

**WINNEBAGO COUNTY
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES**

PUBLIC HEARING

DATE: **Wednesday, June 18, 2014**

LOCATION: **Neenah Human Services Building**

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

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Jerry Finch, Jim Kozickowski, Larry Lautenschlager, Donna Lohry, Rob Paterson, Harold Singstock, and Tom Widener

BOARD MEMBERS EXCUSED: Ron Kuehl and Mike Norton

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

Tom Widener 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 Kristine Forster: Kristine has found Friendship Place to be a valuable channel that has taken her “out of her shell” and allowed her to develop both physically and mentally. She thanked the Board for its past contributions to help keep Friendship Place going.

Testimony given by Patti Prah: Patti thanked the Board for its support of Friendship Place. She said if it weren’t for Friendship Place, she wouldn’t be here today. It has given her a reason to cherish the life she has today. Friendship Place has become a way of life for her; she can talk to people and they will understand. She said as long as Friendship Place is there, the “sky is the limit” for her.

Testimony given by Paul Eisen: Paul is a Winnebago County Supervisor for District 4. He said he is here today as a citizen of the community to try and make sense of the millions of dollars that are passed through from the state and are collected through the levy. He asked five questions that he feels would assist in the budget process as it goes forward: 1) In all the programs offered, is there any room for user fees or modified user fees, 2) Is there any room for competitive providers of services, 3) What would you adjust if you had to reduce your levy revenue by 10%, 4) What measures are taken to prevent, minimize and deal with fraud—by consumer and provider alike, and 5) Does Second Chance disruptions mean a significant setback to re-entry by wayward juveniles? Paul said he would like to see policy-makers and administrators fine-tune the services to better equip consumers to take a greater degree of responsibility for their circumstances.

Testimony give by Robert Keller: Robert is a County Board member. He said that in looking at the list of contracted vendors in the Budget book, he is wondering if Human Services might want to bring some services back and offer them in-house.

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