

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

Minutes

DATE: Monday, May 7, 2012

TIME: 3:30 p.m.

PLACE: Neenah Human Services Building, Room 008

MEMBERS PRESENT: Jerry Finch, Jim Koziczkowski, Ron Kuehl, Donna Lohry, Mike Norton, Rob Paterson, Harold Singstock and Tom Widener

STAFF PRESENT: Bill Topel, Ellen Shute, Ann Kriegel, Tom Saari, Leo Podoski, Renee Soroko, Tanya Vickery, Lisa Jansen and Dorothy De Grace

OTHERS PRESENT: Paul Eisen, County Board; Winnebago County foster parents

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

AGENDA ITEM #1: PUBLIC COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS

There were no comments on agenda items.

AGENDA ITEM #2: APPROVE MINUTES OF THE APRIL 2, 2012 HUMAN SERVICES BOARD MEETING

Jerry Finch moved for approval of these minutes; seconded by Rob Paterson and carried (8-0).

AGENDA ITEM #3: ACCEPT MINUTES OF THE MARCH 12, 2012 ADRC COMMITTEE MEETING

Tom Widener moved for acceptance of these minutes; seconded by Donna Lohry and carried.

AGENDA ITEM #4: CHILD FOSTER PARENTS RECOGNITION

Renee Soroko, the Child Foster Care Program Coordinator for Winnebago County, introduced the following individuals who have been foster parents in Winnebago County for more than 20 years: Barb & Leo Galicia – 43 yrs. fostering 100+ children; Richard & Linda Rose 29 yrs. fostering 87 children; Chris & Mickie Coenen – 22 yrs. fostering 200+ children; Tom & Mary Kay Lutzow – 20 yrs. fostering 44 children and Ken & Sue Haidlinger (not present today) – 30 yrs. fostering 20+ children. Renee presented the foster parents with a plaque commending them for their years of service. The foster parents shared several success stories and expressed their feeling of gratitude as they've seen the kids grow and move on in the right direction. They said it means a lot to be recognized for making a difference in kids' lives.

On behalf of the Human Service Board, Jim Koziczkowski thanked all of the foster parents for the care and service that they provide. He said it is a tremendous gift to the kids and to the community, because without the foster parents we wouldn't have as many success stories.

MEETING OF THE DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES BOARD

Minutes for Monday, May 7, 2012

Page 2

Mike Norton moved that we ask the Winnebago County Board to recognize that May is National Foster Care Month; seconded by Donna Lohry and carried. Bill Topel will take the necessary steps to have it included on the agenda for the next County Board meeting.

AGENDA ITEM #5: FINANCIAL REPORT

Ellen Shute referred to the chart showing inpatient and institutional utilization. She said the average daily population (ADP) for juvenile corrections for March was 3.4 compared to 4.0 in February; for residential care centers the ADP so far this year is 5.5, which is below the budgeted amount; the ADP for specialty hospitals for adults is 3.7 through March compared to 5.5 of last year (Ellen said the diversion program at Summit House has helped keep this low average); the graph for specialty hospitals for the population under age 22 shows an average of .4 so far this year. Ellen said the secure detention ADP is an average of 7.3 through March. Leo Podoski said we have a five year contract with Outagamie County to provide secure detention.

Ellen Shute presented the “hot spot” report for areas that could quickly have an effect on our budget because of the high cost associated with placements. She noted the youth aids revenue in Child Welfare has been reduced by the state, and for the Child Welfare Division we project a deficit of \$276,841 at the end of the year. In the Behavioral Health Division we project an unexpended tax levy of \$812,164 for specialty hospitals and \$11,028 for community-based residential facilities.

AGENDA ITEM #6: DIRECTOR’S REPORT

Bill Topel distributed a list of the services offered through the state’s Health & Human Services Department and a chart showing community aids and children & family aids distribution. He said community aids and children & family aids funding started in 1986 with sufficient funding to cover almost every mandated service area. Since that time there have been shortfalls that have been getting bigger. Therefore, we have a lot of money invested in the programs that we operate because state and federal funding hasn’t kept up with inflation.

Bill Topel said the Wisconsin County Human Services Association (WCHSA) has prepared some questions that will be asked at the WCHSA Spring Conference regarding a Human Services collaborative committee. Each county will be allowed one vote for the following questions: 1) Does your county support further exploration by WCHSA of the creation of a statewide human service collaborative? 2) Does your county support the further exploration by WCHSA of statutory revisions to expand options for partnership in human service delivery? Bill said the statewide collaborative would be a shared governance model between the counties, the state and other stakeholders formed at the state level to discuss and recommend policy affecting human service programs at the state and county levels. He said regarding question #2, WCHSA and Wisconsin Counties Association (WCA) would explore optional statutory changes to enhance collaborative opportunities for counties. The Board decided that Bill Topel would cast the Board’s vote from a consensus decision of the Board members who attend the WCHSA Conference where there will be more discussion.

Bill Topel said that at the recent WCHSA meeting, it was pointed out that about 50% of the counties want to stay in the W-2 business. The contract process this year is that if a county wants to retain the W-2 contract, it must bid on a region. Our county would need to bid on a 13-county region to operate the program in those counties. Bill said our current cost per member per month is extremely low, so it would be in Winnebago County's interest to continue being in the W-2 business, although as part of a region. There is the possibility that we could subcontract for the eligibility part of the W-2 program and keep part of the work here.

Bill Topel said the state will have a "Foster Care Medical Home" concept where any child in foster care would be assigned a medical home and have a primary care physician. They would have to establish behavioral health care arrangements within the health organization or contract with us for the behavioral health portion of their medical care.

Bill Topel referred to a couple of recent articles in the local newspaper about the Child Protective Services System in the state of Wisconsin. Bill said the case that was noted wasn't part of our Child Protective system, so it was an unfair case to use as an example of local things happening. He noted that last year we had 2,927 contacts for abuse/neglect, of which 1,558 were screened out because there wasn't enough evidence indicating there was a problem. Of the 1,171 that were investigated, approximately 80 were opened for some type of service. Bill pointed out that for a case to be out of compliance with standards, it could mean being a day late in getting a report submitted, which doesn't result in any damage to the child. Leo Podoski said being in compliance is based on best practice and timeliness in completing your work. There is a standard that in 60 days an investigation should be done, and the paperwork should be completed and then reviewed and signed off by the supervisor.

AGENDA ITEM #7: BOARD MEMBER REPORTS

There were no reports.

PROGRAM: INDEPENDENT LIVING PROGRAM

Tom Saari said the Independent Living Program emanates out of the Foster Care Independence Act of 1999, also known as the John H. Chafee Act. The act was initiated to improve the independent living skills of youth who were at least 15 years of age and were likely to remain in foster care until age 18.

Stacey Carlson, the Independent Living Program Coordinator for Human Services works with a population of young adolescents who are aging out of foster care. Stacey said she starts working with the youth at age 17½ by helping them plan their transition after foster care. They plan where they will live and where they will look for a job or continue on to school. Each of them qualifies for a Department of Children & Families scholarship up to \$4,000 each year to attend Technical College or \$5,000 to attend a U.W. school system. They each qualify for BadgerCare Plus up to age 21 or up to age 23 if they continue their education and earn a 2.0 grade point average. Many of them are already receiving long term support services. Stacey said the Independent Living Program is voluntary.

With no further business Mike Norton moved for adjournment; seconded by Jerry Finch and carried unanimously at 5:30 p.m. The next meeting of the Human Services Board will be **Monday, June 4, 2012 at 3:30 p.m.** at the Toward Tomorrow Facility.

Respectfully submitted by Donna Lohry, Board Secretary/dd