

**SWIFT COUNTY BOARD SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES**  
**March 17, 2016**

Swift County Chairman Peter Peterson and Yellow Medicine County Vice-Chairman Gary Johnson called the special joint meeting to order at 10:35 AM with all present. Also in attendance were County Administrator Mike Pogge-Weaver, County Attorney Danielle Olson, Human Services Director Deanna Steckman, Human Services Supervisors Julie Jahn, Lorri Pederson, and Linda Erhardt, and HR Assistant Amanda Ness.

Others present:

Yellow Medicine County- Ron Antony, Gary Johnson, Peggy Heglund, Ashley Soine, Rae Ann Keeler-Aus, Michelle May, Stacey Steinbach and Melissa Helgeson

Big Stone County- Pam Rud, Roger Sandberg, Jay Backer and Dawn Gregoire

West Central Tribune- Tom Cherveney

The special meeting was called to discuss the possible collaboration of Human Services with Yellow Medicine County, Swift County and Big Stone County. Mike Pogge-Weaver, Swift County Administrator and Peggy Heglund, Yellow Medicine County Administrator, gave an overview of the purpose of the meeting.

The group discussed pros and cons of collaboration and/or consolidation between the counties.

Pros: State computer systems are poor, income maintenance case banking, more training and specializing in certain programs, duplicating policy development, no cost savings-controlling efficiencies, managing risks, worker turnover, covering 24-hour response and no closure of offices

Cons: union/non-union, differing pay scales, combining budgets, turf wars, fear of losing identity, policy differences, different judges in each county, different technology, different Managed Care programs, geography/windshield time and availability of supervisors

The group discussed the next steps to move forward. Peggy Heglund will contact RDC to inquire about costs, etc. to possibly have them facilitate and coordinate the project. Human Services staff (Supervisors and Directors) will meet to discuss what options/programs are available for possible collaboration as well as certain programs that would not work right away. The group also discussed education of staff and how to keep them informed (information would be uniform amongst the counties). The information will be brought back to each Board of Commissioners to keep them informed. Another meeting was tentatively set for September (6 months).

No action was taken by the board.

The Special Meeting adjourned at 12:00 p.m.

WITNESSED:

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Peter Peterson, Chair

ATTEST:

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Michel Pogge-Weaver, Clerk of the Board