.00 per day. This could substantially increase the County's cost for hospitalization.

The Committee then discussed the use of foster homes and the general conditions of homes for the aging. It was mentioned that a new State and Federal Standards and Regulations are closing quite a few of the homes. The costs to the home owners to bring their building into line with the standards are more than they can afford.

The Committee then briefly discussed the matter of having a meeting between the Budget and Executive Committee, the County's Juvenile Division and the Social Services Department. For this meeting, the Controller was directed to acquire information on the amount spent by the County's of similar size on their child care funds. He was further directed to check into the Juvenile Division case load and review the billings from the State for State foster care for children. This meeting has been tentatively set for Monday, March 8, 1976, at 3 p.m.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned.

*Gary R. Hoden*  
Secretary

December 16, 1975

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 Tuesday, December 16, 1975, 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

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December 16, 1975

A regular meeting of the Welfare Contact Committee was duly called and held on Tuesday, December 16, 1975, at 7 p.m. at the Courthouse.

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

Absent: Commissioner Agnoli.

In Attendance: Social Services Director M. L. Fontaine and Friend of the Court VanOverloop.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Racine.

The Director pointed out that a correction should be made to the November minutes of this Committee. In discussing the Outreach Program for seniors, the Outreach Coordinator would be from the State rather than the County as mentioned in the minutes. This correction was duly noted by the Committee.

The Work-In-Training Program was then discussed. The Program is now using an across-the-board rate of \$2 per hour for all locations. This should help in getting people to work for all locations within the County. There should be less comparing and preference among the workers for working at a location where less hours would be required.

For the month of November there were 120 persons in the program who worked 3,549 hours for a total dollar equivalent value of \$7,098.

The Director reported that for the month of November the Food Stamp Program issued coupons in the dollar value of \$107,216. Of this total, approximately  $\frac{1}{2}$  was bonus coupons.

The Director reported that the ADC case load has increased and is now up to 856 for November. During the summer months the average load was about 750. She reported that there were 222 registered applications for assistance. A breakdown of these showed 36 ADC, 85 medical assistance, 92 general assistance, 4 county hospital and 4 other. During the month there were 168 cases approved, one transferred to another county, with 140 pending at the end of the month.

Of the 92 applications for General Assistance the Director pointed out that 41 were denied for various reasons. This shows that not all people that apply receive assistance.

The Director reported that the Department should reach the 1 mill limitation for General Assistance costs some time in December. At this point the State will pay 100% for the remainder of the year.

The report of cases referred to the Prosecuting Attorney showed one case referred, one disposed, with 9 pending at the end of the month. Repayment plans have been established on 30 cases, many of which are food stamp abuses.

The report of the Friend of the Court support cases showed 22 cases referred, 12 disposed, with 24 pending. The Director mentioned that the cases pending uses figures only since August of this year. There was an error in the figures previous to this and new records were started in August. She reported that in the month of November out of a total possible collection of \$41,449, \$18,371 was collected or about 44%. The Friend of the Court reported that he has received support collections through December 12, 1975, of about \$230,000. He anticipates by the end of the year to have a total yearly collection of about \$250,000. He mentioned that additional help would be a big help and the amount of collections should increase substantially. He mentioned that recently he tried to have Show Cause hearings of 8 cases for which papers were to be served; only 2 were served. He mentioned that there is time and money involved on the part of both himself and the Judge, and it is necessary that when papers are to be served they be served as soon as possible. The Committee members mentioned that they will do what they can to correct the situation.

The Committee then briefly discussed the matter of setting a meeting between members of the County's Juvenile Division and the Social Services to iron out any problems they may be having. It was mentioned that this meeting would probably be set for sometime late in January or early February. Both groups need to sit down and establish a realistic method and approach to the problems of handling juveniles. The Committee briefly discussed some of the concerns of Director Fontaine. Further discussion will be held at the joint meeting.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned.

*Gary R. Godley*  
Secretary

November 18, 1975

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 Tuesday, November 18, 1975, 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

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November 18, 1975

A regular meeting of the Welfare Contact Committee was duly called and held on Tuesday, November 18, 1975, at 7 p.m. at the Courthouse.

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

Absent: None.

In Attendance: Social Services Director M. L. Fontaine.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Racine.

The Director reported that to start the month of October there were 214 General Assistance cases. 62 new cases were added and 49 deleted, for a month-ending total of 227. During the month there were 309 registered cases (116 General Assistance, 116 Medical, 70 ADC, 7 other). 193 were approved, 132 denied, with 197 pending at the end of the month. The cases pending are waiting for disposition, and pending cases are usually taken care of within 30 days of filing.

The Food Stamp Program for the month of October showed a \$6,000 increase over September, to a total of \$106,877. The federal government has proposed some cut backs to the program which would limit eligibility for stamps to the poverty level. (Example: a family of four would have to earn \$5,000 or less).

The Director reported that they are in the process of establishing an Out Reach Program for senior citizens. The program will deal with nutritional information, balanced meals, transportation problems, etc. for senior citizens. It was mentioned that approximately 50% of the eligible senior citizens in Michigan are unaware that they are eligible for assistance. Outreach centers will be established to disseminate information to the senior citizens. A County Outreach Coordinator will be hired to help run the program.

At the September 30th meeting of this Committee it was mentioned that there will now be one person in the U. P. handling fraud complaints. To date, the Marquette office has not heard from this person, although their fraud complaints are fairly well under control. There are presently 10 cases pending at the Prosecutor's Office, one of which dates back to September of 1974. Two cases were disposed of in October on which prosecution was declined. Of the two, one has been set up with a repayment program.

The Report of Support Cases showed 18 referred to the Friend of the Court, 24 disposed, 176 pending. There are now 385 active cases. Collection for October showed \$19,353.85, out of a possible total collection of \$38,430.

The Committee then briefly discussed the new Title IV Program. The Program offers incentive to ADC mothers to report the whereabouts of delinquent paying fathers. The mothers can get up to an additional \$20 per month, with the County receiving about 25% of their total collections. The State would like to see the money received by the County turned back into expanding and upgrading the Friend of the Court's Office. A temporary employee has been hired to help in filling out the necessary reports for the program until a grant can be completed. A State grant is available to help pay for additional staff for the Friend of the Court's Office. Mrs. Fontaine mentioned that the Social Services Support Specialist and other staff would be willing to help the Friend of the Court in the grant preparation.

The Work-In-Training Report for the month of October showed 101 persons on the program. This is a decrease of 8 from the month of September. Of these, 69 completed their assigned hours, 10 exceeded, 32 did not complete their hours, and 4 had no acceptable excuse. Total for the month showed 3,152 hours worked with a total dollar equivalent value of \$8,286. The Director mentioned that the State is writing the Work-In-Training Program into their General Assistance Takeover Program. There may be a problem with the present coordinator of the program maintaining his position. The coordinator is a County employee, and when the Work-In-Training Program is taken over by the State it will become a Civil Service position.

The Committee then briefly discussed the possibility of having the Dept. of Social Services handle hospitalization bills for County Jail inmates. The Social Services Dept. presently pays 100% of the hospitalization bills with money from the County appropriation. As long as the County is paying 100% of the costs, it makes no difference whether it is paid by the DSS or from the Jail Budget.

The Committee then discussed the Social Services Child Care Fund. This is a sub-account of the County Child Care Fund and uses a portion of the Social Services appropriation for its funding. The Fund is basically used to cover temporary housing for juveniles rather than running it through the Probate Court system. If housing is needed for a week or two, it is much easier to charge it

Welfare Contact Committee  
Page 2  
November 18, 1975

to this account than to go through the lengthy process involved with the Probate Court.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned.

Gary R. Godes  
Secretary

September 30, 1975

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

Ladies and Gentlemen:

A regular meeting of your Welfare Contact Commiteee was duly called and held on September 30, 1975, 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

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September 30, 1975

A regular meeting of the Welfare Contact Committee was duly called and held on Tuesday, September 30, 1975, at 7 p.m. at the Courthouse.

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

Absent: Commissioner Agnoli.

In Attendance: Friend of the Court VanOverloop, Social Services Director Fontaine and Social Services Support Specialist Trombley.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Racine.

Mr. VanOverloop reported that he and Mr. Trombley have been working together to increase collections on support cases. In this regard a new program has been established under Title 20. This is an incentive payment program for ADC recipients. (An example of the way the program works is: the Friend of the Court receives a \$100 support payment. The money is then sent to Lansing. Lansing sends to the mother a check for 40% of the first \$50, or \$20. The County then receives 25% of the remaining \$80, or \$20. The state of federal government retains the remaining \$60.) Presently, when a check is sent to Lansing, neither the County nor the ADC recipient receive anything. The federal government is hoping that the payment made to the ADC mother will be incentive for her to supply information to the Friend of the Court and Department of Social Services.

