

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

Minutes

DATE: Wednesday, January 3, 2024

TIME: 3:00 p.m.

PLACE: Neenah Human Services Building Room 008

MEMBERS PRESENT: Ralph Harrison, Kay Horan, Ed Jeziorny, Chris Kniep, Rebecca Nichols, Harold Singstock, Mark Weisensel

MEMBERS EXCUSED: Larry Lautenschlager, Karen Powers

STAFF PRESENT: Bill Topel, Renee Soroko, Annette Beattie, Heather Foust, Ann Kriegel, Beth Roberts, Janet Rohloff (Zoom) and Pam Bartelt

Vice Chairman Ralph Harrison called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m.

AGENDA ITEM #1: PUBLIC COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS

Kay Horan commented on the active involvement of the board members in the community and what a positive effect that has on the community.

AGENDA ITEM #2: INTRODUCTION OF NEW HUMAN SERVICES BOARD MEMBER

Director Bill Topel introduced Ed Jeziorny, County Supervisor District 34, as the new Human Services Board member. Introductions were provided by all in attendance. Welcome Ed!

PROGRAM #3: Lu Scheer – Homelessness, Eviction, Loss Prevention (HELP) Program Housing Grant Specialist

Bill Topel introduced Lu Scheer, the HELP Program Housing Grant Specialist. Lu's focus is managing the \$10 million state funded grant and monitoring funds are used as specified. She searches for additional affordable housing opportunities at the county level. A workgroup has been created with over 50 members of the community, both at city and county levels. This group includes developers; for-profit and non-profit organizations; and financial institutions. They are determining what kind of housing is needed, how to obtain and barriers. The housing crisis is across the United States. The grant covers six major projects: Covey, Habitat for Humanity-Oshkosh, Oshkosh Kids – Tiny House Village, Solutions Recovery, Day by Day Warming Shelter, Winnebago County HELP. These all help provide affordable, safe housing for consumers that are required to work on life goals. Supportive services help consumers learn about healthy

relationships, being good neighbors, budgeting for rent, finding employment and childcare to become self-sustaining. These programs have all been successful. Another area of focus is affordable housing for Veterans in Winnebago County.

AGENDA ITEM #4: APPROVE MINUTES OF THE DECEMBER 4, 2023 HUMAN SERVICES BOARD MEETING

Kay Horan moved for approval of the Human Services Board minutes; seconded by Chris Kniep and carried unanimously. (7-0)

AGENDA ITEM #5: ACCEPT MINUTES OF THE DECEMBER 11, 2023 ADRC COMMITTEE AND SEPTEMBER 12, 2023 ADVISORY COMMITTEE FOR CHILDREN'S VOLUNTARY SERVICES (ACCVS) MEETINGS

Mark Weisensel moved for acceptance of the ADRC Committee minutes; seconded by Ralph Harrison and carried unanimously. (7-0)

Chris Kniep moved for acceptance of the ACCVS Meeting minutes; seconded by Kay Horan and carried unanimously. (7-0)

AGENDA ITEM #6: INPATIENT & INSTITUTIONAL PLACEMENT STATISTICS

Human Services Director Bill Topel reviewed placement statistics: Child Welfare (CW) Division – Juvenile Corrections remains at 0.7 Actual Daily Populations (ADP). Residential Care Centers are currently at 2.1 ADP. Behavioral Health (BH) - Specialty Hospitals for adults is at 1.9 ADP with the youth being at 1.0 ADP. Secure Detention is at 3.9 ADP. Foster Care is down to 40.3 ADP. Kinship Placements are at 140.0 ADP.

AGENDA ITEM # 7: FINANCIAL REPORT

Janet Rohloff, Administrative Services Division (ASD) Manager, shared the financial report showing we have a \$3.5 million surplus due to the Wisconsin Medicaid Cost Reporting (WIMCR) reimbursement received in December. This will be the last report as year-end closing processes are completed with final numbers to be presented in April. The labor category is overbudget for the year as anticipated due to the approved salary adjustments in 2023. The other categories of travel, capital and operating expenses are all favorable.

AGENDA ITEM # 8: DEPUTY DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Deputy Director, Renee Soroko, informed members that divisions are filling the additional positions approved for this year. Children's Long Term Support positions have been filled. To accommodate growth, we are renting office space in Neenah (a few blocks from the Neenah office). Child Welfare (CW) has a new Deputy Division Manager that was filled by a current CW Supervisor. CW continues to work to fill several vacancies. Behavioral Health (BH)) has added more direct service staff under Comprehensive Community Services (CCS). BH has moved their Substance Use Disorder (SUD) staff to the Orrin King building. Heather Foust, BH Division Manager, mentioned they have hired new case managers and continue recruitment efforts for

clinical positions. Ann Kriegel, Economic Support Division Manager, has two upcoming retirements opening 1.5 positions. Janet Rohloff, ASD, reported that there is currently looking to fill one position. Renee mentioned one of her staff will be move to LTS division. Discussion on the value of using **governmentjobs.com** for recruitment purposes.

AGENDA ITEM #9: DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Director Bill Topel shared that the WCHSA Fall Conference was well attended. May of 2024 will be the spring conference being held in Wausau this year. Details will be shared soon.

Priorities for 2024 will include Priority Based Budgeting (PBB) which will be learned and used county wide. Onboarding new staff is taking place now over the next five to six months.

AGENDA ITEM #10: BOARD MEMBER REPORTS

Becky Nichols thanked the WAVE group for the holiday gathering. It was excellent.

Mark Weisensel also complimented the WAVE group for the wonderful holiday event.

Ralph Harrison reminded members to notify someone if they are not able to attend a meeting. Pam's number is on the bottom of the agenda. This will help to ensure everyone is aware if there is not a quorum.

With no further business Ed Jeziorny moved for adjournment; seconded by Kay Horan and carried at 5:00 p.m. The next meeting will be held on **Monday, February 5, 2024 at 3:00 p.m. in the Oshkosh Human Services Building in Room 33.**

Respectfully submitted by Pam Bartelt, Human Services Department/pb