

**WINNEBAGO COUNTY
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES**

PUBLIC HEARING

DATE: Wednesday, June 22, 2011

LOCATION: Oshkosh Human Services Building

TIME: 6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Jerry Finch, Jef Hall, Jim Koziczkowski, Ron Kuehl, Donna Lohry, Rob Paterson, Harvey Rengstorf, and Tom Widener

BOARD MEMBERS EXCUSED: Mike Norton

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

Tom Widener, vice-chair of the Department of Human Services Board, opened the hearing at 6:00 p.m. by welcoming those present in the audience and introducing the Board members and staff who were present. Tom explained that the intent of the public hearing is to provide an opportunity for the public to comment on programs funded by the Department of Human Services for residents of Winnebago County who are affected by developmental disabilities, chemical dependency or mental illness, and on the financial and social service programs available through the Department. Tom reviewed the guidelines for the hearing.

The following information is testimony given:

Testimony given by Paul Eisen: Paul is a Winnebago County Supervisor. He asked that Bill Topel address the following questions at the 2012 Budget presentation: 1) He would like a state of the Human Services Department comparing and contrasting the changes and innovations from when he began with the Department, 2) What is his experience in replacing the retiring Deputy Director with the consolidating of the Administration and Deputy Director duties, 3) What input has been given to the Criminal Justice Study just completed by Kimme & Associates, 4) Please discuss the status of the Governor imposed Budget barrier to Family Care and the implications on our 2012 Human Services Budget, 5) What is the impact of the State Budget on the flow of Human Services retirements, 6) What experience can be shared with early release of incarcerated persons and now the ending of that program? Is there any measurable fiscal impact?

Testimony given by Bob Poeschl: Bob is present today on behalf of ARC—Winnebago County Disability Association as the Interim Executive Director. Bob's concerns are the implications of the challenges that the state is bringing down on Family Care. It's important to the population that he serves—those with developmental and other cognitive disabilities. He would also like an understanding of whether or not youth with disabilities will be getting some level of long term care as they transition from the school districts.

Bob Poeschl said the ADRC is a great addition to our county. The employees are doing a really good job of consolidating where information is located and getting it out into the community. He said there may be ways the ADRC can work with other entities to try and solve the transportation challenges. Bob is a member of the Oshkosh City Council and sits on a sub-committee of the Transit Advisory Board. They recently had two public hearings on the proposed Transit Development Plan which includes a change to bus route #10 to be an express route to Neenah. He would like to hear the Board's opinions regarding the changes and how it relates to funding.

With no further testimonies offered, the hearing was closed at 7:00 p.m.

Submitted by:

Dorothy De Grace, Secretary
Winnebago County Department of Human Services