In order to qualify for the program notice must be sent stating that the County will increase the staff of the Friend of the Court by one person to handle the increased work involved. The salary and benefits for this person would be paid 100% by the State. During discussion it was felt that more information was needed before this Committee could make a report and recommendation to the Board. It is unknown at this time whether the new program would affect the grant presently being received by the Prosecuting Attorney's Office. It may also be necessary to revise the Prosecuting Attorney's grant to cover the additional person needed.

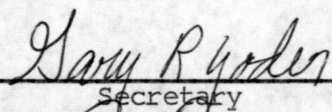
It may be best to pick up the new program even if the County loses the grant for the Prosecutor's Office. The Friend of the Court's collections for 1974 amounted to approximately \$230,000. If the County were to receive in return about 25% it would total more than is presently being received through the Prosecutor's grant. The Friend of the Court will work up a report and figures for presentation at the next meeting of this Committee. Mr. Trombley mentioned that there is now an act which allows for an interim court order in divorce cases. This allows for support payments to be made before the divorce is finalized. It can be done on either a voluntary basis or the court can order payments to be made.

Mrs. Fontaine mentioned that the State has now announced that there will be one person in the U.P. handling all fraud complaints. Local offices have been instructed not to investigate any complaints; they are to refer them to this one person. It is felt that this person will have a difficult time in that there is a large area to cover and the person will be working with 15 different Prosecutors, Social Services Departments and Friends of the Court. This method of fraud investigation was established on September 1, 1975, and is being run as a 6-month pilot program. It was felt that the only thing the County can do is wait to see what the results of the program are.

The Director reported that she will be meeting this week to discuss the State takeover of General Assistance costs. The County will be responsible for 80% of the G.A. costs in 1976, and 20% less each year thereafter until the takeover is complete. With the State takeover there have been two new acts passed which change the state payment for revenue sharing and the state payment for the County's portion of the income tax. The State Revenue Sharing payment will be eliminated starting in 1976. The County portion of the state income tax will gradually decrease from 50% to 35% by 1980. Further information on the State takeover will be presented as it becomes available.

The Director reported that the Social Services Annex to the County Civil Defense Plan has been approved by the State. A copy of the Annex has been placed on file with the Committee and a copy provided for the Emergency Preparedness Director.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned.

  
Secretary



*Welfare Cont.  
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WILLIAM G. MILLIKEN, Governor

## DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

300 S. CAPITOL AVENUE, LANSING, MICHIGAN 48926

JOHN T. DEMPSEY, Director

September 25, 1975

Chairman  
County Board of Commissioners

Dear Sir:

The Michigan Legislature has revised the Social Welfare Act to relieve the County Boards of Commissioners of the responsibility for providing office accommodations to County Departments of Social Services. Section 400.45 of the Compiled Laws of 1970 has been amended to read as follows:

400.45(3) "The State Department (of Social Services) shall provide suitable office accommodations for all programs funded in whole or in part with State funds. The County Social Services Board shall review and recommend to the Director proposed Social Services Office sites within the County. The Director shall notify the Board prior to final site selection with an explanation of the selection of any site other than that proposed by the Board."

We are in the process of developing formal guidelines and procedures to implement the foregoing and wish to inform you of how this will impact upon the County. The following statements reflect the impacts as we know them today:

1. The Amendment is effective as of December 1, 1975. At that time, the Department will assume 100% of the costs for approved space. Payment will be made either directly to the landlord or to the County as reimbursement for documented expense. Staff will be contacting you as soon as possible to make specific arrangements. We most respectfully ask that you continue present payment arrangements with a State reimbursement of 100% until we can arrange an orderly transition of the payment process.
2. The Department of Management and Budget, acting as leasing agent for the Department of Social Services, will take action to:
  - A) Develop leases between the State and the County for the space we now occupy in county-owned buildings.
  - B) Enter into discussions with the County and the lessors of commercial space to transfer lease responsibility to the State.

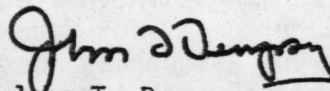
- C) Enter into discussions with the counties as appropriate to relocate the County Departments in accord with the statute and in the best mutual interests of the County and the State.
  - D) Take other action to meet space or Property Management requirements in an orderly manner.
3. Negotiations for space to be occupied after December 1, 1975 should be processed in accord with 400.45(3) and in compliance with State procedures since the County will have no financial involvement. Exceptions to this procedure may occur in those locations where prior plans and commitments dictate that the County enter into a contract so that progress will continue uninterrupted.

The State will assure the County that fiscal responsibility for these contracts will accrue to the State as of December 1, 1975. In this type of situation, we will work with you to ensure that the best interests of all parties are met, as regards standard measures of suitability, tests of comparable costs, and requisite cancellation clauses.

If you have any questions in this regard, please direct inquiries to the Director of the County Department, or to:

William Thomas, Director  
Business Services Division  
Office of Administration  
300 South Capitol Avenue  
Lansing, MI 48926

Sincerely,

  
John T. Dempsey



August 19, 1975

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 August 19, 1975, 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 \_\_\_\_\_, Chairperson

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August 19, 1975

A regular meeting of the Welfare Contact Committee was duly called and held on Tuesday, August 19, 1975, at 7 p.m. at the Courthouse.

Present: Commissioners Anderson, Cheatham, Goldsworthy and Racine.  
Absent: Commissioners Agnoli and Coombs.  
In Attendance: Social Services Director M. L. Fontaine and Friend of the Court VanOverloop.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Racine.

The Director reported that the welfare case load is at a seasonal low. In July there was an increase of 15 persons to a total of 265; 65 new cases were added and 50 closed. Of the cases closed, 49 found employment or another source of revenue.

The Director reported that the General Assistance costs being born by the County should hit the County millage about half way through December of this year. The State takeover of General Assistance has been passed by the State and should give some uniformity to the handling of General Assistance state-wide. The new Act leaves many questions unanswered. As the State Social Services Board works with the new Act the answers to these questions should be forthcoming.

It was reported that 113 persons were on the Work-In-Training Program in July. These persons worked a total of 3,581 hours for a total dollar equivalent value of \$9,702. The new General Assistance takeover may affect this program in that it may or may not continue.

The Director reported that the Food Stamp sales for July totaled \$114,429. Of this total, \$59,292 were bonus stamps. The sale of food stamps through the Post Office has not developed yet. Post Offices must be at least a Class B office and have the necessary security to insure safekeeping of the stamps. Stamps would still be sold at the Social Services Office, and for certification and re-certification a person would still be required to go to the Social Services Office.

The Director then gave a brief recap on what happened to applications for assistance for the month of July. There were 309 applications in total. Of these, 69 were for ADC with 48 being approved. There were 107 applications for medical assistance. 66 were approved, 40 denied and one otherwise disposed. There were 117 applications for general assistance. Of these, 65 were approved, 51 denied, and one otherwise disposed. There were 7 applications for obtaining hospitalization. Three were approved and 4 denied.

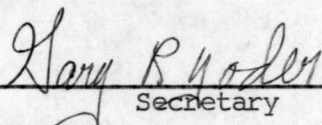
The report on welfare fraud cases showed that there was one additional case referred and none being closed. There are now 13 cases pending. Some of these cases were referred in 1974. A payment plan has been set up for 32 people.

The report of the Friend of the Court showed that there were 19 support cases referred and 8 disposed. Total collections for the month were \$17,356.22. 100% collection would have totaled \$38,350. The Friend of the Court mentioned that his records show collection for the month of \$18,106. The difference between the two figures is accounted for in the way in which it is being recorded. The percentage of collections generally runs about 60% for a yearly period. Mr. VanOverloop will prepare more accurate figures showing the percentage of collection for the next meeting of this Committee.

Mr. VanOverloop mentioned that if the grant changes to allow him more manpower in his office, he would like to see an additional person hired. This person would work in the area of investigations and allow him more time to concentrate on the enforcement end. There has been some talk of transferring the Social Services Support Specialist to the Prosecuting Attorney's Office. This may or may not help the situation.

The Director reported that she had submitted to the Emergency Preparedness Director an Annex to the County Plan. The Annex outlines the Director's part and the Department's duties in any national disaster. The Director is responsible for coordinating the activities of County agencies.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned.

  
Secretary

July 22, 1975

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 July 22, 1975, 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

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July 22, 1975

A regular meeting of the Welfare Contact Committee was duly called and held on Tuesday, July 22, 1975, at 7 p.m. at the Courthouse.

Present: Commissioners Cheatham, Goldsworthy and Racine.

Absent: Commissioners Agnoli, Anderson, and Coombs.

