

**MEETING OF THE  
WINNEBAGO COUNTY  
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES BOARD**

**Minutes**

**DATE:** Thursday, August 13, 2009

**TIME:** 3:30 p.m.

**PLACE:** Oshkosh Public Library

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Don Griesbach, Jef Hall, Jim Koziczkowski, Donna Lohry, Mike Norton, Rob Paterson, Harvey Rengstorf, and Tom Widener

**MEMBERS EXCUSED:** Ron Kuehl

**STAFF PRESENT:** Bill Topel, Ken Stoffel, Ellen Shute, Tom Saari, Mary Krueger, Ann Kriegel, John Sheehan, Doug Brey and Dorothy De Grace

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Todd Klauer—Todd Steven & Associates; Chief Peter Running – Winneconne Police Department

Jim Koziczkowski called the meeting to order at 3:30 p.m.

**AGENDA ITEM #1: PUBLIC COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS**

Todd Klauer of Todd Stevens & Associates expressed some issues they have had with Creative Care Options in Fond du Lac in processing authorizations in a timely manner. They also have concerns about the rates for providers. He wanted the Board to be aware of these concerns as they move into Family Care.

Chief Running shared some insights in their dealings with mental health cases. He said they have seen about a 260% increase in mental health calls. One such call takes an officer off the street for several hours while he deals with the situation. He said the new crisis diversion program in Winnebago County helps them, but he thinks the eight bed facility at Summit House is insufficient to handle the needs of their growing mental health calls.

**AGENDA ITEM #2: APPROVE MINUTES OF THE JUNE 24 & JUNE 25, 2009 PUBLIC HEARINGS AND THE JUNE 25 & JULY 29, 2009 HUMAN SERVICES BOARD MEETINGS**

Don Griesbach moved for approval of these minutes; seconded by Harvey Rengstorf and carried (8-0).

**AGENDA ITEM #3: 2009 FINANCIAL PROJECTION REPORT**

Ellen Shute said we are projecting a surplus of \$309,814 due mainly to the diversion program in the Behavioral Health Division. The surplus of \$257,064 in the Long Term Support area is mostly because of the final Clarity Care debt repayment. As a result, we are looking at opening up the LTS wait list.

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Ellen Shute said there is a current projected deficit of \$75,823 in Economic Support; a slight deficit of \$931 in the Administrative area; and a deficit of \$231,389 in Child Welfare for various projected program expenses that exceeded the budget levels. Bill Topel said we are working with getting additional community supports to try and get kids back into the community earlier from out-of-home placements. We have added a contracted agency that specializes in working with these kids.

Ellen referred to the graphs showing a slight downward turn in the average daily population (ADP) for juvenile corrections; residential care centers had a slight increase to 6.6 ADP from 5.2; in Behavioral Health the specialty hospital ADP decreased from 7.5 to 5.3 due to the startup of the crisis diversion program.

### **AGENDA ITEM #4: 2010 BUDGET UPDATE**

Bill Topel said he will be meeting with the County Executive at the end of August to review the Human Services 2010 Budget, and it will be presented to the full County Board at the end of October. He will give a report next month regarding the outcome of the strategic plan efforts. We have added some staff, but are keeping within our budget. He said we continue to look at how we can reorganize our staffing patterns, our tables of organization, and our priorities to operate as efficiently as we can. Bill said we are on track to present a balanced budget for next year.

### **AGENDA ITEM #5: REVIEW & APPROVE BEHAVIORAL HEALTH DIVISION 2010 REORGANIZATION**

Tom Saari said he is recommending title changes to seven positions in the Behavioral Health Division for 2010. He said it will not involve job duty changes or salary implications. It is an opportunity to have greater consistency across all of the divisions. Tom also recommended that two other positions have their title changed and a salary upgrade due to expanded duties and responsibilities—the lead Family Services therapist position would become the youth mental health supervisor and the Safe Streets coordinator would become the adult substance abuse/Safe Streets supervisor. The title of the AODA intervention counselor position would become an AODA counselor. Tom is also recommending that the psychiatric nurse position be moved from the Community Support Program (CSP) to the medical team, and that we add a psychiatric nurse position so we have a nurse available in both of our clinics. They would assist the doctors with various functions and also the medication related responsibilities that are currently done by our therapists. This could greatly improve access to therapy services, since currently there is about a four week wait. Tom said with the Board's approval he could present all of these changes in the 2010 Budget and it would not cost any more money than budgeted. The new psychiatric nurse position would be offset by the elimination of the clinical coordinator position. He said since we anticipate the potential retirements of several employees in 2010 from the Behavioral Health Division, we would plan for the nurse position changes to take place mid-year. Donna Lohry said that in spite of what is happening in our community she feels these are good changes to be made, but she feels we should look at hiring the psychiatric nurse to begin at least by January 1. Tom said we should keep in mind that we would be adding a new position to the table of organization, unless we wait until mid-year for positions to be opened up.

