

June 1, 1970

A meeting of the Welfare Contact Committee was held at the offices of the Social Services Department on Monday, June 1, 1970 at 4:00 p.m. o'clock.

Present: Commissioners C. Anderson, Mattson, Pellonpaa and Racine.

Absent: None.

In Attendance: County Social Services Board members Lehto, Stam and Micklow, together with Mrs. Fontaine, Director.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Pellonpaa who explained that this meeting had been called for the purpose of better acquainting the Board of Commissioners with administrative problems of the Social Services Board and to discuss Social Services matters more fully.

Mrs. Fontaine explained that her department handled all Federal and State welfare programs within Marquette County, which includes assistance to the aged, the blind, disabled, aid to dependant children and aid to dependant children of the unemployed. The department also handles cases where there is a father in the family unit who is physically unable to support his family as well as medical care for the needy under sixty-five years of age and the county hospitalization program for Medicaid and Medicare. These are financed entirely from county funds. Under certain conditions, however, some of these patients may qualify for forty per cent reimbursement from state funds. In addition to these programs the Social Services Department handles the food stamp program of the United States Department of Agriculture as well as a Child Welfare Program for court wards and neglected or delinquent children on a permanent or long term foster care basis.

The Social Services Department now employs a director, thirteen case workers, two supervisors and six and one-half clerks. The director stated the department is understaffed at the present time to carry out the many programs for which it is responsible, but that the State had frozen the employment rosters of the county departments. Staff salaries and administrative costs are paid by the State of Michigan with the county being charged ten per cent of the total. The county is responsible however to provide office space but the Federal Government pays one-half of ninety per cent of this cost, or forty-five per cent, which is reimbursed to the county.

At the present time there are 325 active ADC (Aid to Dependant Children) cases and 225 families are on direct relief.

A lengthy discussion was held regarding violations which are occurring in the welfare area. The director explained that all applications for assistance are investigated to the best of the ability of the department. Occasionally a client will deliberately falsify information upon application and when this is discovered attempts to cancel the assistance invariably result in a request by the client for a hearing in the matter. When this occurs, federal court decisions require that the assistance must be continued until the hearing is held. In most cases the client is represented by the free public attorney and the hearings have all the aspects of a court trial. In many cases witnesses who could prove the violation refuse to testify and this adds greatly to the difficulty Welfare Departments are experiencing in weeding out bad claims. Mrs. Fontaine reported that they are at the present time working on such a case and they have ordered eight persons sub-poenaed to testify in behalf of the department. In future cases the department believes that witnesses will have to be forced into the hearings. Should such a violator properly qualify at a later date for welfare assistance, federal rules prevent the department from deducting past violation claims from future benefits. The only recourse the department has to reclaim monies paid to clients under falsified application is to have the prosecuting attorney bring an action for recovery and, in almost all cases, the finances of the individual are such that payment cannot be forced. The director urged all public officials and citizens knowing of existing violations to report them to the Social Services Department and to stand ready to testify should a hearing be held in the matter.

In the Direct Relief Program the State of Michigan participates to the extent of sixty per cent of the total cost. State regulations provide that when a county has spent one mill of its state equalized value during a given year, the state then pays all of the direct relief costs for the remainder of that year. This ruling has been in effect for a number of years but direct relief costs have never reached the one per cent of state equalized level until 1969. Based on a 1969 state equalized value of approximately \$150,000,000.00 this would mean that direct relief costs over \$150,000.00 would be paid by the state. This level was reached in December 1969, resulting in state payment of \$22,000.00 that month. This indicates that direct relief costs have risen to an all time high in recent months. There has been approximately one hundred new cases to add to the direct relief rolls during the past few months; about one-third of them having been former Royal Oak Charcoal Company's employees who have exhausted their unemployment benefits.

There is a nation-wide trend toward increasing the number of ADC families because of the fact that most of them, under federal rules, can gain as much as can be earned by the average ADC mother. A new Family Assistance Plan will go into effect on July 1, 1971 which will include the working man whose income is lower than standards set for family living. The state will be required to subsidize the difference between a \$1,600.00 annual income for a family of four and whatever the schedule for ADC families requires and this additional responsibility for the state will increase its welfare financial problems also. Welfare costs in general are rising constantly and there doesn't seem to be anything that can be done to halt it.

The matter of college students living off campus and qualifying for the purchase of food stamps was discussed at length. Under U.S. Department of Agriculture Regulations a unit of two or more people who eat at a common table and pool their resources may qualify for food stamps provided their pooled resources are not over a certain level. The applications taken for qualification indicate the amount available for support to the students from the parents. The director felt that in some instances the applicants have larger parental support than is admitted but, under the rules, the Social Services Department must accept the application and the word of the parents, whatever that may be. Personal possessions including automobiles and real estate cannot be included in the test of total liquid assets in determining the eligibility of clients under the food stamp program. During the month of April 750 people were in the food stamp program of which 128 were students. Of the 128 students 95 were married students and 33 were single. No figure was available on students alone but the total program for the month of April for all 750 people showed a sale of \$56,000.00 in stamps together with cash payment by the recipients of \$26,000.00. The difference is paid by the U.S. Department of Agriculture with the Department of Social Services paying a portion of the clerical help to administer the program. When there was news coverage on this matter a month ago the Department of Social Services contacted the Social Services Departments in those communities in Michigan which had colleges as does Marquette County. It was found that all of these departments were handling the food stamp program for college students in the same manner as Marquette County Social Services Department does. Very shortly state representatives of the Social Services Department and representatives of the U.S. Department of Agriculture intend to meet, discuss and adopt more definite rules concerning the eligibility of persons for the food stamp program. It is not known at the present time whether the eligibility regulations will be loosened or tightened.

Discussion was had regarding difficulties Bell Memorial Hospital is experiencing in having cases certified under public programs. Mrs. Fontaine reported that a series of meetings between the Social Services Board and hospital administrators had been set up on a quarterly-annual basis to discuss this very matter. Both St. Mary's Hospital and St. Luke's Hospital representatives attended meetings in the past, adopted the new routine for certifying cases and have put this routine into effect. Both of these hospitals have found that they are able to get a determination on a case within twenty-four hours. Bell Memorial Hospital, however, did not attend the meetings and do not make themselves available of the newer, faster system of certifying patients under public assistance program. Under the old system which they are still using the patients are often discharged from the hospital before an attempt is made for certification with the county department. The Committee suggested that the Social Services Department direct a letter to Bell Memorial Hospital informing them of the new procedure for the certification of cases and to notify this committee of the results such a letter produces.

In discussing public assistance hospital programs the Social Services Board again pointed out the great need in our community for more hospital beds certified for basic care and suggested that Morgan Heights Sanitarium should move in that direction. A new nursing home will be ready for occupancy this fall in the City of Marquette with 110 beds, some to be assigned for skilled nursing cases and some for basic nursing cases. This will reduce the load on Morgan Heights Sanitarium and it was again suggested that certification to handle a greater number of basic care patients at that institution will be most desirable because this is the category which has the far greatest need.

Discussion was had regarding the possibility that the State Department of Social Services may close its three Upper Peninsula District offices in favor of opening one area office at Escanaba. Members present at this meeting considered it very important that should such an Upper Peninsula wide office be established, it be established in Marquette. Marquette is centrally located, has the largest population of any county in the Upper Peninsula and is the medical and educational center of the Upper Peninsula. It was agreed that this committee recommend to the Board of Commissioners that it go on record favoring a Marquette location for the consolidated Social Services Department headquarters should it be established. It was also agreed that representative Dominic Jacobetti be so notified and that the Marquette Chamber of Commerce and City of Marquette officials be requested to urge the State Department to locate its headquarters in Marquette. In gathering data to support this proposal a statement used by the Marquette County Department

of Social Services to the State Department in this matter could be used for some information. It was thought that the Chamber of Commerce would be a good source for information regarding future economic development of this area.

On the matter of contact with the Department of Social Services by individual County Commissioners Mrs. Fontaine suggested that Mrs. Schmeltzer, Intake Clerk at the Marquette office, would be the logical person to quickly identify whether or not certain people have made application for aid, whether or not they would qualify under one or more of the several programs and, if so, will refer the Commissioner to the case worker handling the particular case. She also stressed the importance of having the Department of Social Services' office notified of any or all possible violations and claims that are made from time to time across the county in welfare matters.

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 7:00 p.m. o'clock.

  
Secretary

September 18, 1970.

A meeting of the Welfare Contact Committee was held at the offices of the Social Services Department on Friday, September 18, 1970, at 10:00 o'clock a. m.

Present: Commissioners C. Anderson, Mattson, Pellonpaa and Racine.

Absent: None

In attendance: County Social Services Board members Lehto, Stam and Micklow, together with Mrs. Fontaine, Director.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Pellonpaa. He reported that he and Board Chairman Mattson recently attended a meeting of the Upper Peninsula Association of Counties at Sault Ste. Marie where Marquette County delegates informed the group concerning the consideration now being given by the State Department of Social Services to consolidating its three Upper Peninsula District offices into one Regional office. This matter had been given recent publicity in the Mining Journal because of a discussion held at a Marquette Chamber of Commerce meeting. A motion was made at the Soo meeting for the endorsement of Marquette as a site for such a Regional office by the Upper Peninsula Association of Counties. The motion failed support for the reason that all other counties represented, excepting Delta, were completely unaware of the proposed change. Mr. Pellonpaa reported that after the meeting State Representative Varnum told Mr. Pellonpaa that the Regional office in the Upper Peninsula for the State Department of Social Welfare would be established in Escanaba. The following noon, Mr. Pellonpaa informed Representative Jacobetti of what had transpired and contact was made with the office of Mr. Bernard Houston, Director of the State Department of Social Services at Lansing to get a statement on the matter. Mr. Houston stated that there was no truth in the matter, that the decision on this subject has not yet been resolved, but that if there is going to be one Regional office established for the Upper Peninsula it will be established in Marquette. Representative Jacobetti said he was handling the matter at the Lansing level and wanted to know how the matter broke into press a few weeks ago, as public statements on the matter merely urges Delta County officials to enlarge their efforts to have the office located there. Since the matter has been in the press, however, he thought the County Board of Commissioners should now take a public stand on the issue.

Mrs. Micklow stated that at the July meeting of the County Social Services Board it was decided that support for the locating of this proposed office at Marquette should be had from the City of Marquette and its Chamber of Commerce. She stated further that the resolution which was previously sent by the Marquette County Social Services Board to the office of Mr. Bernard Houston gave every logical argument for the locating of this proposed office in Marquette and that, since this action was done without public news release, it was hoped that the City of Marquette and its Chamber of Commerce could similarly support the position without press notices. Mrs. Micklow explained further that she volunteered to contact Mr. Angeli, President of the Marquette Chamber of Commerce, to write Mr. Houston to support Marquette as the site for the proposed Regional office. A Chamber of Commerce meeting was held on Tuesday morning at 7:30 a. m. and Mrs. Micklow was unable to learn later that day whether or not her request had been approved. The following afternoon she learned that the matter had been approved and that a press release was prepared on the matter. Mr. Ken Lowe, Editor of the Mining Journal, was immediately contacted and she learned that it was too late to suppress the information as it had already been printed in the Wednesday newspaper. Mrs. Micklow reported further that in a recent conversation she had with Mr. Houston that he stated the information submitted his office by the Marquette County Department of Social Services to justify the location of the proposed Regional office in Marquette was most impressive and would go a long way in the final determination of a site. She expressed her regrets that her communication had been used for press release without her permission and that it had caused embarrassment to county officials.

Mrs. Fontaine reported that, if a Regional office is established in Marquette, space might be provided in a new building being erected on the West side of Marquette in which the unemployment service and other state agencies have already taken leased space. When the County-City Administrative building is completed the space now occupied by the County Department of Social Services would also provide a fine location for the State Regional office.

Mrs. Fontaine and members of the County Social Services Board were concerned with the fact that in discussing the matter with Representative Jacobetti he sometimes referred to the possibility of having a "satellite office" in either Escanaba or Marquette, whichever city did not have the Regional office. It was their feeling that the satellite office would not be acceptable to Marquette County for a number of reasons shown in their resolution to the state office as to why the office should be located in Marquette. It was moved by Commissioner Racine, supported by Commissioner Anderson and unanimously adopted, that Representative Jacobetti be informed that Marquette County does not want to even consider the establishment of a satellite office in Marquette with a regional office elsewhere; that the facts and figures justify the establishment of a central regional office in Marquette if the State Department desires to consolidate these services in the Upper Peninsula into one location.

September 18, 1970.

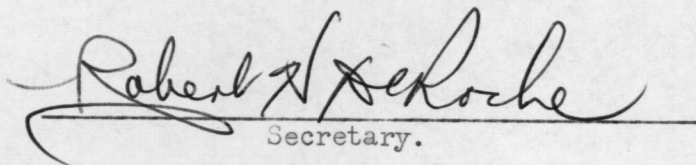
Page 2.

Mrs. Fontaine reported that the Act 54 Board can make application for state funds to care for mental patients in the psychiatric unit at St. Mary's Hospital for patients who are eligible for public assistance on the basis of 75% state support with 25% local. The 25% local support can be covered by services in kind already being supplied by the County Department of Social Services so that no additional funds would be required from the General Fund of the county. She reported that no application has been made for these funds during the past fiscal year but that other Act 54 Boards in the Upper Peninsula have done so and have such a program now. She reported further that the sum of \$32,043.00 was spent by the Department of Social Services on this category of patients during the fiscal year ending June 30, 1970, and that they have requested the local Act 54 Board to include the sum of \$35,000.00 in the current budget request to the state for this purpose. It is her understanding that this is being done.

Discussion was had regarding the phasing out of the Sarepta Rest Home at Republic which will take place on April 30, 1971. Mrs. Fontaine reported that the problem is somewhat lessened because there are people in the community who are interested in building more facilities for this type of care. In addition, the Breitung Hotel in Negaunee is now handling older people and it is possible that it will be certified for this type of patient and that they can be transferred there from the Sarepta Home if it closes next April. Certification of the need for facilities has been made by the key agencies in the county and there is a possibility that the injunction against the contractor to complete the Four Seasons facility at Marquette might be lifted. This, of course, would provide another fine large facility. Discussion was had regarding Senator Mack's statement on a number of occasions in the past that he would do everything possible to prevent the closing of the Sarepta Home. While the home may fail to meet the standards set by the Department of Social Services at Lansing, the staff is providing such an unusually fine care that it should be extended if at all possible. Moved by Commissioner Mattson, supported by Commissioner Racine and unanimously adopted that a letter be addressed to Senator Mack to look into this matter and to report back to this committee.

Committee members were shown the new entrance provided at the Social Services Department offices for the food stamp program clients and the new counter set-up for that purpose. This improvement materially reduces the confusion that formerly existed in the offices because of the large numbers of food-stamp clients.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned.

  
Secretary.

November 9, 1970

A meeting of the Welfare Contact Committee was held at the offices of the Social Services Department on Monday, November 9, 1970, at 10:00 o'clock a.m.

Present: Commissioners C. Anderson, Mattson, Pellonpaa and Racine.

Absent: None.

In attendance: County Social Services Board members Stam and Micklow, together with Mrs. Fontaine, Director.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Pellonpaa. He explained the main purpose of this meeting is to discuss the request of the Social Services Department for a supplemental grant of \$81,100.00 to finance the remainder of the 1970 fiscal period. Mrs. Fontaine explained that it was known last Spring that the 1970 budget would not be sufficient to cover the needs of that department and that this fact was made known to the Budget and Executive Committee. That committee recommended that no request be made for additional monies until later in the year when the actual amount could be determined. At this time it appears that the sum of \$81,100.00 will be needed to cover the obligations of the Department of Social Services to the end of 1970. After the close of the year, when State reimbursement is made, it is expected that between \$30,000.00 and \$40,000.00 will be available for return to the Revolving Fund. In the interim, however, the department will need these funds to pay their bills.

Mrs. Fontaine explained that the direct relief load has more than doubled during the last ten months and that the unemployment rate for the Marquette-Alger area is now 10.7%. The department is receiving applications from many who have never before made application. The situation this year is similar to the year 1958 when that department needed an additional \$86,000.00 to complete its yearly operation and the need resulted in the balloting for extra voted millage. In November of 1969 there were 144 cases on the direct relief rolls. At the present time there are 297 cases on direct relief. The State is presently paying 40% of direct relief costs and the County's legal maximum limit of 1 mill (approximately \$170,000.00) direct relief will have been spent by the first week in December. Direct relief costs, therefore, for the remainder of the year will be at 100% State cost.

Because of the fact that the direct relief case load represents a larger portion of the total load than last year, the State has adjusted the County's share of the administrative cost from 15 to 20%. Minimum welfare standards have been adopted by the State and the department has been using these standards since July 1, 1967. The doubled case load, however, is the prime reason for the additional financial need.

By law ADC benefits were increased in August 1970 approximately \$8.00 per person across the board and some of the "over sixty-five" categories were also increased by State standards. Hospital costs have increased to a point where they now take about 1/3 of the total welfare grant and medical costs are also growing by leaps and bounds. This year the sum of \$32,000.00 was spent for mental care in out-patient and hospital care which would not have been spent if the mental health clinic had received State funds for this purpose in the 1970 budget. The Social Services Department is also holding about \$4,000.00 in billings for professional services at the Mental Health Clinic. They have not paid the bills for the reason that it was their belief the professional services were available to indigents without charge. This matter has not yet been worked out. The Social Services Department has made a request of the State Department of Health to grant emergency funds to cover the mental health case load between now and July 1, 1971, when funds for this purpose will be included in the budget appropriation to the Mental Health Clinic. This matter has not yet been resolved and is based solely upon the hope that the State Mental Health Department may have some remaining funds for this purpose.

Discussion was had on means to weed out fraud on the welfare rolls. Committee members expressed a belief that some recipients were falsifying information on their applications in order to obtain welfare grants. Mrs. Fontaine explained that, under the new rules, welfare applications are taken at their face value and only where fraud is suspected can a thorough check be made. For this reason she again urged county officials and all interested persons to report suspected irregularity to the department and to stand ready to back them up with testimony if it develops that the department schedules a hearing to prove whether or not fraud exists in a particular case. The fact that most people prefer not to become involved is the main reason why many irregular cases cannot be removed from the rolls.

It was reported that the Dental Association served notice of an increase in cost for dentures of \$125.00 per plate to \$175.00 and an increase for extractions from \$6.00 for the first extraction and \$5.00 for each additional extraction at the same sitting to \$7.00 straight per extraction. The Welfare Board has informed the Dental Association that it will adhere to the old schedule and employ those Dentists who will provide those services for those fees. In the areas of dental care, mental care and hospitalization, the County Social Services Board has the right to set policy. These programs are at 100% county funds and, therefore, differ from the other categories where State and Federal funds are involved and where State and Federal regulations apply. For this reason the Social Services Board will review the dental, mental health and hospitalization programs but they see little possibility of affecting any sizeable saving.

The ADC program was criticized in that most of the people under the program do not have the potential to obtain a job where the pay would bring as much as the benefits now being paid by ADC. The program, therefore, encourages people who are under-employed to remain on the program. This is a national program and this tendency is nationwide.

The former rules covering the financial responsibility of relatives have now been cancelled and this too, adds something to the total welfare costs. Marquette County is not alone in the problem of increased welfare costs. Counties across the Upper Peninsula are known to be faced with similar problems and it is presumed that counties in the Lower Peninsula are likewise affected. It was suggested that the County Board of Commissioners adopt a resolution requesting the State of Michigan to assume total welfare costs or revise the welfare rules to reverse the flow of welfare monies. Moved by Commissioner Mattson, supported by Commissioner Racine and unanimously adopted, that this committee recommend to the Board of Commissioners the adoption of a resolution requesting the Legislature to provide 100% State funds for welfare purposes or a revision of the rules of eligibility to tighten up on welfare costs.