In Attendance: Social Services Director M. L. Fontaine, Friend of the Court VanOverloop, and Social Services Support Specialist Remillard.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Racine.

The Receipts and Disbursements Analysis for the month of June was reviewed by the Committee. The Work-In-Training Report for the month of June was read and discussed. In June there were 120 persons involved in the Program. 70 of these completed their allotted hours; 50 did not. In some cases, grants were discontinued, and in others there were excused absences. Four people had no excuse. These persons were called in to discuss why they did not report. After being called in they were put on a weekly payroll and, if they still do not work, they are dropped from the Program.

The Committee again discussed the possibility of using Work-In-Training people for a dog census. The Controller reported that there is a recommendation going to the Board to consider funding a dog census in the 1976 Budget. It was felt that, if the Social Services Department or the Humane Society would help with the census, there could be a savings to the County. The Director reported that the project must be structured properly. The hours would have to correspond to those of the workers and there could be a transportation problem. The County would have to supply the transportation and would have to pay for any costs involved. There are actually very few people on the Work-In-Training Program who would be qualified to do anything along this line. Further discussion will be held on this matter.

The Director reported that the proposed Annual Social Services Plan is available and that hearings will be held on July 28, 1975. She mentioned that Social Services representatives will be there and it would be appreciated if representatives of the County Board were also present.

The Committee then discussed the support collections and activities of the Friend of the Court and the Support Specialist. It was mentioned that the County Board has tried to work 100% with the Social Services Department to maintain a good working relationship between the Department of Social Services, the Prosecuting Attorney, and the Friend of the Court. Mr. VanOverloop mentioned that he could use more help in his office, as average collections are about \$20,000 per month. There are over 800 active cases with 400 to 450 being ADC Cases. The ADC Cases should be reviewed periodically, but with the limited staff of the Friend of the Court this has not been done. Approximately 12 cases per month are cited and brought to court for reason to show cause on why they are not paying. It now appears that 80-85% of the collection work is done in the office of the Friend of the Court while 80-85% of the personnel is in the Prosecutor's Office.

There is a possibility that the grant which is set up for this program may change to take it away from the Prosecutor and give more emphasis on the Friend of the Court. Money from the grant could go directly to the County General Fund and then be disbursed by the County Board. The Friend of the Court would like to be strictly an enforcing agent and would like to hire another full-time secretary and a full-time person to do the investigating. More help would make it much easier, as the Friend of the Court would like to work toward one day per week to present cases in Court. (arrearage cases).

It seems that the Friend of the Court is not getting the support he needs from the judges. Those persons who are in arrears on payments should know that, if they do not pay some penalty will be imposed. At present, those in arrearage remain that way for considerable lengths of time. What is needed is strong support and backing of the Friend of the Court by the judges. It was mentioned that this Committee and the Board will do whatever they can to help.

Welfare Contact Committee

Page 2

July 22, 1975

It was mentioned that prosecution of welfare fraud is slowing down, although the work between the Social Services Department and the Special Investigator is moving along fairly well.

Support collections by the Friend of the Court for the month of June were \$17,841. 100% collection would have amounted to \$37,914. The Friend of the Court mentioned that he would be very glad to appear at future meetings of this Committee

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned.

*Gary R Goden*

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Secretary

June 24, 1975

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 24, 1975, 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

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June 24, 1975

A regular meeting of the Welfare Contact Committee was duly called and held on Tuesday, June 24, 1975, at 1:30 p.m. at the Courthouse.

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

Absent: Commissioner Agnoli.

In Attendance: Social Services Director M. L. Fontaine.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Racine.

The Work-In-Training Report for the month of May was read and discussed. In May there were 128 persons involved in the program. These persons worked 3,809 hours for a total dollar equivalent value of \$10,018.88. The Director reported that they are continually adding new sites to the program.

The Committee then discussed the proposed state takeover of General Assistance costs. This Bill has been amended to insure that County Social Services Boards have some authority in appointing their Director. The Bill has also been amended so that the State Department take over County burial costs of indigents and to allow local Social Services Boards more voice in the setting of new State laws which pertain to Social Welfare.

The Director reported that the State Appropriations Committee has eliminated a district office concept. At present there is one district office covering the Upper Peninsula. The State is returning to the regional concept which would have a regional office for three five-county areas rather than the one office in Escanaba.

The Committee briefly discussed the possibility of using Work-in-Training people for a dog census in the townships. The Director reported that these persons could be used as the project is sponsored by a governmental agency. The project would need state approval which could be obtained in three to four weeks.

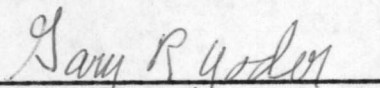
The Director reported that the Food Stamp Program has decreased a little in the last few months. There are now 1,214 households receiving food stamps. In May the total value of food stamps issued was \$110,549. The Department is still waiting for Post Office sales of food stamps. Post Office issuance may take some time as secure storage and insurance is needed for the stamps. There is a possibility that the Food Stamp Program will be transferred from the Department of Agriculture to HEW.

A communication from the State Department of Social Services was then discussed. Recently, there was a General Assistance Case Record Audit done for Marquette County. The General Assistance cases read by the auditor were found to be in compliance with County rules and State laws and there is no indication of assistance being issued ineligibly.

Support collections by the Friend of the Court for the month of May were \$17,088 out of \$37,681. There were 28 new cases referred, 7 were disposed of, with 173 pending at the end of the month. There are now 407 active cases at the Friend of the Court's Office. After discussion it was moved by Commissioner Coombs, supported by Commissioner Anderson and unanimously adopted that the Friend of the Court and the Social Services Support Specialist be invited to the next meeting of this Committee to discuss the support payment process.

No report was received from the Prosecuting Attorney regarding fraud complaints. Three complaints were turned over to the Prosecutor in May. At the end of the month there were 11 cases pending. The Controller was directed to ask Investigator Jussila to send a monthly report to this Committee as was previously agreed upon. This report should show the number of cases referred, number of cases disposed of, and number of cases pending. The dollar amounts involved would also be helpful if they are available.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned.

  
Secretary

April 22, 1975

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 22, 1975, 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

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April 22, 1975

A regular meeting of the Welfare Contact Committee was duly called and held on Tuesday, April 22, 1975, at 7 p.m. at the Courthouse.

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

Absent: Commissioner Agnoli.

In Attendance: Social Services Director M. L. Fontaine.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Racine.

The Work-in-Training Report for the month of March was read and discussed. In March there were 175 persons involved in the program. This is an increase of about 30 from the average month. In March Work-in-Training people worked 15,589 hours for a total dollar equivalent value of \$40,259.08. The Director reported that two or three new sites have been added to the Work-in-Training Program.

The Director reported that the Food Stamp Program is still going strong and is increasing. There are now 1,435 households receiving food stamps. In March the total value of food stamps issued was \$128,401.00.

The Committee then discussed the proposed State takeover of General Assistance costs. The figures that were presented for Marquette County are substantially correct. The Director reported that, if a change is made, the small population and the large population counties would benefit the most. The middle-sized population counties would not be benefited and some could be hurt. If the change is made, the counties would lose their local control of the Social Welfare Program. The governor has recommended that this change be made. The Director was requested to prepare a short written report on the problem so that it may be submitted to the Upper Peninsula Association of Counties and Michigan Association of Counties for their review.

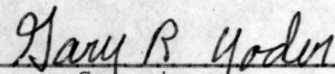
Support collections by the Friend of the Court for the month of February were \$16,335.10 out of \$37,667.00. Out of 224 divorce cases, 174 were not paying at all and in 60 cases the amount paid was less than required. This decrease in the amount of collections is due mainly to the unemployment problem.

The Amnesty Program which was set up for the month of April, wherein welfare cheaters can turn themselves in and not be prosecuted has drawn no response to date.

Discussion was then held on a possible grant for a child abuse program in the County. The grants are for rural areas that have a military base. It was felt that the occurrence of child abuse problems in the County is negligible. On a nationwide basis there will be only eight funded projects. The Department of Social Services does not actually have sufficient time or help to work up a program before the May 2 deadline. The Director has turned over the information on this matter to NMU to see if they are interested in working up a program.

The Director reported that they have set up a program to give advance payments to SSI (Supplementary Security Income) recipients. There are many people on SSI who are in great financial difficulty when their checks do not arrive on time. This program gives them an advance which is to be returned when their regular checks arrive. There has been some problem in that some of those recipients who are receiving the advance are not returning it.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned.

  
Secretary

March 3, 1975

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 March 3, 1975, and copies of the minutes of that meeting have been furnished to all members of the Marquette County 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

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March 3, 1975

A regular meeting of the Welfare Contact Committee was duly called and held at the Courthouse on Monday, March 3, 1975, at 7 p.m.

