

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

Minutes

DATE: Thursday, February 12, 2009

TIME: 3:30 p.m.

PLACE: Neenah Human Services Building

MEMBERS PRESENT: Don Griesbach, Jef Hall, Jim Kozickowski, Ron Kuehl, Donna Lohry, Mike Norton, Rob Paterson, Harvey Rengstorf, and Tom Widener

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

OTHERS PRESENT: Lorraine Yarbrough, Cerebral Palsy of Mideast Wisconsin

Jim Kozickowski called the meeting to order at 3:30 p.m. Introductions were made.

AGENDA ITEM #1: COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

There were no comments

AGENDA ITEM #2: APPROVE MINUTES OF THE DECEMBER 11, 2008 HUMAN SERVICES BOARD MEETING

Donna Lohry moved for approval of these minutes; seconded by Tom Widener and carried (8-0). (Hall abstained as he was not present at that meeting).

AGENDA ITEM #3: ACCEPT MINUTES OF THE NOVEMBER 11, 2008 SPECIALIZED TRANSPORTATION COUNCIL MEETING; THE NOVEMBER 11, 2008 FAMILY SUPPORT PROGRAM ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING; AND THE JANUARY 14, 2009 W-2 STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING

Tom Widener moved for acceptance of these minutes; seconded by Jef Hall and carried (9-0).

AGENDA ITEM #4: 2008 FINANCIAL PROJECTION REPORT

Ellen Shute said we anticipate having \$25,203 in unspent tax levy for 2008. The surplus in Child Welfare continued in 2008, and the deficit decreased in Behavioral Health. After discussion about whether the Board should continue receiving a monthly financial projection report, the consensus was to stay with the report each month so we can continually monitor any budget areas that might be a concern. Ellen referred to a graph depicting the inpatient and institutional costs for 2007-2008. The average placements decreased in all areas. When asked what specifically led to the lower numbers, Bill Topel explained that it was in part due to our change in philosophy and our strategic planning process while looking at different alternatives to placements. We are in essence changing our way of offering services.

AGENDA ITEM #5: 2008 BUDGET TRANSFER

Ellen Shute asked the Board's approval to do a budget transfer which would restore \$168,000 back to the undesignated fund balance in Human Services. This is made possible because of the reduced costs for fewer placements in specialty hospitals. Ellen said \$22,500 will cover expenses in the travel area for Child Welfare. Mike Norton moved for approval of the budget transfer totaling \$190,500; seconded by Donna Lohry and carried (9-0).

AGENDA ITEM #6: 2009 BUDGET UPDATE

Bill Topel said we are starting to see trends that we can attribute in part to the economic downturn. Ann Kriegel said that in all of the programs they administer they are seeing an increase in numbers of cases and dollars issued from 2007 to 2008. Each worker has from 350-500 cases, but some of those cases may go to the state level for the Badger Care Plus program. Some Food Share and Medical Assistance cases for childless adults could also go to the state level, which would lower our number of cases. Tom Saari said there has been an approximate 10% increase in the number of clients in the Behavioral Health area.

Bill Topel gave an update on the status of the new positions. He said our goal is to have them all filled by no later than the end of March and to be in the process of training the individuals. We have conducted interviews and are making job offers for several of the positions. Tom Saari said they will be interviewing for a nurse position and have made an offer for a resident program professional. They made adjustments to the on-call, after-hours system to operate it on a 24 hour daily basis. They are still seeking an in-home family therapist and an in-home case manager. Bill is conducting training on a systems approach to working with families. He is looking at some outside vendors that are interested in partnering with us for services.

AGENDA ITEM #7: FAMILY CARE UPDATE

Bill Topel said we are on track with Family Care and are waiting for information on the Governor's budget. We anticipate starting Family Care in 2010 if the Governor approves funding for us. We will do a presentation to the County Board explaining Family Care and ask for their approval of a resolution in favor of Family Care.

AGENDA ITEM #8: DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Bill Topel distributed information regarding the NACO prescription discount card, which is available to counties that are members of NACO. Use of the discount card can save an average of 20% off the full retail cost of prescription medication from participating pharmacies.

AGENDA ITEM #9: BOARD MEMBER REPORTS

Donna Lohry reported that she attended a very interesting provider workshop for Family Care. She said Ken Stoffel should be recognized for a good job in helping organize this.

Rob Paterson reported on his attendance at the recent Family Support Advisory Committee meeting where the goals and expectations of committee members was discussed.

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PROGRAM: Oshkosh Area United Way

Sue Panek, Executive Director, explained the various programs funded by the United Way and how Human Services is collaborating with them. Sue said the United Way has been supporting the Family Wize prescription drug discount card program for about four years. The discount card is available at a 20% average savings on prescriptions for individuals and families with no prescription coverage. More information can be obtained from their website.

Sue said the United Way has been trying to look at the needs in the community and collaborating with other groups in making sure everything is working. The groups meet on the 4th Monday morning of every month at the Coughlin Building. In collaboration with all of the local food pantries several years ago, they started a hunger task force in the community. As a result, a community pantry will be opening on Jackson Street in Oshkosh. Sue said the United Way is concerned about what difference they are making in the lives of individuals. They have gone to outcome-based projects where agencies must report not just how many people they are helping, but how they are helping them. Sue shared information about the four allocation areas and the amounts allocated for 2009. A 2008 WinnebagoLand Focus report identifies how the United Way measures up with about 90 indicators in the city of Oshkosh, the county, the state, and nationally. Sue explained the other areas of collaboration and initiatives between United Way, local schools and other agencies. The United Way began offering free tax service for low to moderate income people through the VITA program at the Hooper Community Center on Saturdays through March 28. They recently started a Poverty Coalition and a Mental Health Coalition. Sue said the Information & Referral Advisory Board merged the referral systems in Oshkosh and Neenah to form 2-1-1 Information & Referral. We have now included 10 other counties in one call center. Sue referred Board members to information found in the LIFE report that is prepared by the United Way. Jim Koziczowski thanked Sue for her presentation today.

With no further business Don Griesbach moved for adjournment at 5:15 p.m.; seconded by Mike Norton and carried unanimously. The next meeting of the Human Services Board will be **Thursday, March 12, 2009 at 3:30 p.m.**

Respectfully submitted by:

Donna Lohry, Human Services Board Secretary
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