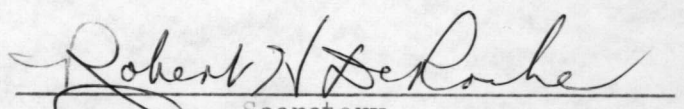
A discussion was held regarding the Food Stamp Program. State and Federal regulations guide the program. Much criticism is being heard regarding participation in this program by college students. Arrangements have been made for the stamp sale clerk to check with the College Housing Authority to determine which students have been authorized to live off campus and case workers are checking the residents of those clients who have qualified under the stamp program.  $1\frac{1}{2}$  clerks are employed on this program by the Department of Social Services with 40% of the salary costs being returned to the County by the State. The 60% represents the total cost to the County on this program. At the present time 133 students are certified for the purchase of stamps and this includes the married students. Before applications are completed letters are written to the parents and, when parents indicate there is no need for the student to apply, they are dropped. 875 families now participate in the program.

Discussion was had regarding the proposed consolidation of the three Upper Peninsula District Offices of the Department of Social Services into one Regional office. At the present time one field representative is located in Marquette and two are located in Escanaba. One of these two representatives, however, is located there for his own convenience and probably should be located in Dickinson or Iron County. Apparently no further action has been taken in this matter by the State since the last meeting of this committee. A communication from the Marquette Chamber of Commerce however recommending Marquette as the site for the consolidated Regional office was sent to Mr. R. Bernard Houston, Director of the Michigan Department of Social Services at Lansing. A copy of this letter is attached.

Discussion was had regarding the possibility of setting up a work program for healthy relief clients. Mrs. Fontaine pointed out that the State Department will now cover such a program with Workmen's Compensation Insurance coverage. Under such a program workers can work out their relief benefits on the basis of hourly rates established in conformity with rates for similar work in this area. This labor can only be used in connection with the operations of nonprofit corporations such as governments and their subsidiaries, hospitals, schools etc. Mrs. Fontaine felt that by having welfare recipients work out their grant they would be less likely to remain on welfare rolls permanently and some good would be provided the community for the money spent. Since the possibility exists that some of the building trades might object to this type program it was suggested that this committee meet with the Social Services Board and representatives of the building trades for further discussion of this type of program. Moved by Commissioner Mattson, supported by Commissioner Racine and unanimously adopted, that Mrs. Fontaine arrange a meeting between the parties mentioned, the meeting to be held as soon as possible.

Further discussion was held on the request of the Social Services Department for an additional grant of \$81,100.00. This sum is needed to continue the present program to the end of the year and the reasons for the increased costs have been explained by the Social Services Board. It was, therefore, moved by Commissioner Anderson, supported by Commissioner Mattson and unanimously adopted, that this committee recommend to the Budget and Executive Committee that the request be granted.

There being no further business the meeting adjourned.

  
Secretary.

File

February 24, 1971

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

Gentlemen:

Your Welfare Contact Committee met with the County Welfare Board on February 24, 1971. Detailed minutes of this meeting have been furnished to all members of the Board of Commissioners and a copy is attached hereto and made a part of this report.

Respectfully submitted,

WELFARE CONTACT COMMITTEE

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

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\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_



February 24, 1971

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

Gentlemen:

Your Welfare Contact Committee met with the County Welfare Board on February 24, 1971, and also convened, in special session, with the Alger-Delta-Marquette Act 54 Board, and representatives of Delta and Alger County Boards of Commissioners, and officials of the Marquette, Delta and Alger Boards of Social Services, on March 11, 1971. Detailed minutes of these two meetings have been furnished to all members of the Board of Commissioners, and copies are attached hereto and made a part of this report.

Respectfully submitted,

WELFARE CONTACT COMMITTEE

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

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February 24, 1971

A regular meeting of the Welfare Contact Committee was duly called and held at the offices of the Social Services Department in Marquette on Wednesday, February 24, 1971, at 10:30 o' clock p. m.

Present: Commissioners Morrison, Pellonpaa and Selin.

Absent: Commissioner DeJuliannie.

In attendance: County Welfare Board members Lehto, Micklow and Stam, together with Mrs. Fontaine, Director of the Department of Social Services.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Selin. Discussion was had on the matter of the responsibility to cover the cost of welfare clients admitted to the psychiatric ward of St. Mary's Hospital for treatment and the matter of payment for professional services of a psychiatrist for these clients. Mrs. Fontaine explained that she learned at a meeting in Menominee last fall that payment of these claims was being made for that county through its Act 54 Board. After making oral inquiry here and not obtaining all the information she felt her department needed in the matter, a communication was addressed to the Director of the Michigan Department of Health at Lansing on November 9, 1970. Reply to the questions raised in the letter was made under date of December 27, 1970 to the Department of Social Services here. Copies of both letters are attached to these minutes. At the present time, the Act 54 board is billing the County Department of Social Services for professional services provided to welfare clients. These billings were not made throughout the past several years until April 1, 1970 and payment of the accumulated claims since that time (approximately \$6,000.00 in claims) is being withheld pending a determination of the responsibility in the matter. Act 54 Board takes the position that they are entitled to these fees as from any other patient. The fees collected apply toward the portion of operating expense which is required to be met at the local level. The Welfare Board takes the position that one government agency should not be billing another agency and that, in any event, the patients involved are indigents and the services should be without charge. The matter has not been resolved at this date. Moved by Commissioner Pellonpaa, supported by Commissioner Morrison and unanimously adopted that arrangements be made for a joint meeting of this committee with the Social Welfare Board and representation from the Act 54 Board, the State Department of Mental Health and the State Advisory Board for the Department of Mental Health, the date and time of the meeting to be subject to the availability of representatives from the State Department of Mental Health and its Advisory Board.

It was explained that payment of bills to St. Mary's Hospital for hospitalization of clients in the psychiatric ward were withheld pending a determination of whether or not a supplemental grant could be made by the State of Michigan to the local Act 54 Board to cover these expenses. Since it has been determined that no additional funds for this purpose are available to the Act 54 Board, the Department of Social Services paid the accumulated bills, amounting to approximately \$20,000.00, to St. Mary's Hospital in February, 1971. The Welfare Board has adopted a policy of covering payment for this type of service until July 1, 1971, after which time the Act 54 Board should have funds for this purpose as included in its 1971-1972 budget request to the State of Michigan.

Discussion was had on the possibility of setting up a work project for able body men who qualify for welfare assistance. Many of them are from the building industry and such a program would enable them to work out their assistance orders by providing work to non-profit corporations such as hospitals or schools. While this would provide benefit for the monies expended, it would also tend to prevent able bodied men from becoming permanent welfare cases. Some opposition is being registered against the plan by local union members. A meeting to discuss the matter is being held on the evening of March 2, 1971, and an invitation has been extended to the Department of Social Services to have not more than two persons attend. It was decided that Committee Chairman Selin and Social Services Director Fontaine should attend this meeting.

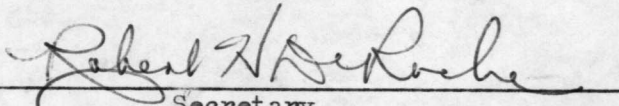
It was decided that future meetings of this committee be held on the second Monday of each month, at 10:30 o' clock a. m. in the offices of the Department of Social Services.

Discussion was had on the need to establish a Child Care Fund to be administered by the Department of Social Services. At the present time there is considerable work involved in getting the emergency needs of minors covered by making application to the Probate Judge for benefits to be paid from the Juvenile Division's Child Care Fund. These claims can be handled more effectively if taken care of by the Department of Social Services, but in order to do so a Child Care Fund must be set up within the department. In either event, the State will reimburse 50% of the expenditures involved. Mrs. Fontaine suggested that such a fund be created by the Board of Commissioners by transferring \$15,000.00 from the Welfare Fund to the Child Care Fund. No additional funds are involved and this would merely be an administrative matter. Communication requesting the establishment of this fund will be sent to the Board of Commissioners at its next meeting.

The Department of Social Services is in the process of cataloguing the duties of the various staff employees. This is done so that certain employees will be assigned only to income maintenance programs in anticipation of this segment of welfare work being taken over completely by the Federal Government. It appears that we are working toward Federal-State welfare programs which will no longer involve county financial participation. It is thought that the income maintenance programs will be handled by the Federal Government and the remaining welfare programs by either the State or Federal government or a combination of both. In such an event, it is expected that the county welfare board would be replaced with a local advisory board and many State and Federal services at the local level will be reorganized and combined. This change-over is not expected to take place until July 1, 1972, at the earliest.

In the Food Stamp Program at the present time, there are 59 single student households, involving 111 single persons, and there are 182 married person households involving 480 persons. Most of the criticism of the program is levelled at the single student participation but it represents the minority of the total program. The cost to the county continues to be about 1/2 of a clerk's salary.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned.

  
Secretary.

March 12, 1971

A special meeting of the Welfare Contact Committee was duly called and held at the Court House, Escanaba, Michigan, on March 11, 1971 at 7:30 p.m.

Present: Commissioners DeJuliannie, Morrison and Pellonpaa.  
Absent: Commissioner Selin.

In attendance at this meeting were members of the Act 54 Board together with its staff members, Dr. Wall and Francis Dompierre; Donald Giesen, Administrator of St. Mary's Hospital; Mrs. Mudge, member of the State Advisory Board on Mental Health; Mrs. Micklow, Mr. Lehto and Mr. Stam, members of the Marquette County Social Welfare Board, together with Mrs. Fontaine, Director; Mrs. Aley, Director of Alger County Department of Social Welfare and Mr. Curran, Director of Delta County Department of Social Welfare; and members of the Delta County Board of Commissioners.

Dr. Maniaci, Chairman of the Alger-Delta-Marquette Act 54 Board moderated the joint meeting which was called for the express purpose of resolving the problem of responsibility for the care of Social Service Department clients who require care at St. Mary's Hospital Psychiatric Ward and the professional services required for these patients.

A general discussion of the problems ensued. James Dompierre, former President of the Act 54 Board, explained the organization and aims of the Act 54 operation. Mrs. Fontaine and Dr. Wall explained the method of funding for the care of psychiatric patients who are indigents. To date, the Social Services Department had provided care for whatever hospitalization care was required for its patients, including mental illness. Mrs. Fontaine explained that the Welfare laws prevent them from assuming the responsibility for any client who can obtain services from any other program. She stated further that during 1970 approximately \$35,000.00 was spent by the Social Services Department for the mental care of indigents at St. Mary's Hospital and that this expenditure contributed to a great extent in the department's need to request additional appropriation of \$81,100.00 from the Board of Supervisors last November. It was her thought that this type of expenditure should be included in the Act 54 Board's budget.

Dr. Wall explained that hospital bills of this type have been paid by the Department of Social Services during the past few years and that the possibility of including this responsibility in the Act 54 Board budget was not raised until 1970. The sum of \$35,000.00 has been included in the July 1, 1971 to June 30, 1972 budget request, and, while it is very hopeful that the request will be granted, there is no guarantee that the state will allow it. At this point, Mrs. Mudge, representing the Advisory Board, stated that funds for psychiatric care included in the Act 54 Board budget are treated as high priority with the State Department of Mental Health.

In general discussion it was determined that expenditures of the Act 54 Board are based upon 25% local support, including appropriation from the Board of Supervisors, fees earned, and other local revenues, with the remaining 75% paid by the State of Michigan. Under the present method of using funds from the Department of Social Services to cover hospital care for indigents, payment is made from 100% county funds. Mrs. Fontaine explained that welfare costs have advanced at a tremendous rate, and that unemployment has now reached over 12% in the county. The budget for the next fiscal year is estimated at \$445,000.00 representing an increase of \$98,000.00 over the 1971 allowance, and for this reason, the Department of Social Welfare is more than anxious to relieve itself of whatever financial obligations it can. Dr. Wall explained that contact with Mr. Ethridge, of the Department of Mental Health at Lansing, by letter and telephone, indicated that the decision to fund the care for indigent mental patients in a psychiatric unit is a matter for local discretion and the policy should be established at the local level by the Boards of Commissioners involved. On the matter of billing the Social Services Department for professional services, other than hospitalization, required by indigent mental patients, it is again a matter for local determination. Fees for professional services are used by Act 54 Boards in part to meet the 25% required local support for its operations. The Department of Social Services, however, takes the stand that to bill them for these services represents inter-departmental billing and should be carried by the Act 54 Board budget rather than the Social Services Department budget.

Dr. Wall expressed concern over the fact that care for indigents in the psychiatric wards during the months of July and August of this year might not be covered. The Social Services Department has agreed to pay for this type of service up to and including June 30, 1971. It is hoped that funds for this type of service will be approved in the state budget for the Act 54 Board, but the decision is not expected

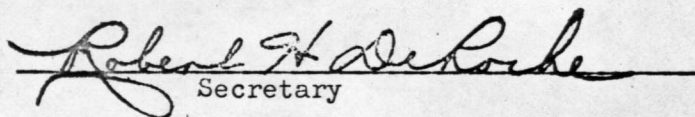
until, perhaps, the latter part of August. At this point there was discussion as to whether or not a small committee of the group present at this meeting should be named to meet with the County Boards of Alger, Delta and Marquette Counties to request stand-by emergency appropriations from the boards to cover the expenditures during this interim period. Further discussion brought out the fact that county boards have no way of raising additional funds during the year, so if a financial problem exists because of this situation, they will be no worse off to consider the matter in late August, when it can be known for a certainty that a problem exists, than to discuss it now. Should the State allow the budget appropriation in the Act 54 budget, the problem would be resolved and the county boards would not be involved in additional appropriations during the year.

It was assumed that in any event care for the patients should be had at the psychiatric ward. Not to do so would require sending the patient to Newberry State Hospital. The average stay of patients there for treatment is 60 days. The average stay for treatment in the psychiatric ward for patients is 15 days. If patients are sent to Newberry, even though the rate is much lower, the total expense involved per patient is greater because of the longer period, and care for patients at Newberry is paid for by the county from its General Fund on a 100% basis. It would appear, therefore, that county boards would have to pick up this expense in any event unless the State allows the \$35,000.00 additional budget request to the Act 54 Board budget. As was earlier stated, this type of care commands high priority in Act 54 budgets, and for that reason it was hoped that funds will be appropriated. At this time it was pointed out, however, that if the State of Michigan allows the \$35,000.00 appropriation by reducing other budget items that have been granted in the past, the Act 54 Board would have to curtail services and/or request additional funds from county boards. Whether or not a problem exists, however, will be known definitely by the end of August.

The meeting concluded with general agreement among Act 54 Board members that they will proceed on the basis of budgeting the care for indigent psychiatric patients on the basis that county boards would be better served to increase Act 54 budget appropriations by 25% of the cost of the care rather than have them paid from Welfare funds on a 100% basis.

The matter of billing for professional services was not resolved. Mrs. Mudge indicated however, that the Mental Health Advisory Board would present the matter for discussion at its next meeting, and recommend to the State Department of Mental Health that some state-wide policy be established in the matter.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned.

  
Secretary

April 13, 1971

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

Gentlemen:

Your Welfare Contact Committee last met on April 13, 1971. Detailed minutes of that meeting have been furnished each County Commissioner and a copy is attached hereto and made a part of this report.

Your Committee believes that welfare abuses have reached a point where corrective measures should be taken.

All rules regulating the disposition of welfare benefits are made by the state and federal governments and attempts to correct the problem should be made at the state level. Your Committee is aware of a recent welfare audit made in Ingham County in which many welfare abuses were uncovered. Your Committee is also aware that the State of Michigan has given consideration to the possibility of auditing a number of counties to uncover welfare abuses. Your Committee recommends that the Board of Commissioners adopt the attached resolution and that copies be sent to all other counties in the state.

Respectfully submitted,

WELFARE CONTACT COMMITTEE

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

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## RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the Marquette County Board of Commissioners has been and continues to be interested in and concerned about the welfare program in Michigan and the provision of adequate assistance and services for those who are in need, and

WHEREAS, the continuing provision of these services for those in need of public assistance is being threatened by welfare abuses such as those disclosed in a recent audit of the Ingham County Social Services Department, and

WHEREAS, the Michigan House of Representatives has delayed action on a resolution sponsored by State Representative James Smith urging the creation of a special committee to investigate welfare abuses in Ingham and Genesee Counties and other parts of the state, and

WHEREAS, while the percentage of welfare frauds may be small in comparison to the total welfare budget, this fact does not justify the existence of fraud and the resulting dilution of benefits for those who are eligible for assistance and services, and

WHEREAS, the disclosure of genuine fraud cases by means of a special investigating committee of the Michigan legislature may result in the imposition of rigid controls and reform of the welfare system in Michigan with a substantial saving in welfare expenditures by state and county units of government, and

WHEREAS, the Marquette County Board of Commissioners is faced with the unavailability of tax money to meet the projected needs of the Marquette County Department of Social Services for the calendar year 1972.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Michigan legislature be urged to approve a special committee to investigate welfare abuses on a state-wide basis.

April 13, 1971

A regular meeting of the Welfare Contact Committee was duly called and held at the offices of the Social Services Department on April 13, 1971, at 3:45 p.m.

Present: Commissioners DeJuliannie, Morrison and Pellonpaa  
Absent: Commissioner Selin

In Attendance: Mrs. M. L. Fontaine, Director of the Department of Social Services and Mr. Al. Stam, County Welfare Board member.

In the absence of Chairman Selin, the meeting was called to order by Vice Chairman Morrison. Discussion was held regarding a communication from St. Mary's Hospital to County Board Chairman Pellonpaa, regarding the responsibility for the payment of in-patient hospitalization for mental patients after July 1, 1971, at which time the Social Services Department has indicated they would refuse liability, and such claims should be paid by the Act 54 Board. The Act 54 Board has made a budget request to the State Department of Mental Health to cover this type of expenditure, but there is no assurance at this time that the appropriation will be made. Actually, the determination is not expected until August, 1971. Mrs. Fontaine said that she understood that if the Act 54 Board does not get the requested fund, it would be the Social Service Department's responsibility to find some method of payment for the services. In any eventuality it would be the Social Service Department's responsibility to do the case work. If it develops that no state fund is available to the Act 54 Board and the counties have to supply the money to pay these bills after July 1, it probably would be better to have the Social Services Department handle these cases because the machinery to process the claims is already set up. The only real advantage to having the Act 54 Board pay the bills, instead of the Social Services Department, is that the Act 54 Board would actually be paying only 25%, with 75% matching state funds, whereas the Social Services Department would be dispensing 100% county monies. This matter will also be discussed at the Budget & Executive Committee meeting this evening.

Mrs. Fontaine reported that her agency had experienced considerable difficulty over a ward of the Michigan Children's Institute for whom application was made for admission to Brookridge. The state takes the position that since state funds are involved in Brookridge's operation, per diem and professional services charges may not be made for an indigent. The per diem rate is \$20.00 per day, and an attempt to bill the Michigan Children's Institute would result in the cut-back of state support to Brookridge by 60%.

Mrs. Fontaine also reported that Bell Memorial Hospital representatives now attend the quarterly meetings that are held by the Social Services Department for hospital administrators. The problems which existed on applications filed by Bell Memorial Hospital in the past have been resolved, and the working relationship has been improved to the point of satisfaction.

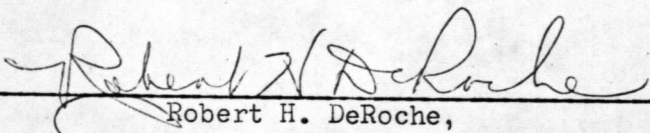
A discussion was held regarding an audit which was made in Ingham County in which a quarter of a million dollars in fraudulent welfare payments were uncovered. The system of self-declaration which now applies to adult categories is under consideration for application to ADC cases after July 1. The State Director of Welfare is now making a study of this procedure and will make recommendations to the Governor and Legislature on the subject. At the local level, a group of citizens has been in contact with the Social Services Department, registering considerable concern about a number of welfare cases, and intimating that petitions should be circulated asking the State Legislature to put an end to welfare abuses. It was moved by Commissioner Pellonpaa, supported by Commissioner Morrison and unanimously adopted that this committee recommend to the Board of Commission that a resolution be adopted to initiate a probe of welfare abuses and that copies of the resolution be sent to all other counties.