Present: Commissioners Anderson, Cheatham, Goldsworthy and Racine.

Absent: Commissioners Agnoli and Coombs.

In Attendance: Social Services Director M. L. Fontaine.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Racine.

The Social Services Board members will not be attending this meeting in the future. They will, however, meet with the Committee if and when something important comes up.

Discussion was again held on the proposed State Health Maintenance Organizations. No one agency can handle all of the three areas involved (public health, mental health and social services). It was felt that the Board appointed to run this would almost have to be full-time to oversee the many problems. If an organization like this is going to become a reality, the State should set up pilot programs in a few counties to see how it would work. If the law is passed, counties may organize voluntarily until July, at which time it will become mandatory. If the County does fall under this organization, they will still have to refer people to the proper location as the three areas are not located in the same building. The Social Services Department has an information service person now who handles questions and sets up appointments with other agencies. The three different organizations have different eligibility requirements which could cause problems if a central control desk is set up. Further discussion on this matter will be held at future meetings.


The Work-in-Training Report for the month of January was then read and discussed. In January there were 173 persons involved in the program, an increase of 33 over the month of December, 1974. In January Work-in-Training people worked 5,900 hours for a dollar equivalent value of \$15,015.21.

The Director reported that the Food Stamp Program is going very strong and reported that it will be going to post office sales in the future. There are now 1,327 households receiving food stamps, and in January the total value of food stamps issued was \$116,343.

The Controller reported that he had talked to the Prosecuting Attorney about the Prosecutor's monthly report on the status of pending welfare fraud cases. The Prosecuting Attorney said that he was unaware that these reports were necessary and will in the future start sending to the Controller a copy of the report that he sends to Lansing each month.

A communication from Michigan Association of Counties regarding a proposed State takeover of General Assistance costs in conjunction with a reduction in the County share of State Revenue Sharing was discussed. Presently, the counties receive 50% of 12.1% of 2/3 of gross income tax collections which is distributed on a per capita basis. The other 50% is distributed to cities, villages and townships. Over a three-year period the county percentage would drop to 35% and the cities', villages' and townships' portion would increase to 65%. In return for giving up this portion of the income tax, the State Department of Social Services will take over General Assistance costs for the county over the same three-year period. Starting in the physical year 1975-76, each county would be responsible for only 2/3 of the costs incurred in the base year; in 1976-77, for only 1/3 of the costs incurred; and finally, in 1977-78, the State will assume all General Assistance costs. Social Services Director Fontaine and the Controller were directed to check the proposed figures attached to the communication to see if they are substantially correct.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned.

  
Secretary

February 3, 1975

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 February 3, 1975, 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

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February 3, 1975

A regular meeting of the Welfare Contact Committee was duly called and held at the Courthouse on Monday, February 3, 1975, at 7 p.m.

Present: Commissioners Agnoli, Cheatham, Coombs and Goldsworthy.

Absent: Commissioners Anderson and Racine.

In Attendance: Social Services Board Members Dompierre, Hammerschmidt and Howe, together with Director M. L. Fontaine.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Goldsworthy.

The Director reported that the Food Stamp Program has been very active with a dollar equivalent value of \$116,325 for the month of December, 1974, and \$114,100 for the month of November, 1974. She pointed out that there is a lot of opposition to the increased cost and higher rate for bonuses being proposed. If the proposed new rates take effect, it would be very hard on the senior citizens in the area.

Discussion was then held on the proposed State Health Maintenance Organizations, as this would have quite an effect on the County. Under this proposal the County Health Board, Social Services Board and Act 54 Board would be combined into one Board having membership of 6 to 21 members. Under this new Board there would be an executive director, and the possibility of finding one person who has expertise in all three areas is very unlikely. Further discussion on this matter will be held at a later meeting.

Discussion was then held on the monthly report from the Prosecuting Attorney. On November 16, 1973, March 5, 1974, and May 7, 1974, the Prosecuting Attorney was requested to send a monthly report on the status of the pending welfare fraud cases to the Controller before the first Monday of each month. To date, only one report for the month of February, 1974, has been received. It was moved by Commissioner Coombs, supported by Commissioner Cheatham and unanimously adopted that the Controller be directed to inquire of the Prosecuting Attorney as to the reasons for not supplying the information requested by this Committee.

The Report on Alleged Fraud Complaints from the Social Services Department for the month of December, 1974, showed two new cases referred involving \$1,585. One other alleged fraud complaint was not referred because of the small amount involved. Six cases were disposed of by the Prosecuting Attorney during the month. In four of these cases a reimbursement plan was set up; in the fifth case prosecution was denied because of lack of evidence; and in the sixth case prosecution was denied because of a special handicap. Cases pending at the end of December, 1974, were 10. At the present time repayment plans on 15 cases are being handled by the Social Services Department.

The Report on Support by Responsible Persons indicates that 8 new cases were referred during the month of December. 14 cases were disposed of during the month. Cases pending with the Friend of the Court as of December 31, 1974, were 93; total number of actual active cases were 379, and collections during the month were \$24,090. 100% collection for the month would have amounted to \$35,657.

Discussion was then held on the overlap and duplication of supervision work on child abuse and child neglect cases transferred from Probate Court jurisdiction to the Department of Social Services. It was pointed out that actions taken by the Probate Court should not affect the handling of the cases by either the Juvenile Division or the Social Services Department. When a child is made a temporary ward and the Social Services Department is given responsibility, they should have sole authority in the matter. A copy of a listing of active cases of the Marquette County Probate Court was given to the Director for study, and a further report on this matter will be made at the next meeting of this Committee.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned.

Gary R. Yoder  
Secretary

December 2, 1974

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 December 2, 1974, 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

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December 2, 1974

A regular meeting of the Welfare Contact Committee was duly called and held at the Courthouse on Monday, December 2, 1974, at 7 p.m.

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

Absent: Commissioner Cheatham.

In Attendance: Social Services Board Members Dompierre, Hammerschmidt and Howe, together with Director M. L. Fontaine.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Racine.

Prosecuting Attorney Gary Walker joined the meeting. A communication from the Director of the Department of Social Services to this Committee was read wherein it states they are having difficulty in working out a definite program for legal advice from the Prosecuting Attorney's Office in matters involving the Juvenile Division of the Probate Court. Mr. Walker explained that he is now working with the Juvenile Division two or three times weekly. He is available to the Juvenile Division staff whenever they need services. He stated that he is also available to the Department of Social Services staff whenever the need arises. He believes that he is serving the Social Services Department in the same manner he serves all other law enforcement agencies within the county. He stated that he does not meet regularly with any of the agencies other than on specific cases and prefers not to set a specific meeting time for the Department of Social Services but rather handle their work on an "as need" basis. Mrs. Fontaine explained that her Department does not operate in the same manner as other agencies and that her workers have complained that they are unable to get help from the Prosecuting Attorney's Office. She believed it would be best if definite hours could be set up during the week to handle Social Services matters. The Prosecutor stated that he or an assistant is available the first hour of every day and most other hours for contact on any case that arises out of the Social Services Department. He stated further that he has talked with Social Services Department employees and has indicated to them that he is available at any time they have a need during normal hours. He was not aware that any protective service worker of the Social Services Department had tried to reach him in the past and had trouble in doing so. It was agreed that the Prosecuting Attorney would meet with the Social Services Department Director and the five protective services workers to review the whole system of getting cases ready for court and what the workers should be doing by way of contacting the Prosecutor's Office ahead of court hearings to prepare testimony. In that manner, both the Social Services Office and the Prosecutor's Office will be able to coordinate their work and improve the efficiency of the system. This meeting will be arranged within the next 10 days. Mr. Walker then left the meeting.

The Director reported that all cases of child abuse and child neglect in the county are now handled by the Department of Social Services, having been transferred from Probate Court jurisdiction last January. There is now an overlap and duplication of supervision work on these cases. Actually, the Juvenile Division has no further responsibility in this type of case, but the Juvenile Division staff is still checking on all cases that they formerly had and, in many instances, are attempting to give direction and supervision on these matters to staff members of the Social Services Department. Mrs. Fontaine explained that this is unnecessary and is actually causing confusion for her staff. This double checking by the Juvenile Division staff on the work being done by the Social Services staff is adding to the time required by the Social Services staff as it entails a review of each case with an agency which actually has no jurisdiction or responsibility in the matter. Mrs. Fontaine stated that her staff would be better off if they were allowed to handle the cases without the interference of the Juvenile Court staff. The Social Services Board and its Director will attempt to meet with Probate Judge DeFant to work this matter out within the near future.

