

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

**Minutes**

**DATE:** Monday, February 4, 2013

**TIME:** 3:00 p.m.

**PLACE:** Neenah Human Services Building, Rm. 008

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Jerry Finch, Ron Kuehl, Larry Lautenschlager, Donna Lohry, Mike Norton, Rob Paterson, and Harold Singstock

**MEMBERS EXCUSED:** Jim Koziczowski and Tom Widener

**STAFF PRESENT:** Bill Topel, Tom Saari, Leo Podoski, Joaquin Lira, Krystle Krzewina and Dorothy De Grace

Donna Lohry called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m.

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

There were no comments.

**AGENDA ITEM #2: APPROVE MINUTES OF THE JANUARY 7, 2013 HUMAN SERVICES BOARD MEETING**

Jerry Finch moved for approval of these minutes; seconded by Ron Kuehl and carried.

**AGENDA ITEM #3: PROGRAM**

- a. Restitution Program – Joaquin Lira explained that restitution and community service are ordered by the court when juveniles commit offenses and there is some compensation due to the victims. Sometimes the court orders juveniles to do service as a way to give back to the community for their actions. Some of the cases are informal, and restitution or community service is ordered through the Juvenile Intake office. Joaquin said if the juvenile doesn't pay the amount that is ordered, we get a judgment against the juvenile on behalf of the victim. We also determine if the parents should be included in the order.

Krystle Krzewina secures the sites where the juveniles do the community service. She tracks the amount of money that is lost by the victims and the amount that is ordered by the court to be paid back to the victims. Krystle generally has 70 cases open at a time; but typically the juvenile gets the community service completed within a month, even though their contract is for one year. Juveniles must do a job search as a way for them to earn money to pay restitution. Krystle offers employability classes every three months for any of the youth. She shared statistical information about the program which shows total community service hours and restitution amounts that were paid to victims over the past several years. They are working on getting a new computer program set up that will show more in-depth statistics.

Joaquin Lira said that the number of kids committing offenses and being on supervision has declined over the years, but it seems it is starting to increase again across the state.

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- b. Juvenile Detention Contract – Leo Podoski spoke in response to some concerns of the Board regarding our juvenile detention contract with Outagamie County. He said we have a five-year contract which ends at the end of this year. We pay for the use of seven beds at the juvenile detention center, whether or not we use them. Leo said we share the risk with Outagamie in making sure their program is financially solvent; otherwise they would close. It was suggested that we open our own juvenile detention center, but Leo said it would be difficult to exist with only seven slots. Other counties contract to make their programs bigger so they can exist financially. Leo said with the contract ending we have had initial conversations with Fond du Lac about their program which offers more teacher time; more nursing or medical time; and we wouldn't have to guarantee filling a certain number of beds, but would pay as we would use them. Leo said Fond du Lac also offers the PACE program where we can place youth instead of sending them to Lincoln Hills group home. Bill Topel said one issue to be addressed with the Sheriff's Department or local Police Department is transportation back and forth between Fond du Lac and Oshkosh for court hearings, etc.
  
- c. State Legislative Committee's Recommendations for Changes to Child Welfare – Leo Podoski explained several of the proposed changes to Child Welfare that he found of interest. He said the state is expanding the ability to petition for jurisdiction for children under the age of three if the family has had a termination of parental rights (TPR) occur within the last three years. He said currently we can deal with other young children in the home of a case we are already involved in, but with the new law we won't be able to do that unless we are notified of a concern. Leo said the state is also proposing that a written agreement be made regarding post-TPR visitation for family members when it is in the best interest of the child that the parents spend time with them. Leo is in agreement with the proposed change of having TPR's decided by a judge rather than in a jury trial.

Bill Topel said the proposed legislative changes have been moved to a Joint legislative Committee for review and then to be formed into a bill for approval and signature by the Governor.

### **AGENDA ITEM #4: UPDATE ON MENTAL HEALTH ISSUES IN THE COMMUNITY AND IN THE JAIL**

Tom Saari said that about ten years ago the Human Services Department started providing mental health crisis services to the jail on an as-needed basis. Because of the need for more service, we went to a more formal process of having a mental health crisis worker at the jail for a couple of hours a day Monday through Friday, along with having an after-hours crisis worker available. In about 2008 the jail started contracting out for mental health counseling services for approximately 12 hours per week; in 2010 it increased to 20 hours per week; in 2012 to 30 hours per week; and they expanded their contract to include 40 hours of mental health counselor time per week for 2013. During all of this time we continued to provide crisis services to them. Tom said the jail has recently changed their provider of both medical and mental health services.

Tom shared the memorandum of understanding between Human Services and the Sheriff's Office which is for the purpose of coordinating mental health services for the residents of the jail. He said any exchange of information between us and the Sheriff's Department will be limited by the "need to know" criteria through a signed release of information and will be limited to what is relevant to the services being provided. Tom said we have an ongoing relationship with the medical staff at the jail in regards to clients' medications.

Tom distributed 2012 statistics for our walk-in clinic for mental health services. We had 1,440 individuals walk in to our clinic for services; 1,171 of those individuals were first-time contacts, and of those individuals 1,074 were seen by a therapist. Tom said we are seeing an increase in the number of people leaving the clinic without having their needs met, usually because they didn't want to wait to see a therapist. Tom said previous to the walk-in clinic, we were able to make appointments approximately 20 to 30 days out, and we had about 35% no-shows for appointments. We average about five people per day coming in to the walk-in clinic, and we establish ongoing therapy sessions with about 60% of the people that we see. There is a 74% increase in the number of people we are seeing for the first time over what we used to do in the last 20 years of intake. We will begin having our AODA counselors available for walk-ins on Tuesday and Thursday mornings in our Neenah office.

**AGENDA ITEM #5: FINANCIAL REPORT**

Bill Topel said a year-end financial report for 2012 will be presented in March or April. He said the Inpatient and Institutional Utilization numbers on the report for this month have stayed basically the same as last month.

**AGENDA ITEM #6: DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

Bill Topel said employees of the Department recently participated in a training regarding secondary traumatic stress.

**AGENDA ITEM #7: BOARD MEMBER REPORTS**

Mike Norton said he recently attended a program presented by an advocacy group in the Fox Valley regarding, "What are your rights in Family Care and IRIS?"

Rob Paterson said he attended the recent presentation regarding Family Care & IRIS which included a comparison between the two programs.

With no further business Mike Norton moved for adjournment; seconded by Ron Kuehl and carried at 5:15 p.m. The next meeting of the Human Services Board will be held on **Monday, March 4, 2013 at 3:00 p.m.** at the Oshkosh Human Services Building.

Respectfully submitted by Donna Lohry, Board Secretary/dd