

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

Minutes

DATE: Monday, October 1, 2012

TIME: 3:00 p.m.

PLACE: Winnebago County Administration Building

MEMBERS PRESENT: Jerry Finch, Jim Koziczowski, Larry Lautenschlager, Donna Lohry, Mike Norton, Rob Paterson, Harold Singstock and Tom Widener

MEMBERS EXCUSED: Ron Kuehl

STAFF PRESENT: Bill Topel, Ellen Shute, Mary Krueger, Ann Kriegel, Leo Podoski and Dorothy De Grace

OTHERS PRESENT: Tony Beregszazi, Deputy Director and Lu Scheer, Affordable Housing Director – Advocap; Lorraine Yarbrough – Cerebral Palsy & ARC; Chris Strong, Director – Oshkosh Transit

Jim Koziczowski called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m.

AGENDA ITEM #1: PUBLIC COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS

There were no comments on agenda items.

AGENDA ITEM #2: APPROVE MINUTES OF THE JULY 30, 2012 AND AUGUST 6, 2012 HUMAN SERVICES BOARD MEETINGS

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

AGENDA ITEM #3: ACCEPT MINUTES OF THE JULY 11, 2012 W-2 STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING AND THE AUGUST 14, 2012 SPECIALIZED TRANSPORTATION COUNCIL MEETING

Donna Lohry moved for acceptance of these minutes; seconded by Jerry Finch and carried (8-0).

AGENDA ITEM #4: FINANCIAL REPORT

Ellen Shute referred to the 2012 Financial Report with actual expenses and revenues through August, and projections from September through December. She projects a surplus of \$790,372 of which \$607,025 is labor expense. One of the factors for this is that there are only two remaining Long Term Support staff members that are contracted to Lakeland Care District, but we budgeted for the seven employees who moved there at the beginning of the contract period. In Child Welfare and Behavioral Health there is a lower projected amount for expenses due to lower numbers of placements in institutional settings.

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Ellen referred to the Inpatient and Institutional Utilization chart. The average daily population (ADP) for Juvenile Corrections through August is 2.7, which is below the budgeted ADP of 5. The ADP of 7 for Residential Care Centers is above the budgeted level, but is expected to be lower next month. Under the Behavioral Health & Long Term Support Division, the ADP of 5.3 for specialty hospitals for adults is nearly the same as last month; the ADP for youth is 1.1 and is below the budgeted ADP of 1.3. Secure Detention had an ADP of 7.3 through July, which remains below the budgeted number of 8.6; for Foster Care the ADP is 108.3 through August—the downward trend is due to the state’s requirement for us to look at alternative response to placements out of the home. Leo explained that when we get a call that a child is possibly being abused or neglected, we can either do a formal investigation or an alternative response where we do a more informal investigation joined with the family to hopefully avoid a court process. This alternative response does not apply to some of the egregious incidents. We are doing more and more placements of children with relatives instead of foster care, which is a permanency outcome for a lot of the children. We review cases every six months. Leo said our agency has taken a more active role in getting community-based services for our families which helps prevent out-of-home placements.

AGENDA ITEM #5: YOUTH INDEPENDENT LIVING (DISCUSSION & QUESTIONS):

Bill Topel said we have an employee who meets with youth that are in foster care to instruct them on independent living skills. Leo Podoski said we are currently serving 32 youth in this program; 4 of them attend technical school. Leo explained that there are grant dollars available up to \$200 per individual offered through the Chafee Foster Care Independence Program (CFCIP), which helps current and former foster care youths achieve self-sufficiency. The youth can also apply to the Educational and Training Voucher Program through CFCIP for up to \$4,000 per year to attend technical school or \$5,000 to attend a four-year college. We contact the individuals every year until age 22 to help them register for school and apply for the grants if they are interested.