The Report on Alleged Fraud Complaints for the month of October, 1974, showed four new cases referred, involving \$1,115. One other alleged fraud complaint was not referred because of the small amount involved. The disposition of one case was made by the Prosecutor during the month. A reimbursement plan was used on that case for the balance due of \$396 at \$20 per month. Cases pending at the end of October, 1974, were eight. At the present time repayment plans on 12 cases are being handled by the Social Services Department involving payments of between \$5 and \$50 per month per case. The Department maintains its own control and follow-up on repayment plans once established.

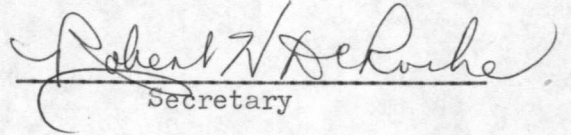
Welfare Contact Committee

Page 2

December 2, 1974

The Report on Support by Responsible Persons indicates that 18 new cases were referred during the month of October, 1974. 108 cases were disposed of during the month. Cases pending with the Friend of the Court as of October 31, 1974, were 97; total number of actual active cases were 369 and collections during the month were \$24,567.65. 100% collection for the month would have amounted to \$34,142.00. The rate of collection, therefore, is steadily improving over prior months.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned.

  
Secretary



November 4, 1974

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 November 4, 1974, 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

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November 4, 1974

A regular meeting of the Welfare Contact Committee was duly called and held at the Courthouse on Monday, November 4, 1974, at 7 p.m.

Present: Commissioners Cheatham, Coombs, Gaboury, Goldsworthy, and Racine.  
Absent: Commissioner Anderson.

In Attendance: Social Services Board Members Dompierre, Hammerschmidt, and Howe together with Director M. L. Fontaine.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Racine.

Report of the Support Specialist on fraud and support cases for September 1974, was made. Cases reported to the Prosecuting Attorney were 21 during the month; five cases were disposed of with 187 still pending. There are 361 active support cases on file with the Friend of the Court as of September 30, 1974. Support collections during the month were \$20,926.86 out of \$33,793. The percentage of collection is increasing steadily over prior months.

On fraud violations reported for the month of September 1974, only three new cases were referred to the Prosecuting Attorney, involving \$1,974.50. One of these cases has been closed and there are still five previous cases pending. Two cases were closed during the month because defendants had moved out of the state, and the amount involved did not warrant the return of the defendants to Michigan for prosecution. Two other cases were closed by way of restitution. Mrs. Fontaine reported that we are, therefore, "pretty much current" on this type of case.

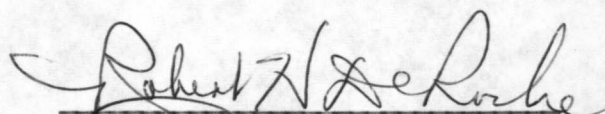
The Director reported that irregularities in food stamp cases are no longer referred to the Prosecuting Attorney unless the case involves more than \$400 or household fraud is indicated.

Discussion of the working agreement between the Department of Social Services and the Prosecuting Attorney's Office was had. The Social Services Department has been trying to get a definite block of time assigned to it by the Prosecutor's Office so that they can work out the needed assistance, especially in Juvenile Court cases, but so far the Prosecutor's Office has not responded to this request. The Department of Social Services Board will write a special letter over the signature of its Chairman requesting that the Prosecutor's Office meet with the Board to work out these arrangements between the two offices.

The Director reported that an appeal had been filed through the Legal Aid Office by a college student who has been denied direct relief benefits during the summer months because he was not a resident at that time. The State Legal Liaison Bureau provided the local Department an opinion in the matter, stating that the State has no control over this program as it is funded by the County only and does not involve state or federal funds. According to law the decision of the Board of Social Services on this type of case is final and is not reviewable by the State. The applicant, therefore, has no additional remedy available under the law.

The Department of Social Services now has authority to dispose of all inactive records prior to June 30, 1968 and to make proper disposition of any other County records which are no longer needed. This will help considerably in the managing of storage space. Approval of the Board of Commissioners is required, however, under the rule, and the request for such approval will be made by the Department of Social Services at the next regular meeting of the Board of Commissioners.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned.

  
Robert H. DeRoche, Secretary

October 7, 1974

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 October 7, 1974, 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

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October 7, 1974

A regular meeting of the Welfare Contact Committee was duly called and held on October 7, 1974, at the Courthouse at 7 p.m.

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

Absent: None.

In Attendance: Social Services Board Members Dompierre, Hammerschmidt, and Howe, together with Director M. L. Fontaine.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Racine.

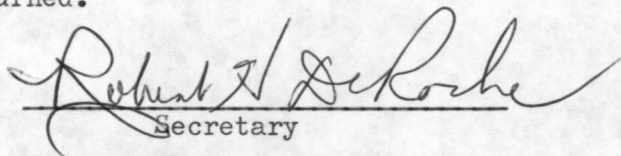
The Receipts and Disbursements Analysis for the month of September, 1974, was presented and discussed on a line-by-line basis. A copy of that report is attached to and made a part of these minutes. Mrs. Fontaine reported that the General Assistance case load reached 334 at the end of September, 1974, representing an increase of 10 cases over the previous month.

The Food Stamp Program is currently in decline. During September, 1974, there were 1,220 participants in this program and stamps valued at \$109,222 were issued.

In the Work and Training Program it was reported that there were 135 persons under the program during September and they performed 4,551 hours of employment at \$1.00 equivalent value of \$11,202.09.

The usual report for the Prosecuting Attorney's office on Fraud Cases had not as yet been completed for the month of September. It will be presented at the next meeting of this Committee.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned.

  
Secretary

October 7, 1974

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 October 7, 1974, 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

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October 7, 1974

A regular meeting of the Welfare Contact Committee was duly called and held on October 7, 1974, at the Courthouse at 7 p.m.

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

Absent: None.

In Attendance: Social Services Board Members Dompierre, Hammerschmidt, and Howe, together with Director M. L. Fontaine.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Racine.

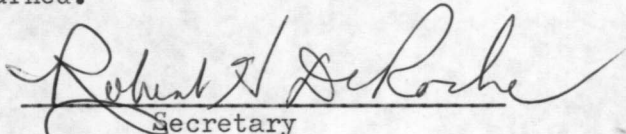
The Receipts and Disbursements Analysis for the month of September, 1974, was presented and discussed on a line-by-line basis. A copy of that report is attached to and made a part of these minutes. Mrs. Fontaine reported that the General Assistance case load reached 334 at the end of September, 1974, representing an increase of 10 cases over the previous month.

The Food Stamp Program is currently in decline. During September, 1974, there were 1,220 participants in this program and stamps valued at \$109,222 were issued.

In the Work and Training Program it was reported that there were 135 persons under the program during September and they performed 4,551 hours of employment at \$1.00 equivalent value of \$11,202.09.

The usual report for the Prosecuting Attorney's office on Fraud Cases had not as yet been completed for the month of September. It will be presented at the next meeting of this Committee.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned.

  
Secretary

September 3, 1974

Honorable Chairman and Members of  
the Marquette County Board of Commissioners  
Marquette, Michigan 49855

Ladies & Gentlemen:

A regular meeting of your Welfare Contact Committee was duly called and held on September 3, 1974, 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

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September 3, 1974

A regular meeting of the Welfare Contact Committee was duly called and held at the Courthouse on September 3, 1974, at 7 p.m.

Present: Commissioners Casper, Coombs, Gaboury, Goldsworthy, and Racine.

Absent: Commissioner Anderson.

In Attendance: Social Services Board members Dompierre, Hammerschmidt, and Howe, together with Assistant Director John Shackelford.

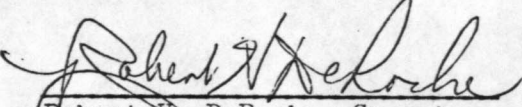
The meeting was called to order by Chairman Racine.

Mr. Shackelford informed the Committee that the Statistics Report, the Prosecuting Attorney's Report on fraud cases, and the Department's Report on the Work and Training Program for the month of August, 1974, have not yet been completed. They should be ready for distribution by the end of this week, and copies will be attached to these minutes for the information of all concerned.

It was reported that a part of the Social Services staff has been moved into the newly-rented office space on West Washington Street. Family Services and Adult Services were moved into these quarters, transferring 15 staff members. This somewhat relieves the congestion which existed in the main office on 3rd Street.

Discussion of a particular application for Welfare was then held. At least two of the Committee members had been contacted directly by the applicant. Social Services had denied assistance for the reason that the applicant, a single man, had access to living quarters with his parents outside the County but chose not to make use of that offer, stating that he preferred to stay in Marquette and therefore needed Welfare assistance. Rules adopted by the Social Services Board prevent assisting this type of applicant. A hearing on this matter will be held within the next two weeks, at which the Public Attorney will represent the applicant and the Prosecuting Attorney will represent the Social Services Board. After considerable discussion, it was moved by Commissioner Coombs, supported by Commissioner Casper and unanimously adopted that the Social Services Board continue to bring information of this type to this Committee for discussion, but that policies established by the Welfare Board be continued and that this Committee offer no interference in the routine handling of the Welfare Department's work.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned.