Mrs. Fontaine reported her inability to arrange a meeting with the Upper Peninsula Trades Council regarding a work program for welfare recipients. It seems that they are stalling in the matter. A meeting which was arranged between the Trades Council, Mrs. Fontaine and Commissioner Selin, which was to be held on March 2, 1971, was cancelled by the Trade Council President, and efforts by telephone to set another meeting date have failed. A communication was addressed to Mr. Quinn, President of the U. P. Trades Council, on March 29, but no reply has been received to date.



Gogebic County has already started their work program for welfare recipients and Mrs. Fontaine felt that we should no longer wait for the Trades Council to meet and discuss the matter. The Gogebic County program is similar to what is proposed here. That welfare department develops programs with non-profit organizations within the county, sets up a contract to perform certain services, and the welfare recipient is given employment in his respective trade, at the going trade rate and allowed to work a sufficient time to earn the money that he would otherwise be entitled to from welfare. This tends to keep these recipients from becoming permanent welfare cases and provides improvements to the community which would otherwise not be accomplished. Moved by Commissioner Morrison, supported by Commissioner DeJuliannie and unanimously adopted that Mrs. Fontaine be requested to contact Mr. Quinn and explain that the Welfare Committee of the Board of County Commissioners has requested that she make one more attempt to arrange the meeting on this subject, and if it cannot be arranged, that the program be developed and presented to the County Board of Commissioners for consideration without consultation with the Trade Council.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned.

  
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Robert H. DeRoche,  
County Controller

May 10, 1971

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

Gentlemen:

Your Welfare Contact Committee last met on May 10, 1971. Detailed minutes of that meeting have been furnished each County Commissioner and a copy is attached hereto and made a part of this report.

Respectfully submitted,

WELFARE CONTACT COMMITTEE

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

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May 10, 1971

A regular meeting of the Welfare Contact Committee was duly called and held at the offices of the Social Services Department on May 10, 1971, at 3:45 p.m.

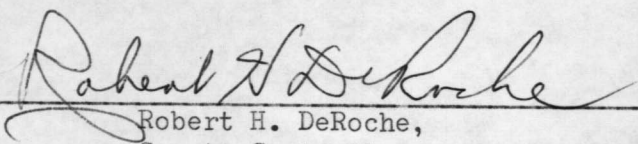
Present: Commissioners DeJuliannie and Morrison  
Absent: Commissioners Pellonpaa and Selin

In attendance: Social Service Board members Lehto, Micklow and Stam, together with Mrs. Mary L. Fontaine, Director.

The meeting was called to order by Vice Chairman Morrison. Mrs. Fontaine reported that the proposed Work Training Program for direct relief recipients has been confirmed by Mr. Michael Quinn, President of the Upper Peninsula Trades Council. She reported further that plans have been approved by the State Office for maintenance work in the Negaunee City Schools; for employment with the City of Ishpeming to help city employees with snow removal, janitorial work, and also work in the park and cemetery; and work for the City of Marquette similar to the types listed for the City of Ishpeming. The Social Services Board is in the process of developing the program for presentation to the Board of Commissioners at a later date. No project will include work for which budget approval has already been made by the government unit involved. Considerable discussion was held regarding insurance liabilities which may be involved in this program. Workmen's Compensation coverage has already been secured. In the area of liability to persons or property by these workers, it was suggested that the Prosecuting Attorney be requested to give guidance to the Social Services Department. It was agreed that no work would proceed under this program until insurance needs were determined and coverage secured. If additional insurance coverage is needed and recommended by the Prosecuting Attorney, the Committee requested the Board of Social Services to inquire into the cost, and determine whether or not they wished to proceed.

A communication from Probate Judge DeFant, addressed to the Budget and Executive Committee on the matter of Social Service Department child care fund was read. It appears that Judge DeFant is concerned that the Social Services Department might attempt to care for some children from this fund rather than use the provisions of the federal program for Aid to Dependent Children. Mrs. Fontaine again explained the need for the fund along the same lines as the communication presented to the Board of Commissioners at its March meeting. Briefly the fund will be used only for short-term care in emergency cases where the hearings have not as yet been held by the Probate Court to determine the status of the children involved, and to make permanent arrangements for their care. In these emergency cases, as soon as the Court enters an order for the care of these children, funds other than this child care fund will provide care for these children.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned.

  
Robert H. DeRoche,  
County Controller

June 16, 1971

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

Gentlemen:

Your Welfare Contact Committee met on June 16, 1971. A copy of the minutes of that meeting have been furnished to every committee member, and a copy is attached hereto and made a part of this report.

Considerable discussion was held at this meeting regarding the Department of Social Welfare's work and training program for welfare recipients. At the present time, projects have been approved by the State Department of Social Services for the City of Negaunee, Negaunee City Schools, Negaunee Township, City of Marquette and City of Ishpeming. Potential users of the available help are the Marquette City Schools, Ishpeming City Schools, Marquette County Road Commission, County Airport and County Parks System. At present, Alger, Gogebic and Houghton Counties have organized work and training programs, and some of the down-state counties have similar programs. Under the law, if a recipient is employable and available, but refuses the work offered him under this program, he will forfeit his rights to aid.

This Committee believes that this program has real merit and that the concept of providing labor in exchange for welfare benefits will be well received by the public. Your Committee recommends that the Board of Commissioners approve the work and training program to be administered by the Department of Social Services, and urge the completion of the plans for the establishment of this program as soon as possible.

Respectfully submitted,  
WELFARE CONTACT COMMITTEE

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Chairman  
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June 16, 1971

A regular meeting of the Welfare Contact Committee was duly called and held at the offices of the Department of Social Services on Wednesday, June 16, 1971, at 4:15 p.m.

Present: Commissioners DeJuliannie, <sup>Morrison</sup> Mattson, Pellonpaa and Selin.

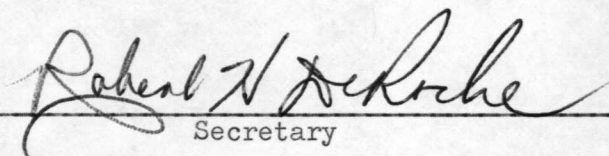
Absent: None

In Attendance: Welfare Board Member Stam and Mrs. Fontaine, Director.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Selin, and a discussion was held on the Welfare Department's Work and Training Program for welfare recipients. At the present time, projects have been approved by the State Department of Social Services for the City of Negaunee, Negaunee City Schools, Negaunee Township, City of Marquette and City of Ishpeming. Potential users of the available help are the Marquette City Schools, Ishpeming City Schools, Marquette County Road Commission, County Airport and County Parks System. The County Department of Social Services is in the process of obtaining clearance from the State Department to employ a work coordinator. It is possible that two college students could be used for this purpose on a half-time basis each during the summer months, and that the Department would go to a full-time coordinator later. There is also a possibility that some of the college students who are now receiving aid might have the qualifications to serve as coordinator under the program, and work out their aid. At the present time, Alger, Gogebic and Houghton Counties have organized work and training programs and some of the down-state counties have similar programs. Under the law, if a recipient is employable and available, but refuses the work offered him under this program, he will forfeit his rights to aid. The program is not developed for punitive reasons, but is aimed at sustaining skills for the newly unemployed, and to prevent workers from becoming hard-core welfare cases, by requiring work in exchange for aid. Moved by Commissioner Morrison, supported by Commissioner DeJuliannie, and unanimously adopted, that this Committee recommend to the Board of Commissioners that the Department of Social Services be encouraged to complete its plans for the establishment of a work and training program for Marquette County.

Discussion was held regarding the care for indigent mental patients in the psychiatric unit at St. Mary's Hospital on and after July 1, 1971. The Department of Social Services has committed itself to cover the cost of this care only up to and including June 30. It is not yet known whether or not the State Department of Mental Health will allow the requested budget appropriation in the Act 54 Budget for 1971-72. Commencing July 1, 1971, hopefully the allowance will be made so that there will be financial coverage for these cases. No decision can be made on this responsibility until the action taken by the State Department on the next fiscal year's budget is known.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned.

  
Secretary

July 12, 1971

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

Gentlemen:

Your Welfare Contact Committee last met on July 12, 1971. Detailed minutes of that meeting have been furnished each County Commissioner and a copy is attached hereto and made a part of this report.

Respectfully submitted,

WELFARE CONTACT COMMITTEE

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

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July 12, 1971

A regular meeting of the Welfare Contact Committee was duly called and held at the office of the Department of Social Services on Monday, July 12, 1971, at 4:15 p.m.

Present: Commissioners C. Anderson, DeJuliannie, Morrison and Selin.

Absent: Commissioner Pellanpaa.

In Attendance: Welfare Board Member Stam and Mrs. Fontaine, Director.

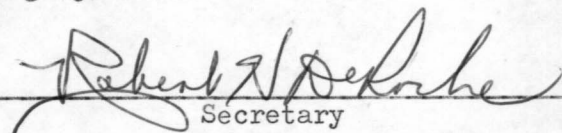
The meeting was called to order by Chairman Selin. A discussion of the work and training program was held. The Director explained that they have agreements with the City of Ishpeming, City of Marquette, Negaunee School System, County Road Commission, Morgan Heights Sanatorium and Brookridge for the use of these workers. Unless other governmental units especially wish to add to the group of users, it is felt that there is a sufficient outlet for the workers available. Some difficulty is being experienced in arranging transportation for the workers and the Department is still working on this problem. This project is not yet fully developed as they have not acquired a coordinator. It is believed that a coordinator would be able to look after the many details of assigning workers and accounting for them, and that the project simply cannot function without one. It is proposed that such a person be obtained from among welfare recipients and that he could work out his benefits at a rate of \$3.00 per hour. It was moved by Morrison, supported by DeJuliannie and unanimously adopted that the Social Services Board be urged to acquire such a coordinator as soon as possible to give impetus to the program.

The Director reported that the audit of the Ingham County Welfare rolls has been completed by the Michigan State examiners. Newspaper releases in the recent past alleged fraud amounting to over \$200,000 in that Department. The completed audit shows that this figure was based on the number of checks issued by Ingham County Department to replace state checks to welfare clients which had either been lost or stolen. The law provides for this routine, and further provides that the recipient files an affidavit concerning the loss and agrees to reimburse the County Department from future state checks. The audit shows that all but \$13,000 had been repaid to Ingham County at the time the news releases were given. It is evident that these releases were based on a difference between the County Board of Commissioners and the Social Services Board, and that the information given the public was not complete.

Discussion of the increasing welfare load was then held. Records show that in 1969 a monthly average of 173 were receiving general assistance; in 1970 240 were on general assistance; and during the first 6 months of 1971, the monthly average for general assistance is 288. As of June 30, 1971, there were 298 general assistance cases on the rolls. These cases are covered by direct relief, and it would appear that Marquette County will reach its 1.5 mill limit earlier during 1971 than in prior years. After that limit has been reached, direct relief expenses are covered in full by the state so that it should not mean a larger outlay of County moneys during 1971. The medical expenses covered by the Welfare Department presents a different picture, however. Hospital and doctor bills for needy persons between the ages of 21 and 65 must be covered by the Department of Social Services, and these expenditures are not matchable in any amount from either state or federal funds. Mrs. Fontaine explained that there has been very little increase in the case load, if any, during recent years, but that the per diem rate at the hospital has more than doubled in the last few years. During 1970, approximately \$10,000 per month was spent by the Welfare Department for doctor and hospital bills. This year the monthly outlay is averaging about \$20,000 per month. This accounts for the fact that the 1972 budget estimate is \$98,000 greater than the 1971 allocation.

Discussion was had regarding the fact that the steel workers are now negotiating for a contract and there is a possibility that a steel strike may take place on July 31. Local welfare rules provide that there would be a 90-day waiting period before any striker would be eligible for benefits, should the strike last that long. Payment to this type of welfare recipient would be from direct relief funds, and, again, the county is limited to 1.5 mills of cash outlay for the year with the state covering the remainder. The Social Services Department is inquiring from other county departments what their rules are in this matter, and there may or may not be an adjustment of the local rules after the study has been made.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned.

  
Secretary

August 9, 1971

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

Gentlemen:

Your Welfare Contact Committee last met on August 9, 1971. Detailed minutes of that meeting have been furnished each County Commissioner and a copy is attached hereto and made a part of this report.

Respectfully submitted,

WELFARE CONTACT COMMITTEE

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\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ Chairman



August 9, 1971

A regular meeting of the Welfare Contact Committee was duly called and held at the office of the Department of Social Services on Monday, August 9, 1971, at 4:15 p.m.

Present: Commissioners DeJuliannie, Morrison, Pellonpaa and Selin.

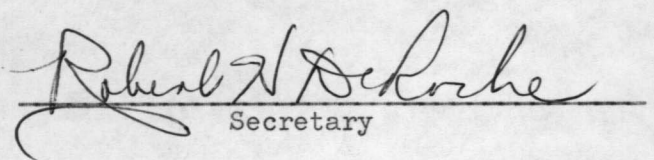
Absent: None.

In Attendance: Welfare Board Member Stam and Mrs. Fontaine, Director.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Selin. Mrs. Fontaine, Director, explained that her office is just completing the separation of eligibility requirement personnel from the rest of the staff as required by new regulations. This involves the reallocation of office equipment and the change-over of duties for some of the staff.

The Social Services Department is very encouraged over the Work and Training Program. A coordinator has been hired at \$2.75 per hour, and seems to be bringing the program off the ground with just one week's work. The transportation of clients still presents a large problem in the program, and a number of different methods were suggested and discussed. Efforts are being made to try to find one worker among several who is in a position to transport himself and others to the various sites in the County where the work is to be performed, but this is presenting a problem. Many clients do not have automobiles in good enough condition to undertake the responsibility. Morgan Heights is in a position to call for and return available workers, and is doing so. The County Road Commission is not equipped to handle transportation. A number of workers, however, are assigned to the City of Marquette, and need no transportation. At the present time, 76 clients are available for work assignments, provided the transportation problem can be worked out. Six men will be transported to the County Airport tomorrow to start a project there. During July, 11 men put in 338 hours on public projects. If the 76 can be involved it would mean that local public projects would receive around \$20,000 worth of work services per month in exchange for welfare benefits paid. Morgan Heights and Brookridge will be able to use some workers for kitchen help and maintenance. Considerable planning still remains to be done in transporting of the clients, and Committee members suggested that the Transportation Committee discuss this matter at its next regular meeting with the County Road Commission.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned.

  
Secretary

September 13, 1971

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

Gentlemen:

Your Welfare Contact Committee last met on September 13, 1971. Detailed minutes of that meeting have been furnished each County Commissioner and a copy is attached hereto and made a part of this report.

Respectfully submitted,

WELFARE CONTACT COMMITTEE

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

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September 13, 1971

A regular meeting of the Welfare Contact Committee was duly called and held at the office of the Department of Social Services on Monday, September 13, 1971, at 4:15 p.m.

Present: Commissioners DeJuliannie, Morrison, Pellonpaa and Selin.

Absent: None.

In Attendance: Mr. Stam and Mrs. Micklow, together with Mrs. Fontaine, Director.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Selin. Mrs. Fontaine explained that the Work and Training Program now has between 37 and 40 people employed, and 20 others - mostly unskilled women - are being considered for further work projects. Transportation continues to be a problem, and an attempt will now be made to organize volunteer services among interested citizens and club members. Seventeen men have worked a total of 799 hours during the past month at the county airport, and the airport manager has acknowledged the great benefit this work was to the county facility. A woman recipient is now being used as a cleaning woman in the offices of the Social Services Department, and this project is working out very well. The coordinator of the program has been on duty since August 1, and Mrs. Fontaine is very pleased with the progress made to date.

Five new staff members have been added to the department by the state. They are caseworkers, and will be involved primarily with the checking of eligibility requirements for welfare benefits. No clerical help has been provided, however, for this additional staff, and an application has been approved under the Emergency Employment Act for one clerk-typist for this department.

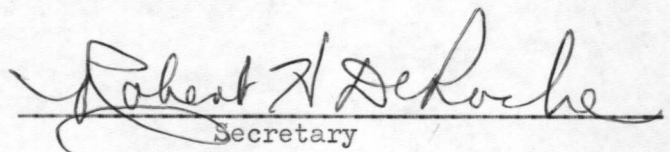
Discussion was had regarding current case loads. Under the direct relief program there are now 265 active cases. Unemployed and long-term chronic cases involve approximately 200 of these cases, and the remaining 65 are families in and out of employment. The households in this smaller group change from month to month (these are not hard-core cases). It would appear, therefore, that favorable employment conditions would eliminate only the smaller category. ADC and ADC-U cases presently total 562. This is a decline from about 600 cases at the end of July, 1971.

Mrs. Fontaine estimated that the 1½ mill limitation on direct relief expenditures for 1971 will probably be reached at the end of November. After that date, total cost of the direct relief program will be borne by the state for the remainder of the year.

The U. S. Department of Agriculture is now working on a plan with the State of Michigan to revise eligibility requirements under the food stamp plan. The new regulations, which are not yet in effect, will provide that only related persons, in the general family sense, will be eligible to form a household under the definition of a family unit. This will eliminate the type of grouping, especially the college student groups, which have caused so much adverse criticism during the past year.

Discussion was held regarding the fact that at least two of the local chain stores have signs indicating that hamburger cannot be purchased with food stamps. This prohibition comes about because the product is made from imported Argentine beef, and the rule against buying any imported food product with stamps applies. The notice, however, does not indicate the reason for the restriction, and there has been some criticism of the fact that such a normally basic item cannot be purchased with food stamps. Suggestions that the signs explain this have not resulted in a change of wording of the signs. Mrs. Fontaine indicated that she will contact the local representative of the Department of Agriculture to see if there is some regulation that would require that this product be designated as an imported item.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned.

  
Secretary

October 15, 1971

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

Gentlemen:

A regular meeting of your Welfare Contact Committee was held on October 15, 1971, and copies of the minutes of that meeting have been furnished to all members of the Commission. A copy of the minutes is also attached to this report and made a part hereof.

Your Committee has given consideration to a resolution adopted by Midland County, Michigan, urging a change in the state and federal regulations so that able-bodied adults, benefiting from the ADC-U program be included in the Work Training Program in the same manner as recipients of direct relief. Your Committee recommends the adoption of the attached resolution on this matter.

Respectfully submitted,

WELFARE CONTACT COMMITTEE

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Chairman

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October 15, 1971

A regular meeting of the Welfare Contact Committee was duly called and held at the office of the Department of Social Services on Friday, October 15, 1971, at 4:15 p.m.

Present: Commissioners DeJuliannie, Morrison and Pellonpaa.

Absent: None

In Attendance: Messrs. Lehto and Stam, together with Mrs. Fontaine, Director.

The meeting was called to order by Vice Chairman Morrison. Mrs. Fontaine reported that the Social Services Department reached the maximum payable by the county for direct relief in 1971, early in October. Direct relief for the remainder of the year will be covered by 100% state funds. The hospital fund covered by the Department remains at a high level and it appears there will be a need for an advance on the 1972 allocation in December of 1971 to cover bills for that month. When reimbursement is made by the state during the following month, however, it is anticipated the Department will be able to balance out the 1971 financial activities without an overdraft. Hospital bills are now running about \$200,000 a year and take a major portion from county taxes.

The Work Training Program is costing us about \$7,200 per year, but, because of its success, it seems well worthwhile to continue. In September of 1971, \$3,561.53 in work value was performed for local units by recipients under the Work Training Program, a major portion being performed at the county airport. Twenty-five work sites have now been approved for workers, but the transportation problem has not yet been resolved. Notice has been given to those work foremen to whom workers have been assigned to notify the Department of Social Services whenever assigned workers fail to show up for work. Unless a valid transportation problem exists or the worker has a doctor's certificate preventing him from performing work, he will be dropped from the welfare program. It is the intention of the Welfare Department to hold the workers to these rules or forfeit their grants.

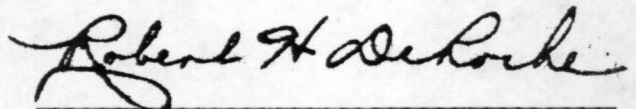
Discussion was held on a resolution adopted by the Midland County Board of Commissioners, recommending that federal and state assistance programs be changed so that ADC-U clients can be used in the Work Training Program in the same manner as we are now using direct relief clients. After discussion, it was moved by Commissioner DeJuliannie, supported by Commissioner Pellonpaa, and unanimously adopted that the Committee recommend to the Board of Commissioners the adoption of a resolution similar to the Midland County resolution.