AGENDA ITEM #6: CHANGES AND FUNDING TO BUS ROUTE 10 (DISCUSSION & ACTION, IF NECESSARY):

Mary Krueger said we have \$30,000 in our budget for the Route 10 bus which transports individuals between Oshkosh and the Neenah/Menasha area. There were concerns about changes to that route, but after our staff met with Oshkosh Transit we were supportive of the changes to Route 10 because: 1) there will be more frequent transit to and from Lakeside Packaging, which would be enhanced from the current route; 2) the route will continue to drive into the Food Pantry lot to pick up riders; 3) the route will continue to pick up riders at the bus stop on Logan Drive; 4) the bus will continue to go between Oshkosh and Neenah. Chris Strong of Oshkosh Transit said there was a Public Hearing through the Transit Advisory Board in September regarding Route 10. Currently Route 10 is a 90 minute trip that begins at the Oshkosh Transit Center, and then travels to Jackson Street and onto Hwy. 41 to Neenah and makes a return trip to Oshkosh. Chris said that historically the county has provided the bulk of the local share for Route 10, and Oshkosh Transit can then apply the federal and state operating assistance to it. The Common Council approved changes to Route 10 in June which will increase the frequency of service to Lakeside Packaging and Logan Drive, but will take away much of the ridership that we currently have on Route 10. The new Route 4 will take away most of the local demand for service.

Mike Norton asked why we are funding a route that doesn't go by any county facilities or on any county roads to accommodate Winnebago County residents. He feels we should compromise by having Route 10 stop at the jail either by changing the contract or grandfathering it in. Chris Strong said the results of a survey and discussion with jail staff showed that there is between 1-5 riders from the jail per day and about 20 from Lakeside Packaging and Logan Drive. Chris pointed out that the Access to Jobs program (for jail inmates) provides subsidized taxi fare for someone to get between home and work as long as their position offers a certain number of hours per week and they meet certain income requirements. The jail has some restrictions on how long it can take someone to travel between their home (jail) and their workplace, and the current bus service oftentimes doesn't meet that requirement. Mike Norton moved that the \$30,000 funded to Oshkosh Transit System for Route 10 should be contingent on it making a stop at the jail and then traveling down Jackson Street to Hwy. 41; motion was seconded by Jerry Finch. The motion carried (8-0).

AGENDA ITEM #7: DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Bill reminded Board members of the Wisconsin County Human Service Association (WCHSA) meeting on Friday, October 19 in Green Bay and the WCHSA Fall Conference which will take place on December 6 and 7 in Wisconsin Rapids.

Bill said we will no longer be operating the W-2 Program because it is going to a private vendor. We will add the Food Stamp Employment & Training (FSET) program to our table of organization and give the responsibilities to the employees who worked the W-2 program. We will move the employees from the Workforce Development Center to our Oshkosh building by the 2nd week in January. They will be under the supervision of Ann Kriegel.

AGENDA ITEM #8: BOARD MEMBER REPORTS

Donna Lohry, Mike Norton, Tom Widener and Rob Paterson reported on their attendance at the Greater Wisconsin Agency on Aging Resources (GWAAR) Conference, which they said was excellent.

PROGRAM: ADVOCAP POVERTY CASE MANAGERS

Bill Topel said that at the recommendation of the County Executive we have contracted with Advocap to set up case management services to look at the issues of people in poverty who find it difficult to navigate the system to find what they need.

Tony Beregszazi explained that a group was formed in 2009 to look at self sufficiency. A subgroup of the Self Sufficiency Project developed a list of barriers or obstacles that prevent individuals in poverty from gaining greater self sufficiency. Tony said another group in the community is looking at how emergency services are coordinated in a centralized area to assist those in poverty. They decided that the key to helping people achieve self sufficiency is case management, which they started doing in June.

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Lu Scheer manages the People Achieving Self Sufficiency (PASS) program at Advocap. She shared a list showing they had 98 contacts since June—45 were referrals from other agencies; 9 were referrals from inside Advocap; and 44 were people calling the office or dropping in. Of the 98 individuals, 75 reported to be at or below 150% of the poverty level. Lu said about half of the people are looking for rental assistance, and utility assistance is the next highest request. Most of the people have already approached other agencies, but are looking for additional financial support. Each person must complete an initial needs assessment, and then we help them with some decision making and directions for the future. Some individuals need the one-on-one connection that the PASS program offers to learn how to step forward on their own. Lu said the program is voluntary.

With no further business Mike Norton moved for adjournment; seconded by Larry Lautenschlager and carried at 4:50 p.m. The next meeting of the Human Services Board will be **Monday, November 5, 2012 at 3:00 p.m.** at the Neenah Human Services Building.

Respectfully submitted by Donna Lohry, Board Secretary/dd