  
Robert H. DeRoche, Secretary



August 5, 1974

Honorable Chairman and Members of  
the Marquette County Board of Commissioners  
Marquette, Michigan 49855

Ladies & Gentlemen:

A regular meeting of your Welfare Contact Committee was duly called and held on August 5, 1974, 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

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August 5, 1974

A regular meeting of the Welfare Contact Committee was duly called and held on Monday, August 5, 1974, at 7:00 p.m. at the Courthouse.

Present: Commissioners Anderson, Casper, Coombs, Gaboury, Goldsworthy and Racine.

Absent: None.

In Attendance: Social Services Board Members Dompierre, Hammerschmidt, Howe and Social Services Department Director Fontaine.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Racine.

Discussion was held on the effect the mining industry strike will have on the Social Services Department activities. It is expected that a large number of the workers involved in the strike will have need of food stamps and other services. A meeting is being arranged by the Upper Peninsula Regional Office for all directors of county social services departments in the Upper Peninsula who are affected by the strike. Union representatives will also be invited to attend that meeting so that general agreement may be had on eligibility requirements and methods used to process this group. Arrangements will be made for group instruction of the applicants so as to eliminate misunderstanding regarding the eligibility of the applicants involved.

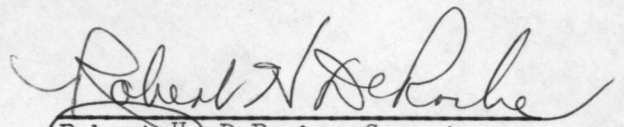
New federal regulations, effective November 1, 1974, will allow the elderly who are eligible for food stamps to use them for payment for meals at approved senior citizens communal dining facilities.

Reports on the Work and Training Program for the months of June and July, 1974, were received. During the month of June, 123 persons were assigned to the program and they performed 25,282 hours of work at an equivalent value of \$61,995. During July, 127 persons were assigned to the program and they performed 28,917 hours of work at an equivalent value of \$70,876.78.

A report of receipts and disbursements for the Social Welfare Fund for the month of June, 1974 was received. A copy of this report is made a part of these minutes.

The Director reported that there were no new fraud cases to refer to the office of the Prosecuting Attorney during the previous month. The new verification procedures, which provide for the case working of each individual case, the checking of assets, jobs, etc., is probably the reason for the decline in the number of fraud cases.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned.

  
Robert H. DeRoche, Secretary

July 1, 1974

Honorable Chairman and Members of  
the Marquette County Board of Commissioners  
Marquette, Michigan 49855

Ladies & Gentlemen:

At the July 1, 1974 meeting of the Welfare Contact Committee, consideration was given to a resolution drawn by the Michigan County Social Services Association urging the legislature to provide full payment for the office space required by county social service departments. A copy of the resolution is attached hereto.

Your committee recommends that the Board of Commissioners concur with the attached resolution and that all of Marquette County's representatives in the State Legislature be notified accordingly.

Respectfully submitted,

WELFARE CONTACT COMMITTEE

\_\_\_\_\_, Chairman

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July 1, 1974

A regular meeting of the Contact Committee was duly called and held on Monday, July 1, 1974, at 7:00 p.m. at the Courthouse.

Present: Commissioners Casper, Coombs, Gaboury, Goldsworthy and Racine.

Absent: Commissioner Anderson.

In Attendance: Social Services Board members Dompierre and Howe, and Social Services Department Director Fontaine.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Racine. Mrs. Fontaine, Director, reported that three referrals for welfare fraud were made to the Prosecuting Attorney's office during the month of June. All three cases involved the non-reporting of income earned. The Prosecuting Attorney has settled all three cases during the month on the basis of full reimbursement by the defendants.

The report of receipts and disbursements for the month of May, 1974, was distributed and studied. Reports were made available to all commissioners.

The case load during May was reduced to 342 from the previous month's total of 350. The Friend of the Courts report from the month of June wasn't available at this meeting because of the early date.

During June, 1974, 1,293 households participated in the Food Stamp Program. Of this number 593 were non-public assistance cases. \$111,717 in total value of food stamps were sold during the month.

Mrs. Fontaine reported that there is a new bill in the legislature which would set up a new uniform food stamp program statewide. This bill provides that the Social Services Department may enter into contract with other state or federal agencies for distribution of the stamps. This bill would provide that the county's share of the expenses may not exceed thirty per cent and, such expenses will be included in the one mill limit which is payable from local funds for direct relief. Inasmuch as we reach the one mill limit every year this new bill, if passed, would not result in any new expenses at the local level. Action is anticipated in the legislature on this bill before the end of this week. Moved by Commissioner Coombs, supported by Commissioner Casper and unanimously adopted that this committee wire its support for this legislation to Senator Mack and to Representatives Gingrass and Jacobetti. This provision can be identified as being an amendment to the State Department of Social Services Budget Bill, being Section 50.

During the month of May 147 persons were involved in the work and training program. This represents a reduction of two from the previous month.

The Director informed the committee that negotiations are underway to lease additional office space for the Department of Social Services Staff. A complete survey of available space in the community has been made and the most suitable site is the second floor of the North West Electronics building where 2400 square feet of office space is available. The cost would be \$4 per square foot per year which includes heating and utilities. This cost compares favorably with current local rental rates for office space and is the only space available for lease on as short a term as two years. The new state formula for reimbursement of administrative expense will result in no additional cost to the county to acquire the space. Plans are going ahead for state approval. Floor plans must be checked and approved by the state department and the telephone company is now working out a communication system which would tie into the existing telephone service at the Third Street office. When these matters have been worked out the county social services department will negotiate the lease.

A resolution drawn by the Michigan County Social Service Association urging the Legislature to provide full payment for the office space required by county social services departments was read. After discussion it was moved by Commissioner Coombs supported by Commissioner Goldsworthy and unanimously adopted that this committee recommend to the Board of Commissioners that it concur with the resolution and notify our legislators accordingly.

Mrs. Fontaine reported that the staff is still growing and that their offices are very congested at the present time. For this reason extra office space will be leased as reported earlier in these minutes. She suggested that when the Courthouse Annex Building plans are again considered, a complete review of the Social Services Department's needs should be made at that time. It seems obvious to her that the plans made a couple of years ago will no longer be adequate for that staff.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned.

  
Robert H. DeRoche, Secretary

June 3, 1974

Honorable Chairman and Members of the  
Marquette County Board of Commissioners  
Marquette, MI 49855

Ladies and Gentlemen:

A regular meeting of your Welfare Contact Committee was duly called and held on June 3, 1974, 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

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June 3, 1974

A regular meeting of the Welfare Contact Committee was duly called and held on Monday, June 3, 1974 at 7:00 p.m.

Present: Commissioners Anderson, Casper, Coombs, Gaboury, Goldsworthy and Racine.  
Absent: None.

In attendance: Social Services Board members Dompierre and Howe, together with Director Fontaine.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Racine.

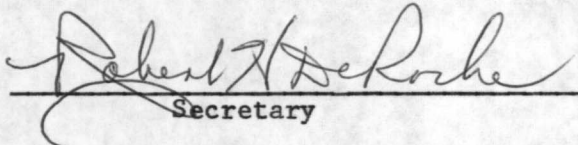
During the month of May, 1974, 147 persons were assigned to the Work and Training Program. They performed 3,200 hours of work for a dollar equivalent value of \$7,604.16. The participation is slightly lower than the 153 persons who participated in the program the preceding month.

The Prosecuting Attorney's report of support cases was reviewed. The Social Services Department referred 20 cases to the Prosecutor's office during the month of May. Ten of these cases were disposed of. At the end of the month there were 129 cases pending and 304 active cases on file in the office of the Friend of the Court. During the month, the Friend of the Court collected \$13,456.10 in support moneys, from a possible \$27,830.80.

Mrs. Fontaine reported that after July 1, 1974, the food stamp program will no longer involve county funds. It will be operated and financed by state and federal governments. It appears that the program will be operated by the Social Services Department as in the past, but there is a possibility that some of the stamp sales will be made through U. S. Post Offices. This point has not been completely resolved at this time.

Mrs. Fontaine also reported that all planning and work on the Michigan Youth Service Information Services (MYSIS) has been stopped by order of the Governor. The program has been abandoned because Governor Milliken is concerned about safeguarding the confidentiality of the individuals' records. It was originally intended to compile information on a pilot study basis from six counties in Michigan, among which Marquette would have been one of the counties. The Social Services Department will inform the County Board if the program is ever re-activated in the future.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned.

