

**TUESDAY, JANUARY 26, 2016**

**APPROVED MINUTES OF THE  
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING HELD**

**STATE OF MINNESOTA)  
COUNTY OF DODGE)**

**COUNTY ADMINISTRATION OFFICE  
MANTORVILLE, MN**

**2016-02 C.O.W.**

The Dodge County Commissioners met in Committee of the Whole January 26, 2016, in the Commissioner's Room at the Dodge County Government Services Building, Mantorville, MN, at 4:30 p.m. CST. Chair Steven Gray opened the meeting at 4:30 p.m. CST.

Meeting Convened

The Chair acknowledged those present:

Those Present

Members present: John Allen District #1  
Tim Tjosaas District #2  
Rodney Peterson District #3  
David Erickson District #4  
Steven Gray District #5

Members absent: None

Also present: Jim Elmquist County Administrator  
Becky Lubahn Deputy Clerk  
Wayne Stenberg Semcac Executive Director  
Don Hahn Semcac Outreach and  
Emergency Services Rep.

Wayne Stenberg, the Executive Director for Semcac met with the Board to provide them with a County Impact Report.

Semcac Report

The report was for the 2015 fiscal year; October 1, 2014 – September 30, 2015.

County Attorney Paul Kiltinen arrived to the meeting at 4:32 p.m. CST.

County Attorney  
Arrived

The Executive Director thanked the Board for all the county does for Semcac.

Semcac Report -  
Continued

Semcac locations in Dodge County were listed as follows:

- The Dodge County Outreach & Emergency Services office and the Dodge County Food Shelf is located at 20 E. Veterans Memorial Highway, Suite A & B, Kasson, MN 55944.
- The Semcac Senior Dining site is located at Sunwood Manor in Kasson.
- A Head Start classroom is located in Kasson at 402 West Main Street.

The Executive Director noted Semcac transportation has expanded into Byron.

Mr. Stenberg informed the Board Semcac was established as a private, non-profit organization in 1966. Originally known as the Southeast Minnesota Citizens Action Council, Inc., the agency's legal name has been Semcac since 1995. Beginning in Winona, Fillmore and Houston counties, Semcac is now the designated Community Action Agency for seven counties - Dodge, Fillmore, Freeborn, Houston, Mower, Steele and Winona - and provides services in five additional counties - Goodhue, Olmsted, Rice, Wabasha and Waseca.

Semcac offers over twenty-five programs from seventy-one locations which includes the main office in Rushford, a Semcac Center in Winona, six county offices (Contact Centers), eleven Head Start centers, Transportation Dispatch Center in Kasson, four food shelves, and fifty-one Senior Dining sites and/or kitchens. Semcac currently has a workforce of approximately two hundred forty people.

Semcac Report -  
Continued

Mr. Stenberg reported Semcac has been connecting people with resources to ensure that they can achieve their goals of self-reliance and independence for 50 years. 2016 marks the year that Semcac has been helping people and changing lives for half of a century. Semcac is the voice for the voiceless and invest private, federal and public dollars back into the communities to strengthen our greatest resource - the people who make up our great area of the state.

The following statistical information was shared regarding Semcac's impact on greater Minnesota's rural communities:

Senior Nutrition results in seniors who are empowered to maintain their health and nutritional wellbeing and allows at-risk seniors to remain in their own home.

- Eight thousand five hundred thirty nine hot, nutritious meals were served in a congregate setting at Senior Dining to one hundred eighteen seniors in Dodge County.
- Ten thousand seven hundred thirty nine nutritious meals were delivered by Meals on Wheels volunteers to eighty-nine Dodge County seniors in Claremont, Dodge Center, Kasson, Mantorville and West Concord.

Senior and Caregiver Advocacy results in seniors maintaining safe and independent living.

- One hundred eighty nine seniors and caregivers in Dodge County received individual assistance to identify needs, access resources, make informed decisions and reduce feelings of isolation.

Energy Assistance results in keeping people warm by heating homes during the winter season, thus extending the limited, low household income.

- Three hundred eighty two households in Dodge County received assistance with their utility payments during the winter season. And, sixty-eight households received additional crisis assistance.

