

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

**Minutes**

**DATE:** Monday, October 6, 2014

**TIME:** 3:00 p.m.

**PLACE:** Neenah Human Service Building

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Jerry Finch, Jim Koziczowski, Larry Lautenschlager, Rob Paterson, Harold Singstock and Tom Widener

**MEMBERS EXCUSED:** Donna Lohry, Mike Norton and Ron Kuehl

**STAFF PRESENT:** Bill Topel, Ellen Shute, Leo Podoski, Annette Beattie and Dorothy De Grace

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Kelly Hicks and Alice Zarda of Youth Go

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

**AGENDA ITEM #1: PUBLIC COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS**

There were no comments.

**AGENDA ITEM #2: APPROVE MINUTES OF THE SEPTEMBER 9, 2014 HUMAN SERVICE BOARD MEETING**

Jerry Finch moved for approval of these minutes; seconded by Larry Lautenschlager and carried.

**AGENDA ITEM #3: ACCEPT MINUTES OF THE AUGUST 11, 2014 ADRC COMMITTEE MEETING**

Rob Paterson moved for acceptance of these minutes; seconded by Larry Lautenschlager and carried.

**AGENDA ITEM #4: YOUTH GO PROGRAM**

Leo Podoski explained that the Youth Go program has been providing mentoring services that is positive and supportive for truant youth for many years. They also have a youth drop-in center at the same location in Neenah. They offer the Bridges mentoring program, and they offer the PACT program where youth do community service in lieu of a 72-hour hold to Shelter Care. Kelly Hicks, director of Youth Go said the program started providing services in 1969 with a goal of providing a safe and supportive place for youth. They work with kids from grades 5-12 by helping them with homework, offering participation in activities and clubs, developing positive relationships with peers and adults, and teaching them to make positive choices. There is no cost to the youth for participating and there is no parent intake required. The middle school program increased from 10-12 participants three years ago to at least 25 every day at the end of last school year. There are six full-time and five part-time staff at Youth Go.

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Annette Beattie explained that the mentors who work with the Bridges program partner with social workers and school staff to build a relationship with the youth. They try to break down the barriers that the youth are experiencing in preventing them from going to school. Alice Zarda said sometimes the first warning sign that a youth needs help in other areas is that they are truant. The program has served 625 students since 1996; last year they served 70 students. The results of surveys show that the program has had a positive impact on the students. The PACT program is offered two Saturdays a month. It is an opportunity for the youth to learn how to make good decisions and how to help in the community at various non-profit sites doing volunteer work. So far this year they've served 100 youth in the program.

**AGENDA ITEM #5: INPATIENT & INSTITUTIONAL PLACEMENT STATISTICS**

Ellen Shute said for Child Welfare Division, Juvenile Corrections the average daily population (ADP) is 4.0, which is slightly above the budgeted number of 3.7; the ADP for residential care centers is 8.6 and slightly over the budgeted 8.3; for the Behavioral Health & Long Term Support divisions, specialty hospitals for adults the ADP is 4.4 and for the population under age 22 the ADP is 2.0 – the downward trend means we are finding alternate services for kids; Secure Detention's ADP is 5.8, which is normal; the Foster Care ADP is 115—this is slightly above the budgeted number and is good. Bill Topel said there is concern statewide about the number of children being admitted to specialty hospitals—at Winnebago Mental Health Institute the kids' psychiatric unit is about double the capacity it should be. There are proposals in the Governor's budget that Winnebago County might become a regional crisis diversion center for kids. Leo Podoski said foster care for kids is a first formal support for families. He is seeing an increase in the numbers of kids in care because of greater mental health or AODA service needs for families. Leo said that in the past when the state would identify guardianship as permanency for kids, the Kinship Care Program would pay a certain amount of money to the relative to help support the kids' needs. The state now wants those placements to be licensed foster homes or they would lose their Kinship Care funding. Leo said there are now two types of guardianship: 1) the standard guardianship and 2) a subsidized guardianship for permanency where the county pays for the placement until the child is 21 years of age.

**AGENDA ITEM #6: FINANCIAL REPORT**

Ellen Shute reported that we currently have \$993,466 of unexpended tax levy in our budget, and labor remains almost the same at \$333,307. Our budgeted program expenses of \$22 million are slightly under our projected amount. We are anticipating being over by approximately \$71,000. Ellen explained that due to a projected presumptive eligibility of \$260,000 the surplus could be substantially higher.

**AGENDA ITEM #7: DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

Bill Topel reported that he and others met with the County Executive regarding the Human Services budget for 2015. The budget was looked at favorably, which included a request for an additional Child Welfare supervisor to our table of organization and two replacement vehicles for the agency.

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Bill Topel informed the Board of the following: 1) He sent out a survey to the WCHSA Eastern Regional members to determine if they wanted to continue quarterly meetings. He received two responses to continue the meetings; six responses to end the meetings; and no response from the remaining counties. It was determined that the meeting scheduled for October be cancelled and future meetings are “on hold” pending the outcome of the by-laws with the WCHSA Executive Committee. 2) It was stated at the recent WCHSA Executive Committee meeting that for the first time in almost 20 years the Department of Children & Families has proposed to include \$5.5 million in their 2015-2017 budget for an across-the-board allocation to counties. Our county would receive approximately \$200,000 increase in Children & Family aids. 3) The Department of Health Services (DHS) is putting a plan in place where Managed Care organizations (MCO’s) will be solely in charge of authorizing services and payments for behavioral health care to their members. WCHSA has authored a recommendation to the DHS that when they contract with MCO’s they indicate that they must contract with county agencies for mental health programs that individuals had already been receiving, and that we would be able to recommend to the MCO the type and amount of service that should be offered to a member. 4) Community Care Inc. will be a competitor of Lakeland Care District starting in 2015. 5) The WCHSA Futures Committee is currently working on its new by-laws, and they will recommend hiring an executive director for WCHSA through an agency in Green Bay.

### **AGENDA ITEM #8: BOARD MEMBER REPORTS**

Rob Paterson reported that there will be a meeting of the Memory Café for interested individuals at Neenah Library on October 20 from 1:30 p.m.–3:30 p.m. He said the Winnebago County Advocacy Coalition is in the midst of writing its by-laws.

With no further business Jerry Finch moved for adjournment at 4:10 p.m.; seconded by Larry Lautenschlager and carried. The next meeting of the Human Services Board will be held on **Monday, November 3, 2014 at 3:00 p.m.** in the Oshkosh Human Services Building, Room 33.

Respectfully submitted by Donna Lohry, Board Secretary/dd