

**WINNEBAGO COUNTY
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES**

PUBLIC HEARING

DATE: Thursday, June 23, 2011

LOCATION: Neenah Human Services Building

TIME: 8:30 a.m. to 9:30 a.m.

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

STAFF PRESENT: Bill Topel, Ellen Shute, Tom Saari, Leo Podoski, Mary Krueger, Ann Kriegel, Gina Vanden Branden and Dorothy De Grace

Jim Koziczkowski, chairperson of the Department of Human Services Board, opened the hearing at 8:30 a.m. by welcoming those present in the audience and introducing the Board members and staff who were present. Jim 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. Jim reviewed the guidelines for the hearing.

The following information is testimony given:

Testimony given by Susan DeWildt: Susan is here on behalf of the seniors who participate in the meals at the Menasha Senior Center. They thank the Board for the meal program offered with funding from Winnebago County. Susan expressed several concerns of the meal participants: there is too much salt in the meals and there are too many processed foods served. They would like to see more fresh fruits and vegetables offered. They would like to be able to eat healthier as their doctors are telling them to do. They would like to receive the nutritional content of each menu item, so they can make informed decisions about which foods they choose to eat. She suggested that the county may want to consider higher standards, additional funding and/or higher user fees to keep our seniors healthy.

Testimony given by Denise Waller: Denise is a consumer at Friendship Place. She said Friendship Place gives the people who go there structure in their day with activities to do. She thanked the Board for the funding in the past and the future, because without the funding they would be lost.

Testimony given by Katelyn Kotkosky: Katelyn is the mental health program coordinator at Friendship Place. She thanked the Board for their past support and their continued effort to help those adults with chronic mental illness.

Testimony given by Paul Eisen: Paul is a Winnebago County Supervisor. He said he had the opportunity to peruse through the Human Services Budget Book that was provided him, and he commended the Board for having it put on-line. He suggested that perhaps this would reduce the need for distributing hard copies, which adds to the expense of the department.

Paul Eisen listed his concerns in reviewing the various programs in the budget book: 1) He noticed that approximately 42,000 consumers were provided services in the past year, and he would like us to identify the number of unduplicated services that were provided. 2) Will the reduction of the three full-time employees as projected from 2011 to 2012 result in the increase of any unclassified or contracted positions? 3) The financial summary indicates that for 2011 and 2012 there was a 40% use of tax levy, but for 2010 it was 28%. He would like clarification of the fact that the Long Term Care District will take away some incoming revenue which will result in a larger percentage of Human Service budget expenses coming out of the county tax levy, and 4) In the Long Term Support Division it shows there is a levy reduction of \$718,765. He asked how comfortable is the department and the Board with the proposed state implementation of a cap in Long Term Care programs and the expected levy reduction, even though the Family Support Team may be required or allowed to continue supporting the 18-22 year olds through the Children's MA waiver provision. Will we be able to fulfill the needs of those 18-22 year olds?

Testimony given by Bob Poeschl: Bob represents the ARC of Winnebago County. He discussed proposed route #4, which would be an alternative route to route #10 that would not go directly to the downtown area, but a person could transfer from this route to either of two other routes. As an advocate for persons with disabilities, he said it has taken several years for his clients to get used to traveling directly into the downtown area and too many changes in a short amount of time are very confusing and challenging for them. As a city council member, he wants the best for his community; but in a collaborative agreement he wants the best of both worlds. He said it comes down to how Oshkosh Transit and the Human Services Board can have a beneficial relationship regarding the \$30,000 investment that you are putting into this route. He feels we would get a lot more service from the direct route #10, and it is a much more efficient route for the population that he serves.

With no further testimonies offered, the hearing was closed at 9:30 a.m.

Submitted by:

Dorothy De Grace, Secretary
Winnebago County Department of Human Services