Weatherization results in greener communities, lower energy bills for low-income people and creates new jobs.

- Twenty-three households in Dodge County had their homes weatherized and learned more about energy conservation. Eight households received home conservation services funded through the local utility companies' Conservation Improvement Programs administered by Semcac.
- Fourteen households received energy related repairs, such as furnace replacement.

Housing Rehab Loans result in improved living condition for low-income people and the preservation of quality affordable housing.

Semcac Report - Continued

- Two homes were assisted with rehabilitation through the Minnesota Housing Owner Rehab Loan program, administered by Semcac in Dodge County.

Head Start & Early Head Start result in empowered families and young children who are ready for kindergarten. Head Start families receive comprehensive services from Semcac.

- Forty-seven children and their families (in eighteen households) were educated at the Head Start Center, or with home-based educators, in Dodge County during the program year.

Overall outcomes of Head Start children enrolled during this school program year, in all counties.

- Three hundred twenty three children were served, including two hundred fifty nine Head Start children and sixty-four Early Head Start children.
- Ninety-two percent are current with preventative health care, including well child exams and lead level checks.
- Fifty-six children with disabilities were served.
- Ninety-four percent of enrolled Head Start children received dental exams.
- Seventy-eight percent of families received support to set and meet goals for their families.
- One hundred percent of families received at least one additional family service, such as parenting education, housing assistance or health education.

Family Planning - Semcac Clinic services result in an increased number of cancer screenings for women, the prevention and treatment of STI's a reduced number of unplanned pregnancies, an increase in education about sexual health.

- Semcac has a family planning clinic, Semcac Clinic, located in Winona, Minnesota.
  - A total of 1,368 patients received 2,753 health services during the reporting period.
- In 2014, the Clinic's Education & Outreach Specialist presented comprehensive, reproductive and sexual health education information at 53 events, reaching 2,580 people.

Semcac Transportation results in people getting to their medical and dental appointments, senior dining and other locations to meet essential needs; assisting people with no other means of transportation.

- Thirteen thousand four hundred eighty four rides were provided on Rolling Hills Transit buses in Dodge County.

- Fifty nine thousand three hundred seventy five rides were provided by Rolling Hills Transit buses in all the counties, combined.
- One thousand five hundred fifty five rides were provided through the Volunteer Driver Program in Dodge County.

Semcac Report -  
Continued

### Semcac Overall - 2015 Statistics

- Semcac has 240 active employees; including fulltime, part-time and seasonal.
  - Their staff assisted over 26,098 unduplicated individuals in the past year; 3,393 had disabilities, 9,582 were seniors.
- Semcac serves seven southeastern MN counties and has limited services in four additional counties.
- Semcac is comprised of seven service areas: Outreach & Emergency Assistance, Family Planning Clinic, Energy, Head Start, Housing, Senior Services and Transportation. Semcac offers over 25 programs within these service areas.

### Volunteers Make a Difference

Every year, volunteers from all of the counties they serve join Semcac to help people achieve independence and self-reliance. They work tirelessly with an unmitigated passion that ripples throughout the area they serve. Semcac helps to build positive relationships within the communities. Their sacrifices bridge the generational gaps and inspire others to give more of their time to the causes that they are committed.

In 2014, 1,820 volunteers contributed 271,404 hours to the programs and people they serve.

### Agency Resources

#### Federal - \$7,304,832

- Department of Energy (DOE)
- Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)
- Department of Health & Human Services (HHS)
- Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD)
- Department of Transportation (DOT)
- Department of Agriculture (USDA)

#### State- \$2,417,065

- State Appropriated Funds (MNCAG)
- Minnesota Housing and Homeless programs
- State Day Care and Early Childhood programs
- State Energy programs
- State Head Start programs
- State Nutrition programs
- Department of Employment and Economic Development
- State Transportation programs

Local, Private and Other Funding - \$2,863,464

- Program participants, reimbursements from insurance providers, utility companies, contracts for services, etc.
- County government contracts and contributions.
- United Way agencies, foundations, corporations or other nonprofit agencies.
- Donations from individuals, businesses, churches and civic organizations.