Mrs. Fontaine reported that the ADC caseload continues to rise, but that the Food Stamp Plan is declining. State and federal rules on the Stamp Plan will be changed effective January 1, 1972, with a new definition of a household unit which will eliminate the college group type. Under the new rules, members of a household must be related by blood or marriage.

Under the Emergency Employment Act, one full-time clerk was allowed to the Social Services Department at the time the project was written. It has now been established that the project must be completed by the end of August, rather than September of 1972, and there is, therefore, 1/12th of the total grant available to employ additional persons. A second clerk has been allocated to the Department, and they are now in the process of interviewing applicants from among welfare recipients for the job.

Members of the Committee expressed their appreciation to Mr. Al Stam for the good and faithful service he has performed during these many past years as a member of the County Social Services Board.

There being no further business, it was moved by Commissioner Pellonpaa, supported by Commissioner DeJuliannie, that the meeting adjourn.



Secretary

November 8, 1971

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

Gentlemen:

A regular meeting of your Welfare Contact Committee was held on November 8, 1971, and copies of the minutes of that meeting have been furnished to all members of the Commission. A copy of the minutes is also attached to this report and made a part hereof.

Respectfully submitted,

WELFARE CONTACT COMMITTEE

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\_\_\_\_\_ Chairman

November 8, 1971

A regular meeting of the Welfare Contact Committee was duly called and held at a conference room in St. Mary's Hospital, Marquette, Michigan, on Monday, November 8, 1971, at 4:15 p.m., the meeting site being determined by the fact that Mrs. Fontaine, Director of the Social Services Department, is a patient in the hospital.

Present: Commissioners DeJuliannie, Morrison and Selin.

Absent: Commissioner Pellonpaa.

In Attendance: Social Welfare Board Members Howe, Micklow and Mrs. Fontaine, Director.

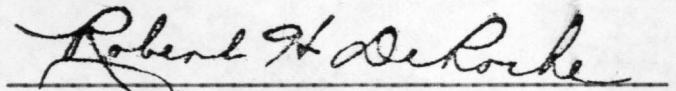
The meeting was called to order by Chairman Selin. The minutes of the previous meeting were approved without being read.

Discussion was had on the work-training program. The number of relief recipients participating in the program has now increased to 49, with 14 work sites currently being used. During the month of October, labor was performed to the equivalent value of \$4,318.41. The Department is still attempting to improve the transportation system available to the work training program workers so that more recipients could be used in the program.

Considerable discussion was held regarding the effects of the federal rehabilitation and training programs, which do not seem to achieve the intended goals or aims, but no conclusion was reached.

The Director informed the Committee that she has recently been contacted by the area representative of the state Social Services Department regarding personnel of the county department who are not civil service employees. Technically, she was advised, the local Social Service Department may carry on a county payroll at county expense noncivil service employees who work less than full time. The new work training program, however, requires the use of a full time coordinator and this person was employed from among the ranks of welfare recipients. Similar situations exist in other Social Service Departments in the Upper Peninsula, and the area representative is currently conducting a survey among the various departments. It has been suggested that this person be carried on a county payroll at the court house. In doing so, however, this would present a problem in accounting for state income tax, federal income tax, retirement deductions, social security deductions and hospitalization premiums, since the person is not an employee of the court house and jail group. The matter has not been resolved and the Social Services Department will continue to pay this employee on a separate payroll within its department from county funds as in the past until further directives are received.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned.

  
Secretary

December 13, 1971

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

Gentlemen:

A regular meeting of your Welfare Contact Committee was held on December 13, 1971, and copies of the minutes of that meeting have been furnished to all members of the Commission. A copy of the minutes is also attached to this report and made a part hereof.

Respectfully submitted,

WELFARE CONTACT COMMITTEE

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Chairman

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December 13, 1971

A regular meeting of the Welfare Contact Committee was duly called and held on Monday, December 13, 1971, at 4:15 p.m., at the home of Mrs. M. L. Fontaine, Director of the Department of Social Services.

Present: Commissioners DeJuliannie, Morrison and Selin.

Absent: Commissioner Pellonpaa.

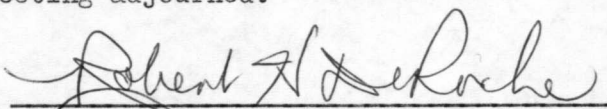
In attendance: Mrs. M. L. Fontaine, Director, and board members Mrs. Howe and Mrs. Micklow.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Selin. Considerable discussion was held regarding the location of the Upper Peninsula Regional Office for the Department of Social Services at Escanaba. In connection with this reorganization, Mr. Michael Miketinac has been named Director of the Regional Office, and there is some controversy among several of the Upper Peninsula counties, including the Marquette County Social Welfare Board, regarding the choice of Director. Board members reported that he appointed Mr. John Shackelford to serve as Acting Director of the Marquette County Department during the illness-absence of Director Fontaine. In so doing, Mr. Miketinac did not clear with the local board nor Mrs. Fontaine. He has failed to exercise good judgment in other matters recently and this was reported by the County Social Services board members to State Director R. Bernard Houston. The State Director promised that future contacts made by the new Regional Director will be more tactful and in line with accepted procedures. The County Social Services board members were also assured that, if necessary, future problems with the Regional Office could be brought to the State Office for clarification.

Discussion was had regarding the transportation of Work and Training Program clients to the various job sites within the county which have been approved by the local departments and the State. A meeting has been held with AMCAB and that agency is willing to use Head Start buses to transport workers to work sites. Workers assigned to the Acocks Medical Facility and the Marquette County Health Department could be routed on one bus. The cost to the County Department would be 14¢ per mile or \$4.20 per day. The cost of the driver is \$4.00 per day for a total of \$8.20 per day for two round trips to transport approximately 12 workers. It was generally agreed that this system would provide a start toward the solution of the transportation problem, and that if it works out satisfactorily, perhaps transportation could then be arranged to other sites in the county. It was moved by Commissioner Morrison, supported by Commissioner DeJuliannie, and unanimously adopted, that this Committee encourage the Department of Social Services to complete the arrangements for this transportation service with AMCAB, provided that AMCAB has proper insurance so that the county would not accrue any additional liability.

Discussion was had regarding the inadequacy of some of the local training programs. A number of those who complete the government-oriented training programs do not retain full-time employment in the fields for which they trained, and schooling for some of the special skills is not available within the county. It was felt that some consideration should be given to the sending of hard-core welfare cases to special schools outside the county which might not necessarily be government operated schools. Proper training or re-training of some of the welfare recipients could well result in their permanent removal from welfare rolls, and if satisfactory programs can be established, it would be most helpful in reducing welfare costs in the future. It was agreed that Mr. Leach of the Michigan Employment Security Commission should be invited to a future meeting of this group to discuss the possibility of sending people who need special training in specific jobs to training schools in Lower Michigan or Wisconsin where specialized schools exist. Mrs. Fontaine will work out the details of such a meeting for some time after the first of the year.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned.

  
Robert H. DeRoche, Secretary

January 10, 1972

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

Gentlemen:

A regular meeting of your Welfare Contact Committee was held on January 10, 1972, and copies of the minutes of that meeting have been furnished to all members of the Board of Commissioners. A copy of the minutes is also attached to this report and made a part hereof.

Respectfully submitted,

WELFARE CONTACT COMMITTEE

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Chairman

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January 10, 1972

A regular meeting of the Welfare Contact Committee was duly called and held on Monday, January 10, 1972, at 4:15 p.m., at the residence of Mrs. M. L. Fontaine, Director of the Department of Social Services.

Present: Commissioners DeJuliannie and Morrison.

Absent: Commissioner Selin and ExOfficio Member Pellonpaa.

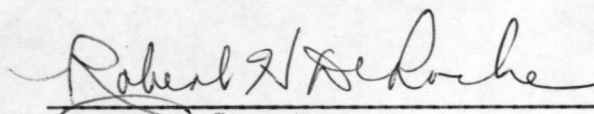
In attendance: Social Services Board Members Howe, Lehto and Micklow, together with Director Fontaine.

The meeting was called to order by Vice Chairman Morrison. Mrs. Fontaine reported that there has been an increase in the participation of welfare clients in the Work and Training Program. Fifty-eight clients are now involved and during the month of December performed 2,385 hours of work at a dollar-equivalent value of \$4,160.83. Perhaps 30 more workers are available for jobs if transportation can be arranged. Discussion of the matter of transportation has been had with AMCAB and, before a decision can be reached by them, a number of questions regarding the Work and Training Program must be answered. A communication along these lines was presented at the meeting and read. Mrs. Fontaine has agreed to communicate with AMCAB in writing and to meet with them if necessary in an attempt to work out the transportation service for Work and Training clients by AMCAB.

A discussion of some inadequacies in the office space of the Social Services Department was had. Because of the large window areas, some of the office space does not heat properly during the winter months, and Mrs. Fontaine reported that numerous attempts to get the landlord to correct the problem have not resulted in any improvement. Commissioner Morrison volunteered to contact the F & R Corporation agent, Earl Closser, to get something done about the matter.

Commissioner DeJuliannie reported that CUPPADD officials state that unincorporated units below the county level can now make application for federal grants for low-cost housing and senior citizen facilities even though the County has no housing ordinance. Mrs. Fontaine was asked to inquire into the new rules and to advise this Committee at its next meeting.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned.

  
Secretary

February 14, 1972

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

Gentlemen:

A regular meeting of your Welfare Contact Committee was held on February 14, 1972, and copies of the minutes of that meeting have been furnished to all members of the Board of Commissioners. A copy of the minutes is also attached to this report and made a part hereof.

Respectfully submitted,

WELFARE CONTACT COMMITTEE

\_\_\_\_\_, Chairman  
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February 14, 1972

A regular meeting of the Welfare Contact Committee was duly called and held on Monday, February 14, 1972, at 4:15 p.m., at the residence of Mrs. M. L. Fontaine, Director of the Department of Social Services.

Present: Commissioners Armatti, McCracken, Pellonpaa and Sodergren.

Absent: None.

In Attendance: Social Services Board Members Howe, Lehto and Micklow, together with Mrs. Fontaine, Director and Mr. Shackelford, Acting Director.

In the temporary absence of Chairman Sodergren, the meeting was called to order by Commissioner McCracken.

Mrs. Fontaine reported on the Work and Training Program. While the Program has achieved a fair amount of success, the full potential has not been reached for the reason that the problem of transporting the workers has not yet been completely resolved. AMCAB Directors have some reservations about providing bus transportation. One of the chief objections is that the Work and Training Program is a compulsory program. If a client is healthy and suitable work is assigned, the client must perform the work or forfeit his right to benefits. AMCAB Directors believe that this compulsory aspect of the program, rather than voluntary, is in conflict with the ideology of AMCAB for the assistance of the needy. AMCAB Directors also believe that there is no true training in the program, and that it is not likely that the work by recipients would eventually provide full-time jobs for them. It is very probable that this is a final statement on the transportation problem so far as AMCAB is concerned, but on the chance that they might reconsider, the matter will be discussed with AMCAB officials again. The possibility of acquiring a used bus, in good condition, was considered with a view that it could be operated by recipients under the Work and Training Program. Members of the Social Services Board will investigate this matter further. In the meantime, the few car pools that are operating on a voluntary basis will be continued.

There are 316 direct relief cases at the beginning of February, and there has been some increase during the month of February. Of the total caseload, approximately 100 are physically certifiable for the Work and Training Program, and a little more than one-half of them are so employed. Mr. Shroeger, Superintendent of the County Road Commission, communicated with the Social Services Department, expressing his pleasure at how well the program has been developed and stated that the services provided by the workers is of significant help to his departments.

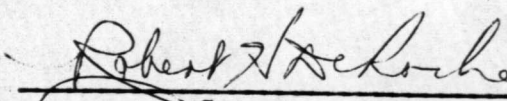
It was suggested that some consideration be given to providing incentive for the workers under the Program and some discussion was held on the matter, but no conclusion was reached.

During the month of January, 1972, 56 workers provided services to 15 sponsors at an equivalent value of \$4,956.92. Other work sites have been approved for which there are workers available as soon as the transportation problem can be resolved.

Mrs. Fontaine reported that the recently enacted Brook Amendment to federal regulation for low income housing provides that low income project housing authorities are required to reduce rents to no more than 25% of the individual's income. Most of such housing authorities are reluctant to reduce the rent because it is expected that the Welfare Department would then reduce the renter's personal grant. For this reason, many housing authorities across the nation have refused to comply with this new amendment. This affects only those who are now in the housing facilities, as new cases will take the amendment into account at the time the grant is established. The effect of the amendment, however, is that rentals in housing units will fare better than those who are receiving rent money for housing in other than low income housing units. This amendment will undoubtedly be tested in the courts.

Discussion was also had on a recent ruling by the State Attorney General that lists of welfare recipients can be provided to the County Commissioners. Mr. Shackelford stated, however, that the Director of the State Department of Social Services, Mr. Houston, has directed the county departments to hold back on this ruling until a clarification of the opinion can be had from federal authorities, as there is a possibility that the publication of such information might jeopardize federal funds to the state.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned.

  
Secretary

March 13, 1972

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

Gentlemen:

At the March 13, 1972 meeting of your Welfare Contact Committee, discussion was held on the Midland County Report and Resolution on the subject of work and training programs conducted by Departments of Social Services. A copy of the Midland County Report has been furnished to all members of the Board of Commissioners for their study. Your Committee believes that the position Midland County has taken is a proper one, and that every effort should be made to have federal regulations amended to empower counties to set up such programs as will best serve the needs of the individual counties involved. Your Committee recommends, therefore, the adoption of the attached resolution on this subject and further recommends that copies of the resolution be sent to the Governor of the State of Michigan, our representatives in the State Legislature, and to the Secretary of the Michigan Association of Counties, as well as the Secretary of District One, Upper Peninsula Association of the Michigan Association of Counties.

Respectfully submitted,

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\_\_\_\_\_ Chairman

March 13, 1972

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

Gentlemen:

At the March 13, 1972 meeting of your Welfare Contact Committee, discussion was held on the Midland County Report and Resolution on the subject of work and training programs conducted by Departments of Social Services. A copy of the Midland County Report has been furnished to all members of the Board of Commissioners for their study. Your Committee believes that the position Midland County has taken is a proper one, and that every effort should be made to have federal regulations amended to empower counties to set up such programs as will best serve the needs of the individual counties involved. Your Committee recommends, therefore, the adoption of the attached resolution on this subject and further recommends that copies of the resolution be sent to the Governor of the State of Michigan, our representatives in the State Legislature, and to the Secretary of the Michigan Association of Counties, as well as the Secretary of District One, Upper Peninsula Association of the Michigan Association of Counties.

Respectfully submitted,

WELFARE CONTACT COMMITTEE

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\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ Chairman

March 13, 1972

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

Gentlemen:

At the March 13, 1972 meeting of your Welfare Contact Committee, consideration was given to proposed House Bill 5877 which relates to the operation of Departments of Social Services within the state. This proposed bill would provide that the directors and employees of the County Department be appointed by the State Department from among persons certified as qualified by the State Civil Service Commission, and would be responsible to the Director of the State Department. Your Committee believes that the appointment of the County Director and employees of the Department should be the responsibility of the County Social Services Board, and that such personnel should be the responsibility of that Board.

House Bill 5877 also provides that County Social Service Boards may establish policy for all county programs certified in Act 280 of the Public Acts of 1939 not financed in whole or in part by federal funds. Your Committee believes that the right of County Social Service Boards to establish such policies should be for all county programs, rather than only those which are not financed in whole or in part by federal funds.

Your Committee recommends that a resolution, urging the amendment of proposed House Bill 5877, as expressed in this report, be adopted and that a copy of such a resolution be furnished to the Governor of the State of Michigan, our representatives in the State Legislature, and to the Secretary of the Michigan Association of Counties, as well as the Secretary of District One, Upper Peninsula Association of the Michigan Association of Counties.

Respectfully submitted,

WELFARE CONTACT COMMITTEE

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March 13, 1972

A regular meeting of the Welfare Contact Committee was duly called and held at the Court House on Monday, March 13, 1972, at 7:00 p.m.

Present: Commissioners Armatti, Pellonpaa and Sodergren.

Absent: Commissioner McCracken.

In attendance: John Shackelford, Acting Director of the County Department of Social Services, together with Mrs. P. Micklow, Board Member.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Sodergren. Moved by Commissioner Pellonpaa, supported by Commissioner Armatti, and unanimously adopted, that the minutes of the previous meeting be approved without reading.

Discussion was had regarding the transportation of Work and Training Program clients of the Department of Social Services. Mr. Shackelford stated that, so far as he knew, the Department was still using car pools where available. Efforts by the Department to acquire a bus have not yet been resolved. Mrs. Fontaine, Director, is still trying to work out a proposition with a church group in Harvey on this matter. The discussion also brought out the fact that there is a possibility that a bus at the K. I. Sawyer Air Force Base may be declared surplus equipment, and be available to the Department with HEW funds. It was suggested that contact be made by the Social Services Department with the Base Commander to determine what equipment might be available, and the HEW priority for acquisition of this type of equipment. Mrs. Micklow agreed to check this out and to go over the matter with members of the Social Services Board at its next meeting on March 22, 1972.

Discussion was had regarding the possibility of supplying Board of Commission members with monthly lists of welfare recipients. Mr. Shackelford stated that he has not received additional information from state headquarters to date on this subject. He believes, however, that there might be a conflict with federal regulations if such lists were provided. He stated further that the direct relief program does not include federal monies, as it is entirely state-county funded, but the problem involved inseparating the types of records in the office in order to prepare lists which would include only state-county funded cases would be very costly. Since these cases are changing on a month-by-month basis, there is no permanent way to set up the information to prepare the separate listing without involving a considerable amount of clerical work. He stated further that should any County Commissioner wish to make inquiry regarding a direct relief case, the information will be provided him. Should a County Commissioner have information regarding a particular case which he believes the Department should have special knowledge of, they will be happy to receive it and check it out. So far as actually preparing lists for circulation to the County Commissioners, Mr. Houston, State Director, has not yet issued a directive in the matter.

On the matter of adding work incentive routines to the Work and Training Program, nothing concrete has been worked out to date.

Mr. Shackelford explained that they are undergoing considerable difficulty because of the directive from HUD which requires the reduction of rent to occupants in the low-income housing projects to not more than 25% of the total income of the individual involved. Contrary to federal regulations, the local Department has reduced grants in direct proportion to the reduction in rent affected by this Brooke Amendment. There are about 75 cases of this type within the County. Upper Peninsula Legal Services is currently handling an appeal on one of the cases which will involve a hearing and determination by the referee from the state office. The outcome of this appeal will, of course, direct the handling of the remaining cases.

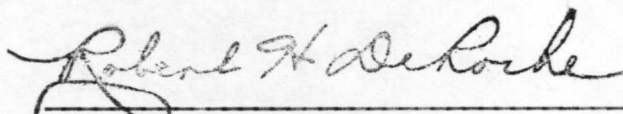
Discussion was had regarding the Midland County report and resolution on the subject of work and training programs (copy of this material was sent to every County Commissioner last month). Arrangements were made to provide a copy to each of the members of the Social Services Board and its Director. Moved by Commissioner Pellonpaa, supported by Commissioner Armatti, and unanimously adopted that this Committee recommend to the Board of Commissioners that a similar resolution be adopted. House Bill 5877, relating to Social Service Departments, was then discussed. The Committee then considered a bulletin, dated March 10, 1972, from the Michigan Association of Counties, pointing out that the adoption of this Bill would make the State responsible for administrative costs, including office space, but would provide that all employees and directors of the various Social Services

Departments across the state, would be appointed by the State Department from among persons certified by the State Civil Service Commission. The employees and directors would be responsible to the Director of the State Department. M.A.C. recommended that that portion which would give the State Department of Social Services the power to appoint the County Social Services Director rather than the Social Services Board, be removed. M. A. C. also pointed out that the language in the Bill which would empower County Social Service Boards to establish policy for all county programs defined in Act 280 of the Public Acts of 1939, has been amended to apply only to programs not financed in whole or in part by federal funds. After discussion, it was moved by Commissioner Pellonpaa, supported by Commissioner Armatti, and unanimously adopted that this Committee recommend to the Board of Commissioners the adoption of a resolution which would support the deletion from House Bill 5877 of the portion which would remove from County Social Service Boards the right to appoint their Directors and employees, and support the provision which would empower the Social Service Boards to establish policy for all county programs, including those which are financed in whole or in part by federal funds.