  
Secretary

May 6, 1974

Honorable Chairman and Members of the  
Marquette County Board of Commissioners  
Marquette, MI 49855

Ladies & Gentlemen:

A regular meeting of your Welfare Contact Committee was duly called and held on May 6, 1974, 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

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\_\_\_\_\_ Chairman

May 6, 1974

A regular meeting of the Welfare Contact Committee was duly called and held on Monday, May 6, 1974, at 7:00 p.m. at the Courthouse.

Present: Commissioners Anderson, Casper, Coombs, Gaboury, Goldsworthy and Racine.

Absent: None.

In Attendance: Social Services Board members Dompierre and Howe, and Social Services Department Director Fontaine.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Racine.

Discussion was held regarding MYSIS, a federal grant program being currently used by the State of Michigan on a pilot basis, under which information regarding the youth of the area will be consolidated in computers at one location. Mrs. Fontaine reported that Marquette County was one of five counties included in the feasibility study. It was her understanding that, eventually, counties involved will either reject or accept the program on a permanent basis. Mr. Les Ruohomaki is the local coordinator, and has his office in the Social Services Regional Office at Escanaba. Mrs. Platt, Director of the Marquette County Juvenile Division, is also a member of the Study Committee. Mrs. Fontaine volunteered to check into the matter further, and to report at the next meeting of this Committee on the work done to date in this area and the future plans of MYSIS.

The Prosecuting Attorney's progress report for March 1974 indicates one new referral of alleged welfare fraud. Nine fraud complaints were disposed of during the month, covering a total of \$7,150.00. Restitution of \$4,274.00 was ordered and \$1,876.00 was written off as uncollectible. Three cases remained pending at the end of March, involving \$1,615.00.

Discussion was held regarding the reports of the Prosecutor intended for this Committee. They are presently routed through the Social Services offices. It was the intent of this Committee that these reports be made directly to the Committee, and the information, in turn, be given to the Social Services Department. The Controller was directed to inform the Prosecuting Attorney accordingly.

The Friend of the Court's report for the month of March was then studied. Thirty-two cases were referred to the Prosecuting Attorney during the month, and 67 cases were disposed of. Cases pending at the Prosecutor's Office as of March 31, 1974 were 116. There are 290 active cases. March collections through the Friend of the Court's office were \$19,095.00, out of a possible \$25,796.00. This indicates a substantial improvement over the past.

Food stamps in the total value of \$129,364.00 were sold by the Department during March, 1974. There were 816 households included in the food stamp plan. In February there were only 718 households in the program.

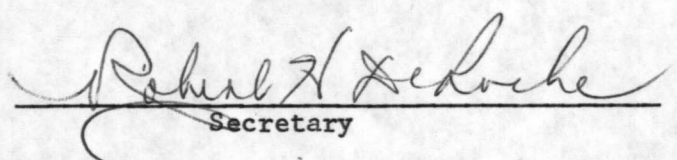
Mrs. Fontaine reported that a settlement of the administrative cost of the Department for the first quarter of 1974 resulted in only 5.6% of the total cost being assumed by the County, with the remainder being paid by the State.

The report for the Work and Training Program was also studied. One hundred fifty three persons were involved in the program during April, 1974, and 4,978 hours of labor were performed at a dollar equivalent value of \$12,190.26. During the previous month, 133 persons were involved, performing 4,822 hours of labor at a dollar equivalent value of \$11,707.17.

Reports of Receipts and Disbursements Analysis for the months of March and April were presented and discussed. Copies of these reports are attached hereto and made part of these minutes.

Mrs. Fontaine reported that the direct relief case load decreased by six cases from 354 to 348 during the month of April. The present case load includes 317 single persons and 23 families.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned.

  
Secretary



April 1, 1974

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

Ladies and Gentlemen:

Your Welfare Contact Committee held its regular meeting on April 1, 1974,  
and copies of the minutes of that meeting have been furnished to all county  
commissioners. A copy of the minutes is attached hereto and made a part of  
this report.

Respectfully submitted,

WELFARE CONTACT COMMITTEE

By: \_\_\_\_\_ Chairman

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April 1, 1974

A regular meeting of the Welfare Contact Committee was duly called and held on Monday, April 1, 1974, at 7:00 P.M., at the Courthouse.

Present: Commissioners Anderson, Casper, Coombs, Gaboury and Racine.

Absent: Commissioner Goldsworthy

In

Attendance: Mrs. M. L. Fontaine, Director of Social Services Department and Mr. Dompierre, Board Member.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Racine.

The Director reported that the system for processing new applicants for assistance has changed effective April 1, 1974. Heretofore, applicants completed their own application and in effect self determined their own eligibility for welfare benefits. Starting April 1, however, the old system has been re-instated whereby Staff will complete the application and in addition will verify the pertinent information in the field. The additional staff members to do this work are yet to be hired to put this system into effect but the plans are going ahead for the system and will be developed shortly.

The case load has increased to 339 cases as of March 1, 1974. The food stamp program is also increasing with 113 new cases during the month. This undoubtedly reflects the liberalization in the requirements for eligibility by lowering costs to the recipients and a raising of income level under which recipients may qualify. A recent local survey of the food stamp program indicates that 70% of the participants are college students.

Mrs. Fontaine reported that the formula for reimbursing office expenditures, including rent and utilities, has been increased by the State to 55% thereby lowering the County's share of this expense.

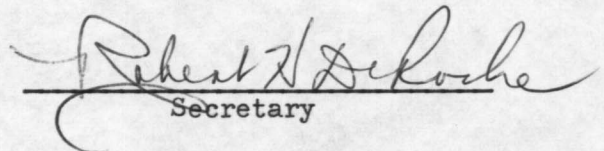
Discussion was held regarding the protest of Dr. Tobin and St. Lukes Hospital in the matter of payment for medical services for social services recipients as reported in the minutes of prior meetings of this Committee. The Social Services Department now uses a "Unit 5" schedule recommended by the State Department of Social Services and approved by the County Medical Society 3 years ago. Contact has been made with several Counties in the Upper Peninsula to determine how they handle this matter. Delta County is using the "Unit 5" schedule, as is done in Marquette County. Dickinson County pays for these services at the same rate as is paid by private patients. To do so in Marquette County would involve a great increase in the present cost for this service. A District meeting of Social Services Departments will be held in Escanaba on April 10, 1974 at which time a discussion is planned to attempt to establish a uniform schedule for the whole Upper Peninsula. This may be of some help in settling the problem of dissatisfaction of local Doctors and the Marquette General Hospital. So far as the General Hospital is concerned this matter affects only the payment for services for out-patients.

Discussion was held on the progress report for welfare fraud cases. Mrs. Fontaine has received a report for the month of February from the office of the Prosecuting Attorney. From her records and from the report of the Prosecutor it was learned that in February 1974, three referrals were made to the office of the Prosecutor together with one food stamp determination. These four cases involved \$1,925.50 in benefits. Carried over from previous months six cases were disposed of in February involving \$5,455.00 in benefits. In these dispositions the Prosecutor wrote off \$2,182.00 and ordered restitution of \$3,273.00. Some of the violations were also sentenced to periods of probation by the Court. There are ten cases still pending as of March 1, 1974. Some of these cases, however, have been disposed of during March and will appear on the next monthly report. They involve a total of \$5,730.00 in benefits and include nine general assistance cases and one food stamp case.

During the month of February 1974 the report of the Prosecutor indicates disposition of nine cases. 133 cases were still pending as of February 28, 1974 and the active cases at the Friend of the Court were 281. Support payments made through this office during the month were \$10,437.00 out of a possible \$25,916.10.

A general review of the rules and regulations for eligibility of the aid to dependent childrens program was given by the Director.

There being no further business the meeting adjourned.

  
Secretary

March 4, 1974.

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

Ladies and Gentlemen:

Your Welfare Contact Committee held its regular meeting on March 4, 1974, and copies of the minutes of that meeting have been furnished to all county commissioners. A copy of the minutes is attached hereto and made a part of this report.

Respectfully submitted,

WELFARE CONTACT COMMITTEE

By: \_\_\_\_\_, Chairman.

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March 4, 1974.

A regular meeting of the Welfare Contact Committee was duly called and held on Monday, March 4, 1974, at 7:00 p. m. at the Courthouse.

Present: Commissioners Anderson, Casper, Coombs, Gaboury and Goldsworthy.

Absent: Commissioner Racine.

In attendance: Mrs. M.L. Fontaine, Director and Mr. Dompierre and Mrs. Howe, members of the County Board of Social Services.

