

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

**Minutes**

**DATE:** Thursday, December 10, 2009

**TIME:** 3:30 p.m.

**PLACE:** Neenah Human Services Building

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

**MEMBERS EXCUSED:** Jef Hall

**STAFF PRESENT:** Bill Topel, Ken Stoffel, Ellen Shute and Dorothy De Grace

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Lea Kitz – ARC of Winnebago County

Jim Koziczowski called the meeting to order at 3:30 p.m.

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

There were no comments.

**AGENDA ITEM #2: APPROVE MINUTES OF THE NOVEMBER 12, 2009 HUMAN SERVICES BOARD MEETING**

Harvey Rengstorf moved for approval of the minutes; seconded by Ron Kuehl and carried (8-0).

**AGENDA ITEM #3: ACCEPT MINUTES OF THE OCTOBER 28, 2009 COMMISSION ON AGING MEETING AND THE NOVEMBER 10, 2009 SPECIALIZED TRANSPORTATION COUNCIL MEETING**

With no additions or corrections, Don Griesbach moved to accept these minutes; seconded by Harvey Rengstorf and carried (9-0).

**AGENDA ITEM #4: 2009 FINANCIAL PROJECTION REPORT**

Ellen Shute said we are showing a projected surplus of \$583,880 with actual expenses and revenues reported through October. We are able to continue taking people off the waiting list in Long Term Support. Trends in the other divisions continue as in the previous month. The average daily population of youth in juvenile corrections was 4.3 through October; there was a slight decrease in the average placement in residential care centers to 9.5; and the average for specialty hospitals was 5.9, which is a slight increase from 4.1 through September. Bill Topel said we are able to move kids out sooner from juvenile corrections under approved plans. Although the residential care center numbers are higher, we will be able to get families reunited faster.

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### **AGENDA ITEM #5: 2010 BUDGET UPDATE**

Bill Topel said our 2010 Budget was passed by the County Board as it was presented. We are in the process of trying to fill a psychiatric nurse position. As of January 1 we will move into the reorganization of Behavioral Health with title changes and some duty shifts. We will also look at the restructuring of Administrative Services in January. We are continuing to work towards our mission goals in 2010. Bill said the new positions in Behavioral Health are meeting their salary and fringe benefit expectations. We are reuniting kids with their families earlier and should realize cost savings over time.

### **AGENDA ITEM #6: ADRC UPDATE**

Ken Stoffel said we are putting together computer communication so we will be able to transfer information from our TCM system when making a referral to the Lakeland District or IRIS. Ken said staff is getting training from the state on IRIS and self-directed supports. In January the ADRC staff will get state training on enrollment counseling. We will be working with a collaboration group to give information to all agencies within the county regarding Family Care and the ADRC. State staff will be reviewing our ADRC application for details. The Commission on Aging and the Long Term Support Committee will combine to form an ADRC Committee. Applications will be available for anyone interested in serving on that committee. Ken said the Lakeland District will be hosting some informational sessions targeted to some of the questions they have been getting from consumers. The ARC of Winnebago County will be planning an all-day session to be held on a Saturday. Lakeland will give vendors the information they need for contracting with Lakeland.

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

Bill Topel reported on his attendance at a Behavioral Health Summit in December. He explained that a study of Behavioral Health systems in five other states besides Wisconsin was conducted with the idea of proposing options to the state in terms of how funding and operations can be done differently for mental health and AODA issues going forward. They would like to make some decisions about changes for the 2011-2013 biennial budget. The four suggested options given by TMG were: 1) the State would continue to fund counties to provide services; 2) Counties would continue providing services, but they would be given more options for voluntary regional efforts; 3) the State would divide the counties into regions for mandatory participation; or 4) the State would contract with an HMO to find providers of service using each county's portion of tax levy.

Discussion was had regarding the possible use of one of the vacant county buildings to house our Shelter Care program. Mike Norton told the Board about a Missouri model alternative program for youth. Bill Topel said he would see what he can find out about the program and report on it in February.

### **AGENDA ITEM #8: BOARD MEMBERS' REPORTS**

Donna Lohry reported on her attendance at the WCHSA Fall Conference.

Mike Norton reported on his attendance at the recent WCHSA Conference. He said that the Housing Authority is looking at a possible use for the Pleasant Acres Building.

Rob Paterson said he attended a Family Care presentation on November 17.

Don Griesbach attended the Family Care presentation on November 17.

Jim Koziczkowski reported on his attendance at the WCHSA Conference.

**PROGRAM: CHILD FOSTER CARE PROGRAMS**

Renee Soroko is the supervisor of the Resource Team for the Child Foster Care Program. She explained that Winnebago County currently has about 60 licensed foster homes with a total of 108 children in foster care. Of the 41 children in treatment foster homes, 23 are placed outside of Winnebago County because we didn't have a resource or match for them. Renee said treatment foster homes have more licensing requirements than a regular foster home. The children placed there are generally between the ages of 12-18 years and have more treatment needs.

Renee explained that we have three receiving homes that receive a child on an on-call basis when a child is either removed from his home or is being moved from a correctional facility or group home. A match is then made for a more permanent living arrangement for the child, such as in foster care or with a relative.

Renee said that sometimes we lose homes to adoption, so we continue with recruitment efforts for more foster homes. She said the average stay for children in foster care is approximately one year. She said the county's position is always to try and unify the child with the family. Bill Topel said they make an effort to place the child with other relatives or another appropriate adult as an alternative to foster care and supported with the Kinship Care Program. Renee said that all of the Kinship homes will need to be licensed starting in 2010.

Renee said that in 2010 they will increase their recruitment efforts for foster homes that are willing to take teenagers.

With no further business Ron Kuehl moved for adjournment; seconded by Mike Norton and carried unanimously at 5:05 p.m. The next meeting of the Human Services Board will be **Thursday, January 14, 2010 at 3:30 p.m.**

Respectfully submitted by:

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Donna Lohry, Human Services Board Secretary  
/dd