A communication from the Department of Social Services regarding the lease with the F & R Corporation for the office space it occupies was discussed. It appears that there are still real problems in heating and air conditioning in these offices which have not been resolved. The owners' agent has indicated on numerous occasions that the problems would be solved, but this has not actually taken place. The Social Service Board has asked that a copy of the lease agreement be submitted to the Prosecuting Attorney for his examination and advice as to what rights the County Department has under the agreement, and what responsibilities the County might have if the heating and air conditioning systems need to be redesigned. It was suggested that the Social Services Board make a last attempt to meet formally with the owners and their agents to resolve the matter. In the meantime, the Prosecuting Attorney will be asked to comply with the Department's request for legal advice.

The 1973 budget estimate, submitted by the Social Service Department, has increased almost \$150,000.00 over the 1972 allocation. This budget request is \$546,706.27, as compared with the 1972 allocation of \$396,000.00. The Department was asked to provide specific detailed information to support this huge increase and present it at the next meeting of this Committee.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned.



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Secretary

April 10, 1972

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

Gentlemen:

A regular meeting of your Welfare Contact Committee was held on April 10, 1972, and copies of the minutes of that meeting have been furnished to all members of the Board of Commissioners. A copy of the minutes is also attached to this report and made a part hereof.

Respectfully submitted,

WELFARE CONTACT COMMITTEE

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\_\_\_\_\_ Chairman

April 10, 1972

A regular meeting of the Welfare Contact Committee was duly called and held on Monday, April 10, 1972, at 7:00 p.m.

Present: Commissioners C. Anderson, Armatti and Sodergren.

Absent: Commissioners McCracken and Pellonpaa.

In Attendance: Social Services Board Members Lehto and Micklow, together with John Shackelford, Acting Director.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Sodergren. The minutes of the previous meeting were approved without reading.

Discussion was had on the matter of providing transportation for Work and Training Program clients. It appears that two buses may be available as government surplus from downstate. Efforts to obtain one of these vehicles are still pending.

The matter of incentive for Work and Training Program recipients was discussed. Board members informed the Committee that this matter had been studied by them since the last meeting of this Committee; that they have come to the conclusion that additional incentives cannot be offered. If additional funds are paid to the recipients under such a plan, they would merely have to be deducted from other areas of the individual's grant. This would provide no additional money for the recipient. At the present time, regulations provide that for each worker who satisfactorily completes a 2-week period of scheduled work, an \$8.00 extra payment is made to cover additional clothing and expense items. This is about the only incentive the Welfare Board believes it can offer under present rules, and they plan to continue it.

Mr. Shackelford presented information regarding the increased budget request for 1973. The present budget request is \$546,706.27, as compared with the 1972 appropriation of \$396,000.00. He explained the projected 1973 needs as follows:

- \$190,000.00 Direct Relief. This figure is based on the 1-mill statutory limit per year for direct relief. Payments in excess of this amount are covered by the State of Michigan.
- \$210,000.00 County Hospitalization Program. The sum of \$170,000.00 was spent in 1971 for this purpose, \$190,000.00 in 1972 is projected, and a \$20,000.00 increase over that figure is the estimated need for 1973. These increases reflect the higher cost for medical and hospital care.
- \$30,000.00 Food Stamp Program.
- \$30,000.00 Work and Training Program. Cost for administration and transportation of workers. This item also includes one-half the pay for a coordinator.
- \$80,000.00 General Office and Administration Expenses. We are currently paying 20% of this item with the state covering the remaining 80%.
- \$12,500.00 Office Rental and Utilities.
- \$2,000.00 Child Care Fund.

These separate items total \$554,500.00, and represent an increase over the \$546,706.27 requested in February, 1972 as being the then estimated need for 1973. It is hoped that improved economic conditions within the County prior to the final enactment of the 1973 budget next October will enable the Department to reduce the budget request.

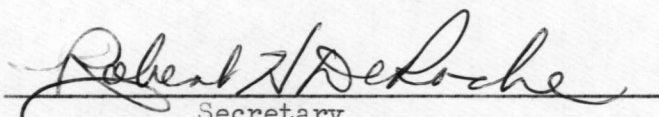
At the present time 728 families, representing 2,098 people who are not receiving other public assistance, are being issued food stamps. Seven hundred sixteen families, representing 2,348 people who are receiving public assistance, are also being issued food stamps. New federal eligibility laws for this program will become effective on May 1, 1972. The specific laws have not yet been filed with the County Department, but it is their hope that under the new regulation, it will be more difficult to obtain food stamps.

The Committee then discussed five separate complaints with the Board of Social Services, and it is apparent that no fraud was uncovered in any of them. Committee members expressed concern over the period of time which elapses between the registration of a complaint with the Department of Social Services and the receipt of case work information. It was explained that complaints received from members of the Board of Commissioners are first relayed and checked by the Director, who then assigns the task of checking the complaint to a specific case worker. Since each case worker is carrying an extremely heavy load, a week to 10 days often elapses before a specific complaint is checked out, a report made to the Director, and information relayed to the County Commissioner. Recent federal legislation requires that the staff be separated into two types of worker: case worker and service worker. Case workers handle all of the fiscal problems of welfare clients. Service workers work with family problems other than financial. Because of the large case load for each worker, in most cases, most service workers are unaware of the financial problems of their clients and most case workers are unaware of problems other than financial. The department presently has 14 case workers, 10 service workers, 2 supervisors and a clerical staff. The state recommends that each worker service 60 families, but at the present time each worker is handling between 150 and 160 cases. Service workers work about three days a week in the field, but case workers work almost entirely in the office.

After a discussion regarding the processing of complaints, it was agreed that complaints made by the public to the County Commissioners should either be referred to the Department of Social Services for clarification, or referred to this Committee's Chairman, James Sodergren, who indicated a willingness to receive such complaints, discuss them with the Social Services Board and inform the Commissioner who received the original complaint. For the purposes of discussing complaints at future meetings of this Committee, it was agreed that a concerted effort be made to eliminate the actual names of welfare recipients from discussion so as to protect the rights of welfare clients, especially in the case of misinformation.

Discussion was had on the possibility of keeping the Social Services office open during the noon hour to accommodate the public. Mr. Shackelford explained that to do this on a full service basis would require the holding of personnel assigned to each of the categories of welfare assistance. This may not be practical, but they will study the matter and attempt to have at least a clerk available each noon hour.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned.

  
Secretary

May 8, 1972

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

Gentlemen:

A regular meeting of your Welfare Contact Committee was held on May 8, 1972, and copies of the minutes of that meeting have been furnished to all members of the Board of Commissioners. A copy of the minutes is also attached to this report and made a part hereof.

Respectfully submitted,

WELFARE CONTACT COMMITTEE

\_\_\_\_\_, Chairman  
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May 8, 1972

A regular meeting of the Welfare Contact Committee was duly called and held on Monday, May 8, 1972, at 7:00 p.m., at the Court House.

Present: Commissioners Armatti, McCracken, Pellonpaa and Sodergren.

Absent: None.

In Attendance: Social Services Board members Howe and Micklow, together with Mr. Shackelford, Acting Director.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Sodergren. Moved by Commissioner McCracken, supported by Commissioner Armatti, and unanimously adopted, that the minutes of the previous meeting be approved without reading.

Under unfinished business, the following matters were discussed.

1. Efforts to obtain a bus for transportation of Work and Training Program clients. The Federal Property Section at Lansing is aware of our needs, and has agreed to contact Marquette County when such a surplus bus is available. Mr. Shackelford explained, however, that the Department now believes that a bus would not be too practical for this purpose because of the number of sites involved and the different work hours for the various project sites. It appears that by arranging with one or more drivers to transport themselves and others to a given work site, it will probably work out better. The only project which might be adaptable to the use of a bus is the Acocks Medical Facility site.

2. Incentive for workers under the Work and Training Program. Because of the great amount of work to be done at the County Airport, it was proposed that those workers who complete 40 hours of work during the week and are willing to return on Saturday for additional work be granted time-and-a-half work credit for the work involved on Saturday. In this way, it would take less total work hours to work out the monthly grant.

3. Keeping Social Services office open during the noon hour on Monday through Friday each week. Mr. Shackelford stated that, beginning May 1, 1972, the office is open during the noon hour, and that clients who need service during that time can be processed.

4. Total amount spent in Marquette County for welfare purposes, including federal, state and county moneys, and also including the food stamp program. Mr. Shackelford has not as yet worked out these figures, but will have them for the next meeting of this Committee.

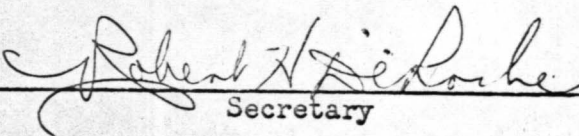
Discussion was had as to whether or not the medical assistance program is mandatory. This program covers hospital and medical costs for indigents below the age of qualification for Medicaid and Medicare programs, and represents a considerable portion of the total costs to the County of the Social Services programs. It appears, under the law, that this program is required to be maintained.

Because of the recent remarks made about the increase in the welfare load, and the possibility of welfare abuses, Representative Jacobetti inquired into the matter by contacting the Chairman of the Committee, and offered to arrange to send an agent from Lansing to go over the case records in the Social Services office to check eligibility requirements. Mr. Shackelford explained that the Department is audited annually by the Audit Division of the State Department of Treasury covering the financial transactions of the Department. In addition, eligibility auditors check the case records about every two months to go over the eligibility requirements on a case-by-case basis. It was his belief, therefore, that the efforts of an agent from Lansing for this purpose would merely be a duplication of work already performed. Representative Jacobetti had requested a reply to his office, and after discussion, it was decided that the Chairman advise Mr. Jacobetti that the services of an eligibility audit agent are not necessary at this time.

Discussion was had on the possibility of having service workers in the Social Services Department arrange with trainees of the various public training programs in the area to assist elderly indigents with their skills in small jobs. An example would be where an elderly person might need the repair of a door or steps at home which they could not afford but which the trainee could perform. This would provide training as well as direct benefit to the elderly person without involving finances. Social Services Board members agreed to look into the matter.

The Chairman reported that several complaints received by Commissioners had been registered with the Social Services Department and that its Director is working with the Committee Chairman to check them out and provide the necessary information.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned.

  
Secretary

June 12, 1972

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

Gentlemen:

A regular meeting of your Welfare Contact Committee was held on June 12, 1972, and copies of the minutes of that meeting have been furnished to all members of the Board of Commissioners. A copy of the minutes is also attached to this report and made a part hereof.

Respectfully submitted,

WELFARE CONTACT COMMITTEE

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\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ Chairman



June 12, 1972

A regular meeting of the Welfare Contact Committee was duly called and held on Monday, June 12, 1972, at 7:00 p.m. at the Court House.

Present: Commissioners McCracken and Sodergren.

Absent: Commissioners Armatti and Pellonpaa.

In Attendance: Social Services Board Members Howe and Lehto, together with John Shackelford, Acting Director.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Sodergren. Moved by Commissioner McCracken, supported by Commissioner Sodergren, and unanimously adopted, that the minutes of the previous meeting be approved without being read.

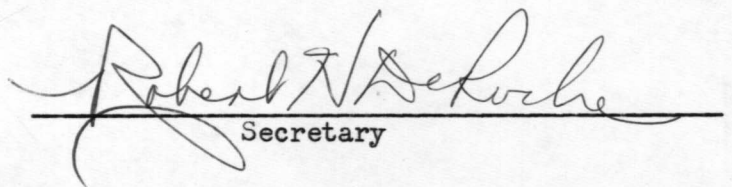
Mr. Shackelford then presented the Annual Report of the Social Services Board for the calendar year 1971, and a study was made of all the material contained therein. A copy of this report is attached hereto and made a part hereof.

The possibility of having trainees of the various public training programs in the area assist elderly indigents with their skills in small jobs was again discussed. It has been determined that, since the elderly indigents do not constitute a non-profit public corporation, they would not be certified by the State as a proper work site, and, therefore, this cannot be done.

The Chairman reported that he and Mr. Shackelford had investigated four complaints during the past month. No irregularities were uncovered, but the Chairman was able to obtain and pass on the proper information to the Commissioners registering the complaints.

Discussion was held about the Work and Training Program. Some of the workers assigned for duties at the airport are not showing up. In addition, Mr. Korpi, the Housing Director for the City of Marquette, reported only about 25% attendance from the workers assigned to that project. It appears that some problems in enforcing attendance by the work trainees stems from the late reporting of absences. Mr. Shackelford stated that he would arrange for daily reporting by the coordinator at the Social Services Department and the supervisors of the various work sites, with a view to eventually dropping the welfare recipients from the rolls for failure to cooperate in the program.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned.

  
Secretary

July 10, 1972

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

Gentlemen:

A regular meeting of your Welfare Contact Committee was held on July 10, 1972, and copies of the minutes of that meeting have been furnished to all members of the Board of Commissioners. A copy of the minutes is also attached to this report and made a part hereof.

Respectfully submitted,

WELFARE CONTACT COMMITTEE

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\_\_\_\_\_ Chairman

July 10, 1972

A regular meeting of the Welfare Contact Committee was duly called and held on Monday, July 10, 1972, at 7:00 p.m., at the Court House.

Present: Commissioners Armatti and Sodergren.

Absent: Commissioners McCracken and Pellonpaa.

In Attendance: Social Services Board Member Howe and Acting Director John Shackelford.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Sodergren. It was moved by Commissioner Armatti and supported by Commissioner Sodergren, and unanimously carried that the minutes of the previous meeting be approved without being read.

The Work and Training Program was discussed. Absenteeism is still being reported. Mr. Shackelford stated that the incentive program which was recently adopted for these workers should improve the situation. Every attempt is being made to reduce the absenteeism. A 3-month trial period, commencing June 1, 1972, has been adopted by the Social Services Board, and after that time, if the incentive program has not been effective, other measures will be taken to assess penalties for absenteeism. Commissioner Sodergren stated that he believed a 3-month trial period is longer than is necessary to correct the absenteeism problem. Mrs. Howe, however, stated that a 3-month trial period was deemed necessary by the Social Services Board members, and that the rule has already been adopted. Mr. Shackelford stated that his Department might be at fault for some of the problem, as new applicants were left pretty much to their own devices to arrange transportation and find their way to the work sites. Under the new rules, each new applicant who is subject to the Work and Training Program, is required to call personally at the Department office to receive his first check, and at that time he is acquainted with the program and his routines, including a visit to the work site, are explained to him. He also explained that the Department recently placed a minimum of \$20.00 per month aid for those who will be required to work under the Work and Training Program. This occurs in low-income families where only a small amount of aid is given. In those instances, men might be required to work three to seven hours a month, and this small amount of effort causes more problems than the benefit derived, and is also reflected in absenteeism.

Discussion was held regarding the fact that local unemployed laborers are very unhappy about employment procedures for the new Tilden Project. Many workers from outside the county are being brought in by the unions, and county laborers feel they should get a better chance at these jobs. It was suggested that the Social Services Board meet with union officials to discuss the matter in an attempt to remedy the situation. Mrs. Howe volunteered to look into this situation and to report at the next meeting.

A discussion of the minutes of the Social Services Board monthly meetings was held, and a request made for copies to be sent to members of this Committee. Mrs. Howe stated that many actual cases are discussed by name in the minutes, and, under the rules governing the confidential nature of welfare cases, the minutes cannot be furnished to members of this Committee. Mr. Shackelford explained that the actions taken on these cases are all subject to the rules established by the Social Services Board, which rules are approved at the Lansing headquarters. These rules must always conform to state and federal regulations. Mrs. Howe explained further that should county board members wish a roll call vote by Social Service Board members on a particular issue, she was certain it would be supplied upon request.

The Committee then discussed the Attorney General's opinion regarding the furnishing of lists of welfare recipients to County Commissioners. The Attorney General has issued a clarification of his earlier opinion, stating that County Commissioners are entitled to specific information on welfare cases. Attorney General Kelley's more recent opinion now states that on programs financed in total by federal and state funds, recipient information is reportable to County Commissioners only in the same manner as any private citizen may inquire. On programs supported in whole or in part by county funds however, listings may be made of the recipients' aid upon request. This would include the direct relief program and the county hospital program. It appears, however, that these are not the categories in which abuses are likely to occur.

In June there were 1,278 families representing 3,835 persons on the food stamp program. Seven hundred ten were public assistance families, and 568 were low-income families. During that month, \$92,802 in food stamps were issued. \$49,000.00 was paid by the recipients and \$43,000.00 by the federal government. No county money is involved in this program, except for clerical help.

Mrs. Howe reported that the State Examiners, who are doing continuing spot checks of welfare cases throughout Michigan counties, recently reported that a study in Marquette County showed it to be one of the few counties in Michigan which had no errors.

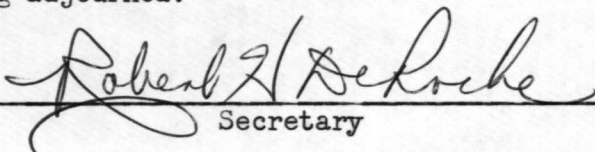
The adult hospitalization program, which consumes a major portion of the county tax monies allocated to the county Social Services Board was then discussed. Increases in medical and hospital costs account for the fact that the program cost is increasing. Hospital costs alone run about \$50.00 per day. There is hope that with the opening of Norlite in the City of Marquette, where 50 of the 100-bed capacity will be reserved for skilled-nursing-care cases, some of these cases now being held in the general hospitals will be discharged sooner with the resultant lowering of total costs per patient. The matter of recovering county costs for hospital services to some of the clients was then discussed. It appears that in some instances, clients qualify for medical assistance and have assets due them other than wages, from such sources as inheritances or court settlements. Mr. Shackelford stated that it was his belief that in these instances arrangements could and should be made through the Prosecuting Attorney to require the re-payment of hospital costs. It was agreed that the Social Services Board would seek an opinion in the matter from the Prosecuting Attorney.

An explanation of the conflict between unemployment monies and ADC and ADC-U funds for unemployed workers was given by Mr. Shackelford. Families who receive unemployment benefits may not receive ADC or ADC-U funds. For that reason, the longer a family receives unemployment benefits, the larger the drain on county funds because the supplemental monies needed to reach a minimum standard of living must be paid from direct relief monies (county), rather than ADC and ADC-U (state-federal). While this regulation does not seem proper, it is nevertheless the law.

Moved by Commissioner Armatti, supported by Commissioner Sodergren and unanimously adopted that copies of the monthly receipts and disbursement and analysis report prepared by the Department of Social Services be made available to all County Commissioners through the Controller's Office.

Considerable discussion was held about the legality of some divorced parents re-establishing a home together without the benefit of re-marriage and who, under the law, are eligible for ADC benefits, even though the father is able to provide total support. In the normal divorce proceedings, the father is ordered to pay a specific amount for the support of children. Since this is seldom sufficient to support them the difference is paid from ADC funds. While this abuse apparently meets the test of law, it appears to be morally wrong, but present Social Service regulations do not provide a means to correct it. Mr. Shackelford stated that his department has a child protection section. In cases of this nature, they should be referred to that section with a view to determine whether or not the situation endangers the well-being of the children involved. If it can be proven that it does, the child protection section will refer the matter to the Probate Court with the possibility that the children be removed from the home and payment of benefits will cease.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned.

  
Secretary

August 14, 1972

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

Gentlemen:

A regular meeting of your Welfare Contact Committee was held on August 14, 1972, and copies of the minutes of that meeting have been furnished to all members of the Board of Commissioners. A copy of the minutes is also attached hereto and made a part of this report.