The meeting was called to order by Vice-Chairman Goldsworthy.

The Work and Training Program report for the month of February, 1974, was received and discussed. During the month 145 persons were under the program and they contributed 3,851 hours of work with a dollar equivalent value of \$11,248.73.

Discussion was then held in the matter of the request from Dr. Tobin regarding the validity of the schedule being used by the Social Services Department for payment of Doctor's fees not covered by Medicare. Mrs. Fontaine explained that the unit designation of 5, referred to by Dr. Tobin, was based upon the Michigan Value Scale study adopted by the Social Services Board effective October 1, 1966. This procedure had been recommended to the Social Services Board by the Marquette-Alger Medical Society and accepted by them at that time. Mrs. Fontaine has recently been in contact with Mr. Leslie Stasney, Medical Consultant to the State Department of Social Services, and he verified that the unit designation of 5 is still in effect. Dr. Tobin and Dr. Barsch of the Marquette-Alger Medical Society have been so advised by the Department of Social Services. Since Dr. Tobin's communication dealt specifically with the unit designation as distinguished from a request for scale revision, the matter now awaits further request by the doctor.

Mrs. Fontaine also reported that a recent communication from a local hospital states that they are not bound by the unit designation. The present practice is to pay the going rate on all in-patient services. On out-patient services, however, the Department has been using the unit 5 designation in establishing payment for doctors' services at the hospital. She pointed out that the department could not use one rate for doctor services at the hospital and another rate for similar services outside the hospital. The matter of out-patient charges for doctors' services at the hospital will have to await further action on the part of the medical profession regarding the schedule of fees.

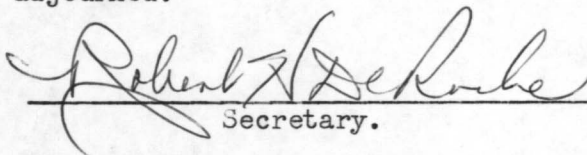
While the Prosecuting Attorney's state grant for 1974 has not yet been officially approved, Mrs. Fontaine stated that in recent conversation with the State Department it was determined that the grant will be approved with the possibility of some minor adjustments after a thorough examination of the grant application has been made.

Because the date of the monthly meetings of this committee has been scheduled earlier in the month, the reports for receipts and disbursements and the report on cases referred to the Prosecutor will be submitted at the next following meeting each month.

Moved by Commissioner Coombs, supported by Commissioner Casper and unanimously adopted that the Prosecuting Attorney be requested to file a report with this committee monthly, starting with next month, on the status of all cases referred to him by the Department of Social Services.

The Director reported that the verification worker plan is being re-established. In addition, intake workers will be provided to assist in the completion of applications for assistance. At the present time the individual is personally completing such applications on a "self determination" basis, the rules prohibiting the verification of claims and the testing and documentation of information given in the application. This system naturally leads to misunderstanding and, in some cases, fraud. The return to the verification system should improve the situation.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned.

  
Secretary.

February 13, 1974

Honorable Chairman and Members of the  
Marquette County Board of Commissioners  
Marquette, MI 49855

Ladies and Gentlemen:

At the February 13, 1974 meeting of the Welfare Contact Committee, discussion was held regarding the issuance of food stamps. An agreement has recently been entered into between the State Department of Social Services and the U. S. Government to have food stamps issued from Class A and B Post Offices. This would not provide service for people living in the townships. The cost involved in handling the issuance of food stamps through the Postal Service is much greater than it is presently costing the County to issue them through the County Department of Social Services. There is considerable objection by County Social Service Departments across the state against the issuance of food stamps by the Postal Service. Apparently for this reason, the plan has not yet been implemented state-wide.

Your Committee recommends that the Board of Commissioners go on record as supporting the present system of distribution of food stamps, and opposing the proposed distribution through post offices, and that the State Department of Social Services be notified accordingly.

Respectfully submitted,

WELFARE CONTACT COMMITTEE

Chairman

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February 13, 1974

A regular meeting of the Welfare Contact Committee was duly called and held on Wednesday, February 13, 1974, at 7:00 p.m. at the Courthouse.

Present: Commissioners Anderson, Casper, Coombs, Gaboury, Goldsworthy and Racine.

Absent: None.

In Attendance: Mrs. M. L. Fontaine, Director of Social Services Department.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Racine.

Work and training program report for the month of January, 1974 was received and discussed. During the month 114 persons were under the program and they contributed 3,851 hours of work with a dollar equivalent value of \$9,256.12.

The Director reported that there were no new alleged fraud cases referred to the Prosecuting Attorney's office during the month of January, 1974.

A report on the number of cases handled during the month of January, 1974 for support indicates that 39 cases were referred to the Prosecuting Attorney and there were 138 cases pending at the Prosecuting Attorney's office as of January 31, 1974. There are 277 active cases on file at the Friend of the Court's office, and during the month, the collections through the Friend of the Court's office were \$17,839.34.

The Director reported that food stamp program is slightly increased during the month of January although it is not as large as it was a year ago. An agreement has been entered into between the State Department of Social Service and the U. S. Government, to have food stamps issued from Class A and B Post Offices. Mrs. Fontaine does not believe that this system would solve any of the problems that now exist in the issuance of these stamps, and the program apparently is not designed to service the township people. It is proposed that the Department pay 80¢ per case to the Postal Service for handling the issuance of these stamps and this would be substantially more cost to the Social Service Department over the present system. There are presently over 3,000 cases being processed for food stamps within the county. The total value of food stamps issued during January, 1974 was \$111,250.00.

Mrs. Fontaine stated further that there is considerable opposition to the Postal Service program among the county departments across the State, and so far, the State has not actually implemented the program State wide.

Moved by Commissioner Coombs, supported by Commissioner Goldsworthy, and unanimously adopted, that this committee recommend to the Board of Commissioners that they go on record supporting the present system for the disbursement of food stamps, and opposing the proposed disbursement through the Post Offices and that the State Department of Social Services be notified accordingly.

A discussion was held to determine a more convenient monthly meeting date for this Committee. It was agreed that future meetings will be held on the first Monday of each month at 7 P.M.

Mrs. Fontaine reported that the State examiners have recently completed an audit of the local department and not one single exception was noted.

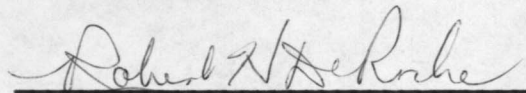
A communication from Dr. Tobin questioning the validity of the schedule being used by the Social Services Department for the payment of Doctor's fees, not covered by Medicaide, was read. Mrs. Fontaine explained that Dr. Tobin was advised that this is based on a unit designation set by Mr. Stasney, the State Medical Consultant for the Medicaide program. This was done in 1967 and an agreement was had at that time by the Social Services Department and the President of the Marquette-Alger County Medical Society. At that time a

communication was sent by the President of the Medical Society to all of the Doctors in the two-county area, stating that this agreement had been reached and would be used. This matter is on the agenda for discussion by the Social Services Department at their meeting to be held on February 20, 1974, and this Committee will be informed of the results of that meeting. It was moved by Commissioner Anderson, supported by Commissioner Coombs, and un-animously adopted that a communication be sent from this Committee to Dr. Tobin stating that his letter had been received and submitted to the Social Services Department; that the matter is being studied by the Social Services Board and that the results of that meeting will be made known to him soon after the Social Services Board meeting on February 20, 1974.

A discussion was held on the Michigan State Chamber of Commerce statement regarding "Spending/Taxes", which compares welfare laws between the States of Michigan and Indiana. A copy of this statement was distributed to all Committee Commissioners last month. Mrs. Fontaine stated that she has some material from Lower Michigan which refutes some of the statements made in that publication and will provide that material to the Committee for their information. Moved by Commissioner Anderson, supported by Commissioner Coombs, and unanimously adopted, that the statement be placed on file.

Commissioner Anderson reported that when he was in Lansing recently he had an opportunity to discuss reimbursement from Medicaide for patients at the Acocks Medical Facility with several Legislators, including Mr. Kehres, who serves on the Sub-Committee of the House Appropriation Committee. The present rate of reimbursement does not cover the cost of patient care, and when the Sub-Committee on appropriation holds their hearings it is intended that we have a representative there to present our side of the problem. Commissioner Anderson asked members of the Social Services Board to give him whatever assistance and suggest material which might be submitted to them. He hoped that the rate can be adjusted upward by the State so that the financial basis of the county medical facility can be improved.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned.

  
Secretary



January 15, 1974

Honorable Chairman and Members of the  
Marquette County Board of Commissioners  
Marquette, MI 49855

Ladies & Gentlemen:

A regular meeting of your Welfare Contact Committee was duly called and held on January 16, 1974, 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

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