Semcac Report - Continued

Board of Directors

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|-------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------|
| Neil Witzel - Dodge County                | Janice Ball, Secretary - Mower County        |
| Tim Tjosaas - Dodge County                | Tony Bennett - Mower County                  |
| Greg Peterson - Dodge County              | Tina Bell - Mower County                     |
| Randy Dahl - Fillmore County              | Janice Schultz - Steele County               |
| Ruth Fallon - Fillmore County             | Mark Schultz - Steele County                 |
| Karen Johnson - Fillmore County           | Rick Wittrock- Steele County                 |
| Lenore Fries, V.P. - Freeborn County      | Brenda Boettcher - Winona County             |
| Glen Mathiason - Freeborn County          | Joe Hoffman - Winona County                  |
| Patricia Sorenson - Freeborn County       | Marie Kovecsi - Winona County                |
| John Bashaw, Treasurer - Houston County   | Chrissa Mueller - Head Start Liaison, Winona |
| Larry Connery, President - Houston County | Brian Lipford - Attorney Liaison             |
| Steve Schuldt - Houston County            |                                              |

Outreach and Emergency Services representative Don Hahn discussed with the Board Outreach and Emergency Services.

Outreach and Emergency Services supports people through a crisis and allows them to more effectively utilize their limited income until they reach stability.

- One thousand eight hundred fifty people from five hundred seventy two households accessed food for their families and extended their limited incomes by visiting the Kasson Food Shelf. These families visited more than once; Semcac provided food shelf assistance 3,271 times.
- Two hundred ninety two individuals from seventy-nine households in Dodge County attended budgeting or financial literacy education/counseling.
- Sixty-three families received crisis financial assistance for transportation, a medical issue or another immediate basic need in Dodge County.
- Thirty-four families received donated articles through services administered by Semcac in Dodge County.
- One hundred seventy three families, in Dodge County were provided with holiday/Christmas presents who could not afford gifts during the holiday season, the majority of the gifts were for children.
- Sixteen families were assisted with payments such as rent or mortgage, to prevent hopelessness in Dodge County.
- Staff provided information and referrals (to other/outside organizations) to 1,357 individuals from 522 families in Dodge County.

Mr. Hahn shared with the Board a letter regarding a Semcac client and how their programs have helped her regain financial stability.

Commissioner Erickson noted Hayfield does not receive Meal on Wheels from Semcac, they have chosen to handle their senior nutrition needs on their own.

Semcac Report -  
Continued

The Board discussed with Mr. Stenberg and Mr. Hahn trends they see, utilization of Semcac programs, economic changes that have an impact on utilization of their programs and energy assistance utilization.

Commissioner Erickson wanted to know if there was one county that uses Semcac's programs more than others.

Mr. Stenberg stated Fillmore and Houston counties have more utilization of the programs there; he attributes their usage due to the fact that Semcac originated there.

Commissioner Gray shared with the Board a story about Verlie Morris who worked for Semcac for a number of years. Ms. Morris talked with Mr. Gray's church congregation and a number of other church congregations in an effort to educate them on the needs of the poor in our own county. Ms. Morris informed the congregation that Dodge County has what she considers prideful poor; these are individuals that are reluctant to seek public assistance of any kind.

Mr. Hahn reported he has experienced working with these people; they are the type of people that will do everything possible to try to resolve their issue before they will ask for assistance.

Commissioner Gray stated back in the mid 80's people didn't seek out public assistance, instead they relied on other family members to help them out in their times of need. Has there been a change of family support in this era which may have a correlation to the number of people currently in need of assistance?

The Executive Director discussed with the Board having products available to those in need and the utilization of Semcac programs. Mr. Stenberg also stressed the importance of communicating with other organizations in an effort to ensure that there isn't a duplication of services to their clients.

The Board thanked Mr. Stenberg and Mr. Hahn for the update.

The Chair adjourned the meeting at 4:59 p.m. CST.

Meeting Adjourned

**ATTEST:**

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**STEVEN GRAY  
CHAIR, COUNTY BOARD**

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**BECKY LUBAHN  
DEPUTY CLERK**

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**DATED:**