Respectfully submitted,

WELFARE CONTACT COMMITTEE

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\_\_\_\_\_ Chairman

August 14, 1972

A regular meeting of the Welfare Contact Committee was duly called and held on Monday, August 14, 1972, at 7:00 p.m. at the Court House.

Present: Commissioners Dompierre and Sodergren  
Absent: Commissioners Armatti, McCracken and Pellonpaa  
In Attendance: Social Service Board Members Howe and Micklow, together with  
Director Fontaine and Assistant Shackelford

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Sodergren. Moved by Commissioner Dompierre, supported by Commissioner Sodergren, and carried that the minutes of the previous meeting be approved without reading.

Mrs. Howe reported on her contact with a union representative to discuss hiring practices at the Tilden Project. She reported that it was the union's position that jobs are filled as needed from card-holding union members, regardless of their residence. Considerable discussion was held on the matter, but there does not seem to be, at this time, a method to give priority for job placement to Marquette County residents. Chairman Sodergren indicated that he would make further inquiries into the matter.


Discussion was had regarding the repayment of hospital costs by recipients. Mrs. Fontaine explained that the law is specific in the matter, and that when it appears that a recipient may be in a position to repay all or part of the covered medical costs, arrangements are made to follow through on the collection. At the present time, bills are sent on these cases quarterly. During 1971, the sum of \$13,182.95 was recovered for this program, which represents approximately 10% of the amount spent. Discussion brought out the fact that a metropolitan county in Lower Michigan has established a collection agency for this purpose. Mrs. Fontaine stated that, while she would have no objections should the County Board decide to establish a similar agency, she believed that the cost involved to operate such a service would be greater than the additional recovery which might be made. It appears that there is not sufficient volume or reason to establish such a department in this county.

The Work and Training Program was discussed. The work record for the past month indicates that 127 persons participated, for a total of 5,030 hours at a dollar equivalent value of \$10,557.56. Eighty seven per cent of the people assigned work during the month completed their assignments. This reflects a much improved work attendance record over prior months. The discussion brought out the fact that sponsors should give real consideration to hiring Work and Training Program participants in regular jobs when job openings occur. It was believed that a reminder of this point should be sent to all of the sponsors, and Mrs. Fontaine agreed that such a communication would be sent to them.

The study of the analysis of receipts and disbursements for the Department for the month of July indicates that hospitalization costs have increased during the month and that direct relief cases reached an all-time high in July 1972. This coincides with the higher Upper Peninsula unemployment rate at the present time. A copy of the analysis is attached hereto.

Discussion was held regarding the release of confidential information regarding Social Service Department cases. A communication on the matter had been addressed to the Prosecuting Attorney, members of the Welfare Board and this Committee by Director Fontaine. A reply to this communication by Prosecutor Ruohomaki failed to reach the Director and Board Members prior to this meeting. Confusion exists between the position taken by the Prosecutor and the Social Services Board Director. The matter will be pursued further by them at the next regular meeting of the Social Services Board.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned.

  
Secretary

September 11, 1972'

MEMORANDUM

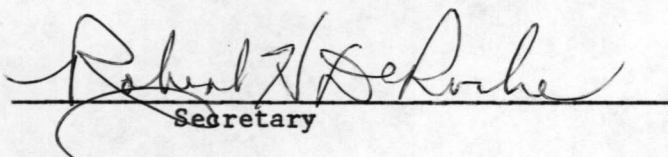
A meeting of the Welfare Contact Committee having been called to convene at the Court House on Monday, September 11, 1972, no quorum existed because of the absence of Commissioners Armatti, Pellonpaa and Sodergren. Present: Commissioner McCracken. In attendance: Mrs. Mary L. Fontaine, Director of the Social Services Department, John Shackelford, Assistant Director, and Howard Lehto, Member of the Social Services Board.

Copies of the fiscal report and analysis for the month of July, 1972 were provided for eventual distribution to members of the County Board as a monthly routine matter.

Mrs. Fontaine reported on the Work and Training Program, and filed a schedule showing 31,328 hours of work at a value of \$64,774.01 for the period of August 1, 1971 to July 31, 1972. During August of 1972, 81% of the job assignments were carried out. 5,707 hours of work was performed at a value of \$12,124.73.

Discussion was held regarding the inadequacy of the heating and air conditioning system in the offices of the Social Services Department. The Social Services Board has authorized Levine Brothers to make a survey of means to correct the problem. The local heating firm which originally installed the equipment, has done nothing during these past five years to alleviate the situation, and for that reason another firm is being used as a consultant.

Some discussion was held regarding the problem experienced by the Prosecuting Attorney and the Department of Social Services regarding the handling of fraud cases as well as the matter of preserving the confidentiality of records as provided in state statute. Mrs. Fontaine indicated the intention of the Social Services Board to meet with the Prosecuting Attorney's staff to resolve these problems.

  
Secretary

October 17, 1972

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

Gentlemen:

At the October 17, 1972 meeting of your Welfare Contact Committee, the additional funds needed by the Social Services Department to cover obligations for the remainder of 1972 was discussed. The Marquette County Board of Social Services has estimated this need at \$38,500.00.

A copy of the communication from the Marquette County Board of Social Services on this subject, dated October 17, 1972, which explains the need, has been furnished to each County Commissioner, and a copy is attached hereto and made a part of this report.

Your Committee recommends that the sum of \$38,500.00 be transferred from the General Fund to the Social Services Fund to cover the obligations of the Social Services Department for the remainder of 1972.

Respectfully submitted,

WELFARE CONTACT COMMITTEE,

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\_\_\_\_\_ Chairman



October 17, 1972

A regular meeting of the Welfare Contact Committee was duly called and held on Tuesday, October 17, 1972, at 7:00 p.m. at the Court House.

Present: Commissioners Armatti, Pellonpaa and Sodergren

Absent: Commissioner McCracken

In Attendance: Mrs. Mary L. Fontaine, Director of Social Services, and Mr. Howard Lehto, member of the Social Services Board.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Sodergren. Moved by Commissioner Pellonpaa, supported by Commissioner Armatti and unanimously adopted that the minutes of the previous meeting be approved without reading.

The Chairman reported on his attempt to secure more information regarding the union's hiring policy at the Tilden Project. He contacted Representative D. Jacobetti, who stated that he plans to arrange a personal meeting with the union representative who handles the placement of personnel. The Chairman will report on the results of this meeting as soon as he receives the information.

Chairman Sodergren reported on the breakdown of unemployment rates for Marquette County, which information was received from Mr. Sklapsky of the Michigan Employment Security Commission. The breakdown is as follows:

January	9.1%	May	8.2%
February	10.6%	June	7.5%
March	11.0%	July	6.0%
April	9.7%	August	5.1%

This indicates a decrease in unemployment since March. Mr. Sodergren stated that, while in Munising recently, he talked with Extension Director Arvid Norlin, who, together with AMCAB personnel, conducted a telephone survey in Alger County. They called 20 welfare recipients in Alger County, and asked the question: "Would you be willing to work if an industry were brought in?" Only three responded affirmatively. The low pay scale in many industries (example - the now defunct Cliffs Dow) is less than the average welfare grant. Mrs. Fontaine quoted from the September 7th issue of the Labor Market Letter, indicating that there has been a seasonal decline in the U. P. rate of unemployment of 8.77%. Marquette County's rate is around 5%. She brought out the fact that all ADC-U fathers are referred to the Michigan Employment Security Commission and other agencies which offer placement help. Mr. Sodergren talked with U. P. Power Company personnel and learned that they have a large list of applicants from throughout the state.

Mrs. Fontaine discussed the financial dilemma of the Department in the area of medical payments. An attempt is being made to institute a policy of deferred payments to doctors, dentists, hospitals, etc. A letter was sent on October 6, 1972 to hospitals, doctors, etc., explaining that payments would have to be deferred, until 1973 funds are available. The reaction was adverse. Mrs. Fontaine stated that their Department has been approving the claims and holding them. She presented the members with a copy of the projections of Receipts and Disbursements for October, November and December, 1972, showing a deficit as of December 31, 1972 of \$38,500.00. A copy of this communication is attached hereto and made a part of these minutes.

Moved by Commissioner Pellonpaa, supported by Commissioner Armatti and unanimously adopted that this Committee recommend to the County Board of Commissioners that this amount of money (\$38,500.00) be transferred out of the General Fund to meet this obligation.

Mrs. Fontaine further commented that a meeting of the doctors and Medicaid staff was held last week. They are supposed to provide an agreement to participate in the medical program. The doctors of Marquette County refused to sign the provider agreement.

The question was raised as to whether or not County Commissioners have access to the lists of names of persons who are receiving medical help. Mrs. Fontaine indicated that the information which is available is: name, address and amount of assistance. Chairman Sodergren inquired into the policy regarding repayment for hospital costs. Mrs. Fontaine stated that the monthly average of refunds is \$2,000.00. She pointed out that a follow-up is made, however in cases where they are medically indigent when they enter the hospital, it is rare that they are able to make any repayment.

Mrs. Fontaine stated that, starting in October, the direct relief general assistance load will be paid 100% by the state, as the county has expended 1 mill of its State Equalized Valuation for this purpose, which is its legal required limit per year under the law.

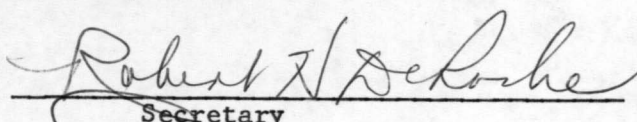
Mrs. Fontaine reported on her meeting with the Friend of the Court and the Prosecuting Attorney on October 12. They reviewed the procedures to be followed in fraud cases, and Mrs. Fontaine anticipates that close cooperation will result.

Mrs. Fontaine discussed the meeting with the lessor of the office space on September 19, 1972, regarding heating and ventilation problems in their office. Mr. Johnson, the heating contractor, was in attendance, together with Mr. Secore, a specialist in the heating field, Mr. Morrison of Levine Brothers, and representatives of the F & R Corporation. Mr. Frazer agreed to build a glass vestibule on the north entrance which should alleviate part of the problem. Also, a storm window will be installed on the northeast window which is a source of heat loss. F & R Corporation also agreed to assume the cost of painting the conference room and the utility room. To further alleviate the heating problem, a staff member has been assigned to monitor the heating controls and make manual adjustments as conditions warrant. The heating contractor agreed to install new air ducts in the conference room.

Mrs. Fontaine reported on the Work and Training Program. A screening program is being conducted to match the client with the job opportunity. This is hampered by the fact that the sites are not always close enough to be practical. Mrs. Fontaine reported that the rate of absenteeism is declining. 127 persons were involved in the program at a dollar equivalent value of \$11,048.90. She felt that incentive pay is responsible for clients completing their work hours. 81% of those involved completed their assigned hours in August, and Mrs. Fontaine assumed that it would be approximately the same for September.

Mrs. Fontaine distributed booklets "Welfare - Myths & Facts", published by the Department of Health, Education and Welfare. She explained that a local study revealed that the average time on the rolls for an ADC recipient is two years. The question of whether or not we were making full utilization of the Alcoholism Referral Program was discussed. Mrs. Fontaine indicated that this was being done, and that the newly-formed Halfway House (which provides an opportunity for employment at the Gannon Mill) was also used. She outlined the policy regarding hospitalization for alcoholics: after three days, if they need additional therapy, they are transferred to the Alcoholic Unit, then to Halfway House for referral. She stressed the 3-day limitation. She explained further that the Hospital Utilization Committee determines the number of days for general hospitalization. This is strictly controlled since Medicaid is involved. After necessary treatment, 48 hours is the maximum allowed for getting an individual out of the hospital, and the Social Services Department works with the hospital social workers on this.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned.

  
Secretary

November 13, 1972

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

Gentlemen:

A regular meeting of your Welfare Contact Committee was held on November 13, 1972, and copies of the minutes of that meeting have been furnished to all members of the Board of Commissioners. A copy of the minutes is also attached hereto and made a part of this report.

Respectfully submitted,

WELFARE CONTACT COMMITTEE

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ Chairman

December 11, 1972

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

Gentlemen:

A regular meeting of your Welfare Contact Committee was held on December 11, 1972, and copies of the minutes of that meeting have been furnished to all members of the Board of Commissioners. A copy of the minutes is also attached hereto and made a part of this report.

Respectfully submitted,

WELFARE CONTACT COMMITTEE

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ Chairman

December 11, 1972

A regular meeting of the Welfare Contact Committee was duly called and held on Monday, December 11, 1972, at 7:00 p.m. at the Court House.

Present: Commissioners Armatti, McCracken, Pellonpaa and Sodergren.

Absent: None.

In Attendance: Mrs. Fontaine, Director of the Social Services Department and Social Services Board members Howe, Lehto and Micklow.

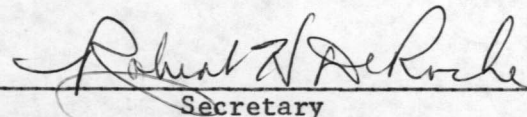
The meeting was called to order by Chairman Sodergren. Moved by Commissioner Pellonpaa, supported by Commissioner Armatti, and unanimously adopted that the minutes of the previous meeting be approved.

A schedule indicating the amount of money provided by the counties in the Upper Peninsula for welfare purposes for 1972, and amounts budgeted for 1973 was reviewed. Mrs. Fontaine volunteered to prepare a schedule of case loads and state participation for the calendar year 1972. All of the information will not be available until some time in January, but the material will be transmitted to all County Commissioners at that time.

Mrs. Fontaine reported that the incentive pay provided recipients under the Work and Training Program is proving very effective. We now have 180<sup>123</sup> participants in this program. Discussion brought out the fact that it would be most desirable if trainees could be placed in non-profit private institutions such as the local hospitals. Present regulations require, however, that only government units may use Work and Training Program personnel. It was moved by Commissioner Pellonpaa, supported by Commissioner McCracken, and unanimously adopted that this Committee go on record in favor of a change in the regulations to permit the use of Work and Training Program personnel in private non-profit institutions. A copy of these minutes will be filed with Representative Dominic Jacobetti.

It was reported that the case load is down from 349 to 343 this month. At one point earlier this year, the case load reached an all-time high of 397.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

  
Secretary

January 15, 1973

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

Gentlemen:

A regular meeting of your Welfare Contact Committee was held on January 15, 1973, and copies of the minutes of that meeting have been furnished to all members of the Board of Commissioners. A copy of the minutes is also attached hereto and made a part of this report.

Respectfully submitted,

WELFARE CONTACT COMMITTEE

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\_\_\_\_\_ Chairman

January 15, 1973

A regular meeting of the Welfare Contact Committee was duly called and held at the Court House on Monday, January 15, 1973, at 7:00 p.m.

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

Absent: None.

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

Due to the late arrival of Chairman Racine, the meeting was called to order by Vice Chairman Goldsworthy. The minutes of the previous meeting were read and approved.

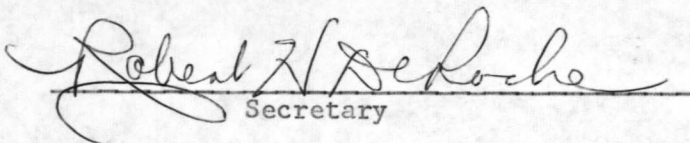
The Director reviewed the purposes of the Work and Training Program, and reported that 95% of those assigned to work sites have completed their assignments during the past month. The equivalent value of the work performed under this program during 1972 amounts to \$89,482.25, which represents a substantial contribution to the community in return for the social services rendered the participants.

The Director reported that Title 19 of the Federal Program has been revised so that the Medical Assistance Program services for alcoholism and drug dependency will now be included and paid for 100% by state and federal funds. Formerly the County Hospital Program carried this obligation and was covered by 100% county funds. This new arrangement should help somewhat to temper the ever-rising cost of the medical program.

Discussion was held regarding methods used to enforce the payment of support to families by responsible persons who have left the state. It was explained that the Uniform Reciprocal Enforcement Support Act covers the 50 states, so that the legal enforcement of support orders can be carried out in the new state of residence of the person involved without extraditing him to the state where the court order for support was made. This relieves counties of substantial amounts of expense in bringing defendants back and forth from one state to another and lessens the opportunity of a person shirking his responsibility. We now have families whose support is being enforced by the courts of other states, and from time to time are enforcing support payments at the local level from responsible persons residing here, but whose families reside in other states. Mrs. Fontaine explained the several categories of assistance handled by the County Department of Social Services, and pointed out that, in most areas, state and federal law applies to the type of care provided clients under specific programs. Temporary relief rules are made and revised from time to time by the local Board of Social Services. Committee members expressed a desire to have a copy of the rules, and Mrs. Fontaine agreed to supply them with this information. After discussion of the food stamp program, which is governed by federal-state regulations, it was agreed that a condensed version of the rules governing this program would also be furnished to Committee members by the Social Services Office.

A general discussion of the operation of the County Social Services Department for the benefit of new Committee members was had.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned.

  
Secretary

February 12, 1973

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

Gentlemen:

A regular meeting of your Welfare Contact Committee was held on February 12, 1973, and copies of the minutes of that meeting have been furnished to all members of the Board of Commissioners. A copy of the minutes is also attached hereto and made a part of this report.

Respectfully submitted,

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ Chairman



February 12, 1973

A regular meeting of the Welfare Contact Committee was duly called and held at the Court House on February 12, 1973, at 7:00 p.m.

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

Absent: None.

In Attendance: Social Services Board members Howe and Lehto, together with Mary L. Fontaine, Director.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Racine.

Mrs. Fontaine reported that a new program is being created under Title 19, known as Early and Periodic Screening. This program will provide diagnosis and treatment for children in low-income families. The Social Services Department will function as a certifying agency, and the children will be referred to the County Health Department for screening. The furnishing of eye glasses, hearing aids, additional treatment for hearing and sight difficulties, and some dental care will be included in the program. This change should save some money for the Social Services Department, and provide health services for low-income families' children which might not otherwise be provided. An outline for this operation is expected to be completed shortly.

Last month the case load of relief recipients was down a few cases, but this month the load is up 14 cases over last month. There are currently 354 active cases. Under the food stamp plan, actual sales were \$98,609.00. This is a slight reduction from a year ago, possibly brought about by the fact that the U. S. Department of Agriculture has tightened up on the eligibility requirements for this program. There were 733 public assistance cases, and 559 marginal income cases. These two categories combined covered 3,730 persons.

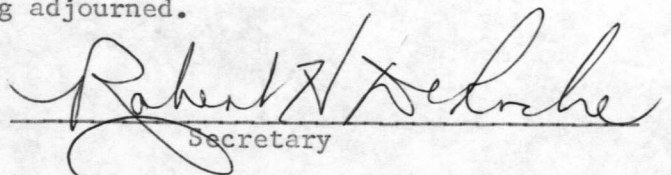
Annual figures for the Work and Training Program were submitted, and a copy of the report is attached hereto and made a part hereof. Mrs. Fontaine reported that some effort is being made to get the Legislature to expand this program to include private non-profit organizations, such as hospitals, alcoholism programs, etc., among the allowable work sites. She believes that this would provide more appropriate assignments in some cases.

Discussion was had regarding the need for office space for the Social Services Department with particular reference to space allotted in the proposed new Court House Annex Building. When this was programmed two years ago, the Social Services Department employed 26 workers. That staff has now been expanded to 46 workers, and their need is considerably greater than the amount allotted in the proposed new Annex Building. Having in mind the extra space which is planned in the new Court House Annex because of the withdrawal of the City of Marquette from the project, it was recommended that the Social Services Department make known its needs in detail in writing to the County Lands and Buildings Committee of the County Board for its consideration in an attempt to provide the needed additional space.

Mrs. Fontaine reported that the State Association of Welfare Commissions has directed that the Social Services Board of each county submit some type of program to the County Board of Commissioners for expansion of social services in their county under federal revenue sharing funds. She explained that the increased availability of funds to the counties should make it easier to expand programs for the poor and aged. A study of the matter will be made by the Social Services Board, and a report submitted to the County Board at a later date.