Donna said she feels it would be ok to add the position for January 1 and then a position could be eliminated from the table of organization if someone retires. Donna Lohry moved that we go forward with approving the reorganization of the Behavioral Health Division for 2010 as presented and consider adding a psychiatric nurse position by January 1; seconded by Mike Norton. Discussion followed regarding the cost of the position. Harvey Rengstorf seconded Donna's motion with a caveat that we have the funds available. Motion carried (7-0). (Widener was no longer present).

**AGENDA ITEM #6: DISCUSS USE OF PLEASANT ACRES FOR HUMAN SERVICES**

Donna Lohry said it appears to her that we should have the use of Pleasant Acres (PA) for our consideration rather than have it torn down. She would not like for the Board to miss an opportunity because we weren't looking ahead. Don Griesbach said the option for the Pleasant Acres building was discussed at the recent Facilities & Property Management Committee meeting. It was noted at that meeting that there are a few private citizens interested in acquiring the building. He agreed that it is a good building and said the county is looking into a use for it. Bill Topel said our crisis diversion facility has been renovated into an 8-bed CBRF. As such, there are fewer code issues to deal with. He agreed that we need to keep looking at our capacity for crisis diversion to determine if we need to have a second 8-bed facility. If we were to use the PA facility we would have to consider the licensing of it.

**AGENDA ITEM #7: DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

Bill Topel said he has been receiving positive feedback that the services of our agency are appreciated. Our Economic Support staff has been handling a lot of additional workload, which has caused increased overtime. Consumer needs are up around 10% over last year in that area.

**AGENDA ITEM #8: BOARD MEMBERS' REPORTS**

Harvey Rengstorf reported on his attendance at the recent Specialized Transportation Council meeting. He said Steve Herman of the Sheriff's Department was at that meeting and explained that he is trying to set up a transportation education program for the elderly and disabled in Winnebago County.

**PROGRAM: UPDATE ON ADULT CRISIS CENTER AT SUMMIT HOUSE**

John Sheehan explained that we opened the Crisis Center on April 20 with eight available beds. Before that time we had four crisis beds available at Toward Tomorrow. We now use those beds as an overflow and have had to use them when there were 12 people in crisis at the same time. John gave some statistics for April to August. On average we have had 5.3 people in crisis beds per day; although crisis does tend to ebb and flow. They placed a total of 110 people in the crisis beds so far. 75% of the admissions have been from 1-3 days. Doug Brey said about one-half of those individuals would have been hospitalized if we hadn't had the crisis beds as an option. He said all of the law enforcement jurisdictions have been cooperative in working with us. Doug explained that in 2007 we had 1,411 referrals for crisis; in 2008 we had 1,613 referrals. In that same time our emergency detentions went up by 1.6%. For the first half of this year we are looking at a 35% decrease in adult emergency detentions. Juvenile detentions are expected to decrease by 38%.

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Doug Brey said we are working to divert people by offering viable options for appropriate services under less restrictive environments.

Harvey Rengstorf asked if at this time there is a need for a larger facility. John Sheehan responded that based on the numbers we've had, he doesn't see a need at this time. As we get more experience and people are used to the services, we might get increased volume. We could look at it at that time.

Doug said referrals to crisis beds have increased by 14% from April until August. Emergency detentions, such as being placed in a hospital, have decreased by 25%.

With no further business Don Griesbach moved for adjournment at 4:40 p.m.; seconded by Harvey Rengstorf and carried unanimously. The next meeting of the Human Services Board will be **Thursday, September 10, 2009 at 3:30 p.m.**

Respectfully submitted by:

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Donna Lohry, Human Services Board Secretary  
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