

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

**Minutes**

**DATE:** Monday, February 6, 2023

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

**PLACE:** Neenah Human Services Building Room 008

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Jeffrey Beem, Ralph Harrison, Chris Kniep, Larry Lautenschlager, Rebecca Nichols, Karen Powers, Harold Singstock, Rachel Youngquist

**MEMBERS EXCUSED:**

**STAFF PRESENT:** Bill Topel, Annette Beattie, Heather Foust, Ann Kriegel, Beth Roberts, Tammy Steier and Nancy Ruedinger

Chairman Larry Lautenschlager called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m.

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

There were no comments.

**PROGRAM #2: CHILD WELFARE(CW) HUMAN TRAFFICKING COMMITTEE**

Annette Beattie, CW Division Manager, provided information on the Human Trafficking Committee and the three components used for addressing minor's sex trafficking under the age of 18 years of age. The internal response consists of an assessment of any reports of suspected minors 'being at risk of' or 'being trafficked'. An internal meeting is arranged consisting of staff from each division that deals with children including behavioral health (BH) staff that provide therapy to children, children's long-term support (CLTS) and CW which has one person from each of the ten teams involved. This meeting ensures all are aware of what is going on in our community and determines how we will address situations as a community. This team makes sure we have experts and trainings to educate staff and community members. The goal is to have one expert on each team to address concerns when youth are suspected of being trafficked or at risk. This group meets every other month to share circumstances of what is happening in our community and identify adults suspected of trafficking. This group developed a response protocol to minor sex trafficking. They provide trainings and groups, when appropriate, with several staff being trained through specific curriculums. Another component is a coordinated community response team consisting of school personnel, law enforcement, court officers and DA's office, other community providers and our agency. A grant was used to provide a paid facilitator to address the community's response to minor sex trafficking. Once the grant ended, the group dissolved. The group was revamped five years ago, with Human Services arranging a training for a multi-disciplinary team consisting of law

enforcement, school staff, hospital staff, and our agency staff. We created the EYE Committee – Ending Youth Exploitation. Covid hit and, again, the committee was dissolved. It was difficult re-establishing as many of the providers are a part of the Outagamie County response group. We are currently working on merging with that group. The third component is a *regional* response team that has been initiated through a state grant in our region. Through the grant, Outagamie County was able to fund a coordinator position. Some of the larger counties, including Winnebago County, were able to support smaller counties and use grant funds to provide intense trainings for school personnel, therapists, social workers, etc. National trainers were brought in to help educate all on what minor sex trafficking is about, who is most directly targeted, prevention and what can be done to help those at risk. The grant was renewing every two years until now with this being the last year. The education and knowledge gained thus far will be helpful moving forward. A lot of tracking was done which will assist with increasing needed resources in the region. Our county is in a very good position to provide a helpful response. This team was able to develop a service and resource guide for youth to be able to carry with them for immediate need. Harm reduction is an important topic providing youth a place to reach out when they are ready. Many times, youth at risk become brainwashed into thinking they have no other options as traffickers are excellent at convincing youth of an 'attractive lifestyle'. This guide provides an easy access connection or resource for youth at all times.

### **AGENDA ITEM #3: APPROVE MINUTES OF THE JANUARY 4, 2023 HUMAN SERVICES BOARD MEETING**

Karen Powers moved for approval of these minutes; seconded by Ralph Harrison and carried unanimously. (8-0)

### **AGENDA ITEM #4: ACCEPT MINUTES OF THE JANUARY 9, 2023 ADRC COMMITTEE MEETINGS**

Harold Singstock moved for acceptance of these minutes; seconded by Jeff Beem and carried unanimously. (8-0)

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

Human Services Director Bill Topel reviewed placement statistics: Child Welfare (CW) Division – Juvenile Corrections remains at 1.0 Actual Daily Populations (ADP). Residential Care Centers are at 2.0 ADP. Behavioral Health (BH) - Specialty Hospitals for adults is at 5.0 ADP with the youth being at 0.6 ADP. Secure Detention is at 1.2 ADP. Foster Care is at 43.0 ADP.

### **AGENDA ITEM # 6: FINANCIAL REPORT**

Janet Rohloff not here. Director Bill Topel mentioned that final numbers for 2022 will be available in April/May 2023. Current surplus remains at \$4.3 million with several invoices still expected.

Additional information included the breakdown of the 2022 projected surplus. 50.9% (\$2.2M) is from additional revenue and 49.1% (\$2.1M) is due to savings from the expense budget. Amounts are *projected only*. 2022 books will not officially close until sometime next month.

The projection of costs associated with wage increases using the adopted 2023 budget as the base amount. The 1% wage increase amount is \$185,086 with fringe benefits increase being \$77,077. A wage increase of 2% would be in the amount of \$370,171 with fringes being \$154,154; and 3% would be \$555,257 with fringes being \$231,231.

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

Renee Soroko not here, no report.

#### **AGENDA ITEM #8: DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

Bill Topel mentioned that County Executive Doemel, Ethan Hollenberger, Ralph Harrison and himself attended the County Ambassador Program (CAP) on January 25, 2023 in Madison at the Capitol. Two main topics addressed were: 1) 100% Medicaid funding for our mental health program called Community Services Program and mental health crisis services; and 2) Additional funding (\$10 million) for adult protective services which includes increased investigative services in nursing homes and other places where older adults may be taken advantage of. 'Human Services Day at the Capitol' is on April 12, 2023. Bill and Renee will provide transportation to Madison. Any interested Human Services Board members are invited to join, please let us know. Wisconsin County Association (WCA) will do a briefing on the top areas of concern. The rest of the day is spent discussing issues with legislators. The WCHSA Spring Conference is scheduled May 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup>, 2023 at the Osthoff Resort in Elkhart Lake.

#### **AGENDA ITEM #9: BOARD MEMBER REPORTS**

Karen Powers shared a resource of Trinity Episcopal Church, Oshkosh, forgiving \$1.2 million of medical debt in Wisconsin. More information from their website includes: Through this campaign we can provide relief and, most importantly, hope to our neighbors burdened by crippling medical debt. Trinity will match, dollar for dollar, the first \$6,000 raised in this campaign.

Ralph Harrison stated he enjoyed attending the CAP day at the capitol and found it worthwhile.

Chairman Larry Lautenschlager shared that he and Ralph Harrison will be attending the NACo Legislative Conference in Washington, D.C. later this week.

With no further business Jeff Beem moved for adjournment; seconded by Karen Powers and carried at 4:35 p.m. The next meeting will be held on **Monday, March 6, 2023 at 3:00 p.m. in the Oshkosh Human Services Building in Room 33.**

Respectfully submitted by Pam Bartelt, Human Services Department/pb