Discussion was had regarding the handling of welfare fraud cases, especially in view of the fact that the Social Services Department is providing special grant funds for the Prosecuting Attorney's Office to handle legal work for the Social Services Department. After discussion, it was moved by Commissioner Goldsworthy, supported by Commissioner May, and unanimously adopted, that this Committee request the Prosecuting Attorney to submit a progress report on all fraud cases turned over to him for prosecution by the Social Services Department, indicating the disposition of each case, and that he also report on his efforts to have responsible adults comply with the Support Authorization Law.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned.

  
Secretary

March 12, 1973

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

Ladies & Gentlemen:

At the March 12, 1973 meeting of your Welfare Contact Committee, discussion was had regarding the Governor's recommendation for amendment of existing social welfare laws which would provide for the appointment of the director for county Departments of Social Services by the State rather than by the county Boards of Social Services, as the present law provides.

Your Committee adheres to the theory and belief that local control of local governments is better than control from the state or federal level. For this reason, your Committee believes that the Board of Commissioners should go on record opposing the proposed change. Your Committee recommends, therefore, the adoption of the attached resolution.

Respectfully submitted,

WELFARE CONTACT COMMITTEE

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\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ Chairman

March 12, 1973

A regular meeting of the Welfare Contact Committee was duly called and held at the Court House on Monday, March 12, 1973, at 7:00 p.m.

Present: Commissioners Coombs, Goldsworthy, May and Racine.

Also in attendance: Commissioner Sodergren, in the absence of Board Chairman Anderson; Social Services Board Members Hammerschmidt, Howe and Lehto, together with Mrs. Mary L. Fontaine, Director of the Department of Social Services, and Mr. Gary Walker, Assistant Prosecuting Attorney.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Racine.

Mrs. Fontaine reported that the general assistance case load has increased to 382 cases. The highest load for the County Department was 392 cases in August of 1972. During the past month, 88 new cases were opened, and 56 cases were closed. The majority of these cases resulted from the loss or gain of employment.

The Work and Training Program is still increasing, and 164 persons are presently involved in the project. Plans are under way to provide a better system of assigning the workers and closer supervision of the work actually performed. It was reported that it was necessary to replace Mr. Burley as coordinator of this program, as there were some aspects of the job (particularly follow-up with supervision of the various job sites) which he did not do. The new coordinator, taken from the relief rolls, has already begun work.

Mrs. Fontaine reported that with a view of preparing the program for submission to the Board of Commissioners to use a portion of the federal revenue sharing monies in Welfare Department programs, it would be proposed that homemakers' services be organized within the Department. Considerable discussion was held regarding federal revenue sharing, and Committee members pointed out that the Board of Commissioners had already earmarked these funds, in total, to the County Building Project. Mrs. Fontaine reported further that, if the approximate sum of \$3,500.00 could be taken from existing Social Services funds, federal funds on a 75 - 25% match would be available to organize and operate a homemakers' service. In some cases, people now on welfare would be employed part-time in such a program so as to produce a service for the aid received. It was decided that the County Social Services Department should put together a proposition and submit it to the Committee at a future meeting, so that consideration may be given to the project, and a determination be made at that time whether or not it should be recommended to the Board of Commissioners for adoption.

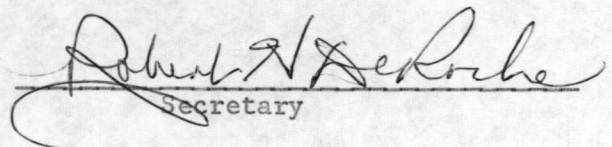
Attorney Gary Walker then addressed the Committee regarding the prosecution of welfare fraud cases. He stated that in almost every case, a real effort is made to obtain restitution of funds received under apparently fraudulent circumstances. This presents a problem, however, because most of the people in this group are borderline welfare cases or actual welfare cases, and do not have the means of repayment. Also, it is illegal for the Department of Social Services to receive the repayment of funds from a welfare grant while they are eligible to receive welfare. Mrs. Fontaine explained that the state takes the position that this would merely be repaying an established debt to welfare funds from welfare funds, and, therefore, is not legal. Mr. Walker explained that the proof of fraud in these cases is extremely difficult. Even though there is every appearance of fraud in a given case, to prove it is another matter. Specifically, it is necessary to prove that the individual intended to defraud, and this is almost impossible to do, as they can always claim they did not understand the situation. In addition, defendants of this type qualify for the assistance of U. P. Legal Services, and that battery of attorneys are well versed in the defense of this type of case.

Mr. Walker stated further that all of the defendants under welfare fraud, so far, have been women. While it is possible to sentence them to serve time in jail if fraud can be proven, it is virtually impossible to do so when there are small children who would be deprived of their mother. For all of these reasons, Mr. Walker believes the prosecution of welfare fraud cases is extremely rare in the State of Michigan. So far, only Oakland County has begun to prosecute this type of case in a vigorous manner. Such a small number of this type of case has been prosecuted in this state during past years that there does not seem to be legal precedent for the orderly prosecution of a given case. Very recent attempts to secure assistance in this matter from the State Attorney General's office have brought out the fact that this type of case hasn't been handled enough times in the past throughout the state to give the courts any direction at this time. Mr. Walker explained further that a case, properly prepared for prosecution, would include a tremendous amount of work completed by a detective-type of person. Attorneys know what they need to prosecute a case, but a trained detective knows how to secure the information, and this type of person is lacking in the local office. The Prosecuting Attorney, he stated, is very much against cheating on the welfare system, but they have to be realistic about attempting to prosecute cases where they don't have iron-clad proof. In these instances, every attempt is made to recover the questionable funds. At the present time, nine cases are under investigation in the office of the Prosecuting Attorney. Some consideration was given to whether or not existing statutes on welfare fraud could be amended to more easily provide prosecution, and it was agreed that this Committee and the office of Social Services would, from time to time, list those items which might later be recommended to our Legislature by way of improving the laws to eliminate welfare fraud through prosecution. Mr. Walker stated that he was aware of the fact that county officials believe that full prosecution of a few cases with the resultant newspaper publicity would perhaps be in the best interest of reducing welfare fraud. He then left the meeting.

Moved by Commissioner Sodergren, supported by Commissioner May, and unanimously adopted that this Committee and the Social Services Board, as well as the Prosecuting Attorney's office catalog recommendations for eventual contact with our legislators in an attempt to change the laws governing the prosecution of welfare abuses.

Mrs. Fontaine reported that the Governor is again proposing new legislation which would provide for state payment of office space for county departments, but would also provide for the appointment of a County Director by the state office rather than the County Social Services Board. After discussion, it was moved by Commissioner Sodergren, supported by Commissioner Coombs, and unanimously adopted, that this Committee recommend to the Board of Commissioners the adoption of a resolution opposing the Governor's bill on this subject.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned.

  
Secretary

April 9, 1973

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 April 9, 1973, and copies of the minutes of that meeting have been furnished to all members of the Board of Commissioners. A copy of the minutes is also attached hereto and made a part of this report.

Respectfully submitted,

WELFARE CONTACT COMMITTEE,

Chairman

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April 9, 1973

A regular meeting of the Welfare Contact Committee was duly called and held on Monday, April 9, 1973, at 7:00 p.m. at the Court House.

Present: Commissioners Anderson, Coombs, Goldsworthy, May 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.

Mrs. Fontaine reported that at the present rate of expenditures from the direct relief fund, it now appears that the allowable millage limit of county responsibility for this purpose will be reached in July, and the expenditures for the remainder of the year will be covered 100% by state funds. She also reported that a recent change in regulations provides that the food stamp program cases be included in computing the total number of cases handled by the Department. For this reason, the percentage of the total which the direct relief case load represents is reduced, and overall administrative expenses of the Department have been re-apportioned. The County's share of this cost has been reduced from 20% to 6.8%.

Under the food stamp program, approximately \$100,000 in food stamps are issued each month. This program costs the County approximately \$6,500.00 per year for the half-time services of a clerk, travel and a small portion of the actual cost of the stamps. The remaining cost of the program is borne by state and federal funds.

A work project report of activities for the month of March, 1973 was discussed. Mrs. Fontaine expressed her approval of the program to date, and indicated that it is expanding. A copy of the report is attached hereto and made a part hereof.

General assistance caseload now stands at 397. This figure is fairly stable as compared with recent months. During March of 1973, seventy-one new cases were opened and 56 cases closed. During the same month, 320 cases were handled by service workers. One hundred seventy one cases were for family service, and 149 requests were for other additional services. The financial assistance to these clients is taken care of by the staff of case workers. In addition, considerable work was carried out by the child welfare workers.

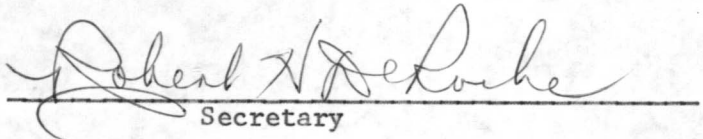
Mrs. Fontaine reported that she has recently received from the State of Michigan a statistical report for the end of 1972, comparing caseloads and expenditures for the various counties within the state. Marquette County had 3,315 total cases out of an Upper Peninsula total of 18,706. This is a percentage increase from the previous month of 0.3%. Compared with the previous year, this represents an increase of 15.4%. There were a total of 2,781 persons on ADC in Marquette County, 878 of whom were adults and 1,903 were children. This represents approximately 2.5 children per average family. There were 805 persons on ADC-U, of which 357 were adults and 448 were children. Mrs. Fontaine is continuing her work on a consolidation of statistics to compare Marquette County with Upper Peninsula counties for the last fiscal year. The report will be made available to all Commissioners when completed.

The Director reported that a new health screening program will commence shortly under Title 19. All children of ADC families will be eligible for health screening. This will include individual case histories, general physicals, hearing and vision testing, and certain laboratory tests. This service will be carried out on a cooperative basis, with the County Health Department doing the actual screening and the Department of Social Services making the referrals. The estimated population of ADC children in the county is 1,500. Eligibility extends to 21 years of age, but it is the intention of the Department to concentrate on children 6 years of age and under to begin the program. Dr. Matthews, of Marquette, has volunteered to schedule treatment for these children beyond screening, if necessary. There would be no charge for his services. It also appears that there will be a dental program for many children covered by Medicaid. They will be taken care of by local dentists who will be paid from federal funds.

It was reported that a change of Medicaid rules now provides care of mentally ill persons in approved psychiatric wards and as out-patients from mental clinics. This should be of great financial assistance to the local Act 54 Board. Eligibility has also been expanded to include treatment for drug addiction and alcoholism.

The Committee then reviewed a report from the Prosecuting Attorney's office regarding the status of present welfare fraud cases as of March 30, 1973. A copy of this report is attached hereto and made a part of these minutes. Committee members noted the lack of dates in reporting the various cases, so there was really no way of knowing how the prosecution in these cases is progressing or lagging. The Social Services Board was requested to compile a list of those which were referred to the Prosecuting Attorney's office for action, giving dates and particulars, but omitting names to comply with regulations. This should afford the Committee a better opportunity to determine the progress of fraud cases.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned.

  
Secretary

May 14, 1973

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 May 14, 1973, and copies of the minutes of that meeting have been furnished to all members of the Board of Commissioners. A copy of the minutes is also attached hereto and made a part of this report.

Respectfully submitted,

WELFARE CONTACT COMMITTEE

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\_\_\_\_\_ Chairman



May 14, 1973.

A regular meeting of the Welfare Contact Committee was duly called and held on Monday, May 14, 1973, at 7:00 o'clock p. m. at the Court House.

Present: Commissioners Arderson, Coombs, Goldsworthy, May and Racine.

Absent: None.

In attendance: Social Services Board members Hammerschmidt and Howe, together with Director M. L. Fontaine.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Racine.

Discussion was held on a request filed with the Board of Commissioners that a County Commission on Aging be formed. This matter was referred to this committee for study and recommendation to the Budget and Executive Committee. Social Services Board member Howe supplied the committee with guideline material to form such a commission as well as information on the organization of the Schoolcraft County Commission on Aging. She explained that a county commission on aging would be the vehicle through which state and federal grant monies might be obtained for any number of benefits for our senior citizens. State and Federal agencies simply will not work with smaller private organizations scattered throughout the area but will recognize a duly constituted county commission. Programs involving nutrition, senior citizen centers, transportation, health programs and equipment, etc. can evolve from such a commission as its work progresses. If organized, the County Board of Commissioners would decide the number of members and method of selection, whether the members would serve as volunteers or with pay and would decide, in the future, what county monies, if any, would be made available for the various programs generated by the Commission on Aging. Most programs undertaken by such a committee would be eligible for state or federal grants and it is anticipated that local matching funds could be generated at the local level from community resources without involving the county government. It was pointed out that the 1970 census indicates that 5, 185 of our county residents are over 65 years of age. Many of these people are eligible for assistance under state and federal programs but do not take advantage of the assistance. The proposed commission would be in a position to give guidance and help to these people without any additional cost to the local governments. After discussion, it was moved by Commissioner Coombs, supported by Commissioner May and unanimously adopted that this committee finds there is a need for a Commission on Aging in this county and that the Budget and Executive Committee be advised accordingly.

Mrs. Fontaine reported that the case load has risen to an all time high of 409 from 397 the previous month. 371 single person cases and 38 families with children under 21 were on the rolls at the close of April, 1973. The family cases are usually transferred to ADC after the initial grant, however, so these are for short term only. 67 cases were opened and 55 cases closed during April, 1973. This indicates that the employment situation is not improving.


Considerable discussion was had regarding the lack of reduction in the welfare case load despite the fact that there is so much construction work going on in the county this season. It appears that the welfare case load consists largely of unskilled labor for which there is no demand in the construction field. In addition, present welfare benefits are such that there is very little incentive for a worker to take a low paying job which may only raise his standard of living by a very small degree. No conclusions were reached in this matter.

The Food Stamp Program now has 2,092 cases certified. 345 are new applicants during the month and 52 cases were closed. \$102,469.00 in total value of food stamps were issued.

Mrs. Fontaine explained that the Food Stamp Program clerk and the Work & Training Program co-ordinator have been carried as county employees for some time. This is similar to the pattern for similar employees in other Social Services Departments across the state. A recent change in interpretation of the regulations, however, will necessitate a change in the status of these employees. Apparently it will be ruled improper to carry them on a county payroll in the manner now used and a system of providing this help under a "purchase of services agreement" method will be started. There is some opposition among Social Services Departments across the state in this matter but final determination must await more definite information.

Discussion was held in the matter of prosecution of welfare fraud cases. None have resulted in conviction to date so far as the Social Services Department or committee members are aware of, and no convictions have been reported by the County Prosecutor.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned.

  
Secretary.

June 11, 1973

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

Ladies and Gentlemen:

At the June 11, 1973 meeting of your Welfare Contact Committee, it was learned that the State Department of Social Services, by recent regulation change, has ruled that no unclassified positions on the staff of the local Social Services office will be permitted beyond January 1, 1974. The food stamp clerk and the work and training program coordinator are unclassified employees. There is at least some possibility that the food stamp clerk may be absorbed into the staff of classified employees in the Department, but the work and training program coordinator will not. Since there is no allowance on the staff for this worker, it would appear that, effective January 1, 1974, the work and training program would be closed or operated by some county department completely separated from the Social Services Department. At this time, Committee members were unable to determine what other county department might be in a position to operate such a program. This problem exists in many departments across the State of Michigan, and the State Association of Social Services Boards is pressing for a reversal of the new regulation.

Your Committee recommends that the County Board of Commissioners go on record in favor of changing the state regulation so as to provide that these necessary positions be included in staffing the County Social Services Department with classified employees. Your Committee recommends the adoption of the attached resolution.

Respectfully submitted,

WELFARE CONTACT COMMITTEE

\_\_\_\_\_  
Chairman

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June 11, 1973

A regular meeting of the Welfare Contact Committee was duly called and held on Monday, June 11, 1973 at 7:00 p.m. at the Courthouse.

Present: Commissioners Coombs, Goldsworthy and Racine.

Absent: Commissioners Anderson and May.

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

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Racine.

The Director reported that during the previous month 589 requests for service were filed with only three intake workers to process this high volume. State staffing recommendations are 80 cases per month per worker, but no provision has been made thus far to increase the intake staff. During May, the case load decreased from 409 to 364, but since June 1 the case load is rising, probably because of the strike at the Lake Shore Engineering Company in Marquette. The Social Services Department is now limited to 60 days assistance to single employables, and this ruling tends to lower the total number of single employables on the rolls. Many of them are forced to seek employment outside the area. During the month of May, 16 new cases were added to the rolls because of loss of employment and 36 cases were closed by gainful employment.

Considerable discussion was held regarding the lack of prosecution on fraud cases. To date, no convictions have been made and the Social Services Board has decided to ask the State Investigator General to review the situation on the basis that constant failure on the part of the Prosecuting Attorney to follow through in these matters provides sufficient cause for such an investigation. During the next week the Chairman of the Board of Commissioners will be so notified. It was generally agreed that this matter must be brought out into the open for discussion and solution, and that the failure to do so will certainly result in a continuation of fraud cases. It was moved by Commissioner Coombs, supported by Commissioner Goldsworthy, and unanimously adopted that this Committee recommend that the Board of Commissioners support the action of the Social Services Board in requesting this review by the State Investigator General.

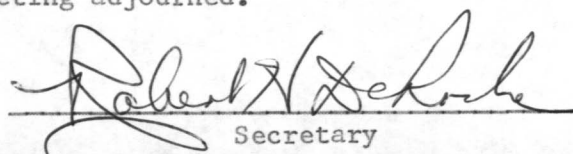
The Director reported that the State Department of Social Services by recent regulation change has ruled that no unclassified positions on the staff of the local Social Services office will be permitted beyond January 1, 1974. The food stamp clerk and the work and training program coordinator are unclassified employees. Mrs. Fontaine explained that there is at least some possibility that the food stamp clerk may be absorbed into the staff of classified employees in the Department, but the work and training program coordinator will not. Since there is no allowance on the staff for this worker, it would appear that, effective January 1, 1974, the work and training program would be closed or operated by some county department completely separated from the Social Services Department. At this time, Committee members were unable to determine what other county department might be in a position to operate such a program. Mrs. Fontaine explained further that this problem exists in many departments across the State of Michigan, and that the State Association of Social Services Boards is pressing for a reversal of the new regulation. Moved by Commissioner Goldsworthy, supported by Commissioner Coombs, and unanimously adopted that this Committee present to the Board of Commissioners for adoption a resolution urging the continuation of the use of unclassified personnel in the Social Services Department as at present, and that copies of the resolution be sent to our legislators at Lansing and to the Michigan Association of Counties.

The Director reported on the work and training program for the month of May, 1973. A copy of the statistical report is attached hereto and made a part hereof.

The Report for the month of April of Receipts and Disbursements was also presented and copy of that report is attached hereto and made a part hereof.

The Director reported that an agreement has been reached between the State Department of Social Services and the U. S. Postal Service for the issuance of food stamps at the post offices. Eligible cases will be reviewed and certified by the Social Services Department and that certification will then permit the recipient to purchase food stamps at the post office. Marquette County's Social Services Department has not decided at this point whether or not it will be handled in this manner here.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned.

  
Secretary

July 9, 1973

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 July 9, 1973, and copies of the minutes of that meeting have been furnished to all members of the Board of Commissioners. A copy of the minutes is also attached hereto and made a part of this report.

Respectfully submitted,

WELFARE CONTACT COMMITTEE

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_ Chairman

July 9, 1973

A regular meeting of the Welfare Contact Committee was duly called and held on Monday, July 9, 1973, at 7:00 p.m., at the Courthouse.

Present: Commissioners Coombs, Goldsworthy, May, Racine and Sodergren.

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.

Mrs. Fontaine reported that the Inspector General for the State Social Services Commission was in Marquette recently, and discussed with them the lack of prosecution in social welfare cases where fraud is suspected. He explained that he had contacted Prosecuting Attorney Ruohomaki. The Prosecutor acknowledged that he was not complying with the 90-day report on the progress made on fraud cases reported to his office. During the month of June, the staff positions in the Prosecutor's office were vacant, and, in order to gain assistance in investigating fraud cases, Mr. Ruohomaki turned over some of these investigations to local police. An Ishpeming policeman had one of these investigations to make, and he notified the office of the Social Services Department earlier today that he would not make the investigation, as it was a proper duty of the Prosecuting Attorney's office to do so. The State Inspector general is making a further study of this matter, and will report his findings to the Social Services Board within the next few weeks.

It was reported that the general assistance case load is down to 357 from a high of 409 last winter. During the month of June, 81 new cases were opened and 88 cases closed.

On the Work and Training Program, during June 132 persons were employed for a total of 4,101 hours, having an equivalent dollar value of \$9,355.65.

The recent resolution adopted by the Board of Commissioners, opposing the ruling of the Attorney General with regard to the hiring of unclassified personnel, which includes the food stamp clerk and the work and training coordinator, is receiving attention at the State Department of Social Services. A rather involved communication from State Director Bernard Houston to the County on this subject would indicate that some effort is being made to place these job descriptions on the classified list, provided funds can be appropriated to cover the cost involved. The Social Services Board is hopeful that the Work and Training Program coordinator may be retained so that this much-needed program may continue.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned.

  
Secretary

August 13, 1973

A regular meeting of the Welfare Contact Committee was duly called and held on Monday, August 13, 1973, at 7:00 p.m. at the Courthouse.

Present: Commissioners Coombs, Goldsworthy and Sodergren.

Absent: Commissioners Anderson, May and Racine.

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

The meeting was called to order by Vice Chairman Goldsworthy. The minutes of the previous meeting were approved with the following correction: that portion which states "....an Ishpeming policeman had one of these investigations to make" is corrected to read "....a Negaunee policeman had one of these investigations to make".

Mrs. Fontaine reported a decline in the general assistance case load, and there are now 336 active cases, which is a reduction of 21 from the previous month. There were 60 new cases during this period and 81 closures. The closures included 32 who had gained employment, 9 were transferred to categorical programs, 8 moved from the County, 5 died, and 27 did not return to renew their applications. The reduction in the case load also reduces the availability of manpower to the Work and Training program.

During the month of July 3,252 hours were worked under the Work and Training Program, having an equivalent dollar value of \$7,520.32. One hundred thirteen persons were assigned to work during the month, and 61.07% of these workers completed their assigned hours. Among those who did not complete their assigned hours, grants for 44 persons were cancelled.

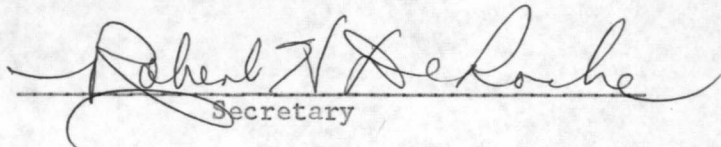
Discussion brought out the fact that direct relief recipients are subject to the Work and Training Program, but under state and federal regulations, ADC-U recipients cannot be involved. It was the consensus of the Committee that an effort should be made to extend the provisions of the Work and Training program to ADC-U recipients as well as direct relief recipients. Moved by Commissioner Sodergren, supported by Commissioner Coombs, and unanimously adopted that this Committee recommend to the Board of Commissioners that our legislators be urged to change the Social Services laws to provide that ADC-U recipients can be involved in the Work and Training program.

Mrs. Fontaine reported that the State Legislature has added a sum to the current state budget to provide for 292 investigators whose main purpose will be to ferret out fraud cases in the state welfare system. They will be assigned across the state and will verify welfare grants on a case-by-case basis, by calling at homes without appointment or prior notice.

The food stamp program is fairly stable. Stamp sales during the month of July totaled \$50,087, and bonus coupons amounted to a value of \$41,849.75. There were 2,782 active food stamp cases during the month. The director reported further that Mr. Wayne Jussila, recently appointed Investigator on the Prosecuting Attorney's staff, had met with her earlier today. He indicated his interest in following through on prosecution of welfare fraud cases. One case which had been "hanging fire" for a long time will now be brought to trial. Assistant Prosecuting Attorney Martin has filed a report in four cases of fraud, and it appears that two of them will be recommended for prosecution. One actual repayment of \$485.00 was recovered, and the other case is being recommended for repayment.

Discussion was held regarding the size of the County's Department of Social Services Staff, and its housing needs. Moved by Commissioner Sodergren, supported by Commissioner Coombs and unanimously adopted that this Committee request the Social Services Department to notify the Committee from time to time as additions or deletions are made to the staff authorized for that Department.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned.

  
Secretary

September 10, 1973

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 September 10, 1973, and copies of the minutes of that meeting have been furnished to all members of the Board of Commissioners. A copy of the minutes is also attached hereto and made a part of this report.

Respectfully submitted,

WELFARE CONTACT COMMITTEE

\_\_\_\_\_ Chairman

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September 10, 1973

A regular meeting of the Welfare Contact Committee was duly called and held on Monday, September 10, 1973, at 7:00 p.m. at the Courthouse.

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

Absent: None.

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

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Racine.

The Director reported that the caseload has stabilized at 329 cases. The high was reached last winter when there were 407 cases. It was reported that the employment picture in this area is somewhat improved. There were 233 registered applicants during the month of August, of which 197 were approved. Two of these cases were approved for Old Age Assistance, 38 approved for ADC, 5 approved for Aid to the Disabled, 77 approved for Medical Assistance, 71 approved for General Assistance, 2 approved for County Hospital Assistance and 2 approved for other types of assistance. The Department also had 195 requests for other services. One hundred and two were for family services, 90 for additional services and 3 for day care services.

At the beginning of August, 1973, only \$9,389.00 remained to be spent from county funds to complete the 1 mill limit for direct relief. When that has been spent in August, the direct relief for the remainder of the current year will be at 100% state cost.

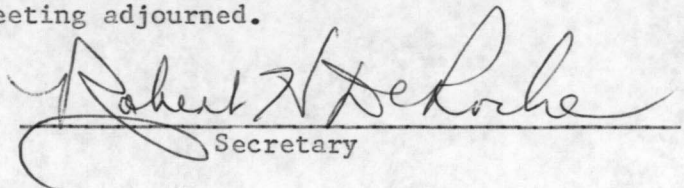
During the month, 397 non-public assistance cases were registered for food stamps. At the close of August, there were 2,800 active cases in this category; this figure represented a reduction from 2,930 cases which existed at the end of July.

Discussion was held regarding progress toward the prosecution of fraud cases. Mrs. Fontaine reported that the Prosecutor's Office has filed four "90 day reports" to date, and it appears that one case, at least, is being readied for trial later this month. There are approximately 23 cases of suspected fraud referred to date by the Social Services Department to the Prosecutor's Office for investigation. It appears that some action will be forthcoming in the processing of fraud cases.

The Director provided copies of the Work Project Report for the month of August, 1973, indicating the activity in that program. A copy of that report is attached hereto.

The Report of Receipts and Disbursements for the month of July was received and discussed. A copy of that report is also attached hereto.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned.

  
Secretary



October 15, 1973

A regular meeting of the Welfare Contact Committee was duly called and held on Monday, October 15, 1973, at 7:00 p.m. at the Courthouse.

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

Absent: None.

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

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Racine.

The Director reported that the general assistance caseload had decreased by two cases. 68 cases were opened and 70 were closed, with 327 active cases on the rolls. Of the cases opened, 25 lost employment, 11 had depleted their resources or savings, one lost source of earnings due to death, three were transferred from other programs due to unemployability, 28 showed increased need without change in resources. Cases closed - 24 found employment, 34 were transferred to other programs (state-federal), three moved out of this jurisdiction and nine were admitted to institutions.

The millage had been reached in August with 72.6% state participation and 27.3% county participation rather than the regular 60-40 ratio. Therefore, September, October, November and December will be 100% state reimbursement on matchable expenditures for general assistance, categorical assistance and administration. The present millage is \$191,549.98. Millage for 1974 will be approximately \$202,000.00. This is the amount to be expended in 1974 before 100% reimbursement by the state for general assistance. In federal-state categories, there were 206 registered requests during September. There were 152 pending requests carried over from August. 201 were disposed of, including 3 Old Age Assistance applications, 55 Aid to Dependent Children, 7 Aid to Disabled, 52 medical assistance, 79 general assistance and 5 county hospitalizations. There were 158 applications still pending at the end of the month. In addition to applications registered for public assistance, there were 170 new requests for service - 108 were for families and 62 for adults (either couples or singles, mostly aged). At the end of September, there were 562 service cases - 393 family and 128 adults.

There was discussion regarding the new Supplemental Security Income Program, involving the Social Security Administration and the Department of Social Services. More details on the program will be available at a later date.

Food stamp activities are increasing at about the usual rate. There were 2,800 active cases at the end of August and at the end of September, 3,050.

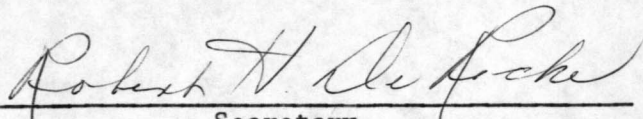
The Director reported that the Work and Training Program for August shows 111 participants compared with 177 last winter. It is hoped that the WIN Program can be tapped as a manpower source. The problem of transportation for Work and Training Program enrollees was discussed, as well as the difficulties encountered in matching the skills of the workers with the training sites. The need for more enrollees at the Courthouse and Road Commission sites was emphasized. Mrs. Fontaine pointed out that efforts are made to utilize the work sites to help renew or increase the workers' skills in order to enhance their employment prospects.

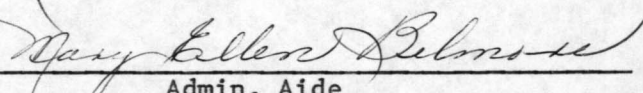
Discussion was held regarding the processing and disposition of fraud cases.

The Director distributed copies of the Work Project Report for the month of September, 1973, as well as the Report of Receipts and Disbursements for the month of August, 1973, copies of which are attached hereto.

Mrs. Fontaine was requested to obtain a comparison of welfare costs in Marquette County with the other counties in the Upper Peninsula. Some of the statistics will be available from CUPPADD or UPCAP.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned.

  
Secretary

by   
Admin. Aide

November 15, 1973

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 November 15, 1973, and copies of the minutes of that meeting have been furnished to all members of the Board of Commissioners. A copy of the minutes is also attached hereto and made a part of this report.

Respectfully submitted,

WELFARE CONTACT COMMITTEE

\_\_\_\_\_ Chairmann  
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November 15, 1973

A regular meeting of the Welfare Contact Committee was duly called and held on Tuesday, November 15, 1973, at 7:00 p.m. at the Courthouse.

Present: Commissioners Coombs, Goldsworthy, May and Racine.

Absent: Commissioner Anderson.

In Attendance: Social Service Board members Dompierre and Howe, together with Mrs. M. L. Fontaine, Director.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Racine.

The Director reported that the general assistance case load has decreased by 22 cases during the past month to a new figure of 305 cases. Return to employment was the reason for most of the decrease.

The Work and Training Program had 107 participants in the program who worked a total of 3,331 hours for a dollar equivalent value of \$7,815.65. The total hours worked under this program from the first of the year to the end of October were 39,078 for a dollar equivalent value of \$97,207.40.


The Receipts and Disbursements Analysis, as of September 30, 1973, was presented and placed on file. It appears that there are sufficient funds in the department to operate for the remainder of the fiscal year. A copy of this report is attached hereto and made a part hereof.

The Director reported that a new agreement has been entered into with the Probate Court for the investigation of all neglected and child abuse cases within the County. Those court cases which are adjudicated as neglected, where the children are in their own homes, will be under the supervision of the Social Services Department. The cost involved for the care of these cases will be borne by the state of Michigan. This program will become effective on December 3, 1973. After that date, neglected or abused children, who are so adjudicated by the Probate Court, will be eligible for assignment to the Social Services Department, and that Department will then provide all of the services which are now being provided by the Probate Court through its staff, with the expense being borne by the Child Care Fund. This fund expends moneys on the basis of approximately 60% County and 40% State funds.

Discussion was held regarding the preparation of comparative statistics for the cost of welfare by the 15 U. P. counties. Mrs. Fontaine presented a voluminous set of figures drawn from various sources, indicating the types of welfare expenditures within these various counties. It is almost an impossible task to prepare a chart to compare the 15 counties, as the types of programs vary from county to county so that no real comparison can be made if all of the detail is used. It was agreed that an attempt should be made to merely show the total cost of collective welfare programs in each of the counties, and reduce these costs for comparison to a percentage of the state equalized valuation of each county (ability to pay) and total cost per capita for each county. The Bookkeeper for the Social Services Department will work with the County Controller to prepare such a schedule prior to the next meeting of this Committee.

Lengthy discussion then was held regarding the apparent misunderstanding which exists between the office of the Prosecuting Attorney and the Social Services Department regarding progress reports on fraud cases submitted by the Social Services Department to the Prosecuting Attorney's office for prosecution. After discussion, it was moved by Commissioner Goldsworthy, supported by Commissioner May, and unanimously adopted that the Prosecuting Attorney be requested to meet with the Social Services Director and this Committee at its next regular meeting so that this matter may be clarified.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned.

  
Secretary

December 3, 1973

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 December 3, 1973, 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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December 3, 1973

A regular meeting of the Welfare Contact Committee was duly called and held on Monday, December 3, 1973, at 7:00 p.m. at the Courthouse.

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

Absent: None.

In attendance: Social Services Board Members Dompierre, Hammerschmidt and Howe, together with Director Fontaine. Also in attendance, County Commissioner Trapp, Prosecuting Attorney Ruohomaki and Assistant Prosecutor Martin.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Racine.

Discussion was held between representatives of the Social Services Board, the Prosecuting Attorney's Office and this Committee, regarding the problems which arise from an apparent lack of communication between the Social Services Department and the Prosecutor's Office on the handling of welfare fraud cases. A renewal of the state grant to the Prosecutor's office in the approximate sum of \$50,000.00 for 1974 for the purpose of upgrading the legal services to the Social Services Department is now being considered. The Social Services Department pointed out that the main purpose of the grant is to provide the additional help in the Prosecutor's office to expand their efforts to secure child support from responsible fathers whose families are receiving ADC. In addition, the grant is intended to provide extra efforts toward the prosecution of welfare fraud cases. The Social Services Department points out that since the grant started in June of 1972, there has been no appreciable increase in the level of recovery from responsible fathers. Exact figures are not available for the level of payment which existed at the beginning of the program, but they have been estimated at \$9,000.00 to \$10,000.00 per month. Prior to June of 1972, the office of the Friend of the Court processed all payments in one group, and did not separate the child support cases for ADC families from the volume of cases in which ADC is not involved. The Social Services Department states, however, that the estimated \$9,000.00 to \$10,000.00 per month is a reasonable approximation, and at the present level, 1½ years after the grant has been in operation, it is only between \$10,000.00 and \$11,000.00 per month. It was also stated that in some other counties where similar grants have been made, recovery from responsible fathers has increased from two to three times over the level reached prior to grant.

An effort has been made for the past several months to determine the total amount which is available from responsible fathers, and only recently an estimated figure of \$29,000.00 was reduced to \$24,500.00, as being closer to the actual amount available. The Prosecutor pointed out that with responsible fathers sometimes unemployed, and with a number of them now residing in other states, there will never be a time when the ultimate can be reached. An explanation of the work involved in URESA (the cooperation of courts between states) was made by the Prosecutor. He also explained the difficulties encountered in prosecuting paternity cases and financial settlements for unwed mothers.

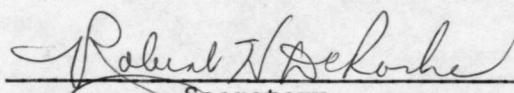
Much of the problem which existed between the Prosecutor's office and the Social Services Department stems from the state regulation which requires that in all welfare fraud cases, a progress report must be made to the Social Services Department at 90-day intervals or less. Within the last 10 days, the Prosecutor's office has made an updated report on all welfare fraud cases pending, and this has been received by the Social Services Department. Mr. Ruohomaki explained that Mr. Wayne Jussila, the full time investigator employed in July of 1973, now spends about 98% of his time on social service matters. This includes URESA, paternity cases, and welfare fraud investigations. Assistant Prosecutor Martin has been assigned the responsibility of processing the fraud cases.

Committee members expressed their hope that better communications can be established between the Social Services Department and the Prosecutor's office; that progress can be made in the processing of this work load in the future and that the grant can be continued. The Prosecuting Attorney volunteered to make a monthly report of progress on welfare fraud cases in the future to the Social Services Department with copy to the Controller's Office so that copies may be made available to members of this Committee. Mr. Ruohomaki and Mr. Martin then left the meeting.

Work project report for the work and training program for November 1973 was received and discussed. A copy is attached hereto and made a part of these minutes.

Because of the early date of this meeting, the usual statistical report for the previous month was not available.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned.

  
Secretary

WORK PROJECT REPORT

November, 1973

Location	Comparable Wage	Number of Persons on Site	Total Hours for Month	Dollar Equivalent for Hours Worked
Armory (Chks)	2.77	2	39	108.03
Armory (mat)	2.42	4	152	367.84
Chocolate Strip	2.51	1	21	52.71
Champion Fire Dept	2.30	1	42	96.60
Champion School	2.00	1	26	52.00
DNR	2.25	1	41	92.25
Gwinn Teen Club	2.00	2	64	128.00
Gwinn Rd. Comm	2.02	3	26	52.52
Maplewood Cemetery	2.35	1	18	42.30
" City	2.81	2	83	233.23
" Rd. Comm	2.07	1	64	132.48
" P.W.G.	2.81	8	215	602.15
Lake Superior Village	2.00	6	299	598.00
Lakeview Apts	2.00	4	137	274.00
Marquette Town Hall	2.00	1	35	70.00
" Community Center	2.00	12	386	772.00
" High School	2.00	4	112	224.00
" Gunther's Tail	2.94	10	95	289.30
" Dept. Soc. Services	2.00	6	207	414.00
" P.W.G.	2.94	14	409	1,202.46
McQuinn H. School	2.00	2	68	136.00
N.M.U. Skill Center	2.00	2	52	104.00
National Mine School	3.00	4	119	357.00
Champion Humboldt Hwy	2.00	2	26	52.00

WORK PROJECT REPORT

November, 1973

Location	Comparable Wage	Number of Persons on Site	Total Hours for Month	Dollar Equivalent for Hours Worked
Army (Lks)	2.77	2	39	108.03
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Gwynn Teen Club	2.00	2	64	128.00
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" City	2.81	2	83	233.23
" Rd. Comm	2.07	1	64	132.48
" P.W.G.	2.81	8	215	602.15
Lake Superior Village	2.00	6	299	598.00
Lakeview Twp	2.00	4	137	274.00
Marquette Twp Hall	2.00	1	35	70.00
" Community Center	2.00	12	386	772.00
" High School	2.00	4	112	224.00
" Gunther's Trail	2.94	10	95	279.30
" Dept. Soc. Services	2.00	6	207	414.00
" P.W.G.	2.94	14	409	1,202.46
Neenah H. School	2.50	2	68	170.00
N.M.C. Skill Center	2.00	2	52	104.00
National Mine School	3.00	4	119	357.00
Champion Humboldt Cemetery	2.00	2	26	52.00



1. 111 persons were originally assigned to the work and training program for the month of November, 1973.
2. 70.27 % (78 persons) completed their assigned hours.
- \* 3. 29.72 % (33 persons) did not complete their assigned hours.
4. 1.80 % (2 persons) exceeded their required hours.
- \*\* 5. 18.01 % (20 persons) had no acceptable excuse for not completing their required hours.

- \*A. Grant Cancellation
- B. Became ineligible for assistance.
- C. Excused absences which include, illness, lack of transportation, relocation, secured employment, transferred to a categorical program.
- D. Failure to perform satisfactorily on the training site.

\*\* These people will be called into ascertain their reasons for not completing their required hours and are also placed on a weekly payroll.

Mileage expenses for the Direct Relief program, including that of the work project coordinator, from January 1, 1973 to November 30, 1973 is \$ 4,925.86.