

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

Minutes

DATE: Monday, January 4, 2021

TIME: 3:00 p.m.

PLACE: Virtual Meeting via Zoom

MEMBERS PRESENT: Harold Singstock, Donna Lohry, Mike Norton, Larry Lautenschlager, Jerry Finch, Chris Kniep, Karen Powers, Stephanie Spellman

MEMBERS EXCUSED: Judy Wright

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

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: OVERDOSE FATALITY REVIEW 2019-2020 ANNUAL REPORT

Bill Topel introduced Carol Morack - AODA Supervisor, Safe Streets Program, Connect Program and will be presenting to us today on Overdose Fatality Review. The Overdose Fatality Review Group was started in 2018 and is funded by a year to year grant from DOJ and Dept of Health Services which will expire in 8/2021; however, we also receive federal funds for opioid use and prevention. This fatality review group meets once each month with many partners in the community involved. Thirty-five cases were reviewed with twenty of those cases being residents that overdosed in Winnebago County. The other cases were Winnebago County residents that overdosed in other counties. Statistics were reviewed to see if there was prior contact with CPS, law enforcement, jail or correctional facilities or other community supervision to determine where earlier intervention may have prevented the overdose. The majority of residents were in their homes and alone. Other factors are prior suicide attempts, treatment, prescription drug use and drugs detected by toxicology. The goal is to prevent overdose by gathering information from all partners involved, noticing trends and recommendations for prevention.

AGENDA ITEM #3: APPROVE MINUTES OF THE DECEMBER 7, 2020 HUMAN SERVICES BOARD MEETING

Mike Norton moved for approval of these minutes; seconded by Donna Lohry and carried unanimously. (8-0)

AGENDA ITEM #4: ACCEPT MINUTES OF THE DECEMBER 14, 2020 ADRC COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Mike Norton moved for acceptance of these minutes; seconded by Karen Powers and carried unanimously. (8-0)

AGENDA ITEM #5: INPATIENT & INSTITUTIONAL PLACEMENT STATISTICS

Bill Topel stated that placement statistics showed that Child Welfare (CW) Division – Juvenile Corrections remains at 0.0 Actual Daily Populations (ADP). Residential Care Centers are at 1.0 ADP. Behavioral Health (BH) - Specialty Hospitals for adults is at 3.1 ADP with the youth being at 1.5 ADP. Secure Detention is at 1.5 ADP. Foster Care is at 75.3 ADP.

AGENDA ITEM # 6: FINANCIAL UPDATE

Bill announced Janet Rohloff is accepted the Administrative Division Manager position.

Janet shared there is no official financial report as they are working on year end closing. We did receive our WIMCR settlement for 2019 of \$708,355. This is an additional \$123,000 into 2020 revenue. CCS had \$620,000 reimbursement. There is approximately \$6 million going back to general funds. Much of this is COVID related.

AGENDA ITEM #7: DEPUTY DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Renee Soroko noted that each of our buildings (Neenah, Oshkosh, WCCC) now have a kiosk at the front entrances that will scan body temperature as well as a facial covering. All consumers are screened as they enter the buildings. There is also a kiosk available for staff to use voluntarily.

With assistance from the IS Department, all staff have been issued laptops. A 2020 federal benefit "*Families First Corona Virus Response Act*" allows for additional covered sick leave which is similar to family medical leave. Most of Human Services staff are deemed *essential* and this benefit did not apply. A county benefit was created to cover essential workers who are ill with COVID and/or need to quarantine. The federal benefit is not renewed for 2021 nor will the county benefit be extended. The county is considering providing some type of benefit to cover COVID related illness. Bill will be attending a WCA seminar this week and will gather additional information.

Renee shared we have an ad-hoc Safety Workgroup which will be reviewing and updating our safety policies and procedures.

AGENDA ITEM #8: DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Bill mentioned a question that was raised in regards to the SNAP program. Ann Kriegel addressed this sharing that *Feeding America* had looked at doing SNAP application in food pantries (as they currently do) and also in healthcare settings. Ann completed the survey for our agency and will get the results later this year. The survey looked at the feasibility and effectiveness of consumers applying for *Foodshare*

while they are still at the hospital to address nutritional needs. In some areas, the hospitals have staff that assist with applications for *Medicaid* or *Badger Care* which could possibly be done at the same time.

With the resignation of Jim Koziczowski, there will be a need for a chair election and possibly other positions. This will take place at the next meeting.

Mark Harris shared with Bill a statement about reimbursements to Winnebago County from *Roads to Recovery Act* funding for expenses and staffing related to COVID. They are looking to identify any emergency needs in the county or programing that could use this funding. Ann Kriegel will look into community needs. Larry Lautenschlager mentioned that Mark Harris had sent an email to county board members with this information and encouraged Human Services to evaluate the needs of the community to help our citizens. Bill shared that the recent congressional act approved more funding to be provided for rental and utility assistance in 2021. Some of the suggestions shared by the Human Services Board members are: assisting consumers dealing with mental health needs which have been impacted by this virus; need in the mobile food pantries; inquiring with the Sheriff's Dept to determine the need in the jails such as pre-addiction counseling and mediation; isolation issue which the senior centers are working on. Comments were made to be sure the funds are spread throughout the entire county with focus on high need areas. Bill mentioned last year's assistance was provided to the *Warming Shelter* in Oshkosh and *Homeless Shelter* in Appleton which may also have additional needs this year.

AGENDA ITEM #9: BOARD MEMBER REPORTS

Karen Powers thanked the WAVE committee for providing a wonderful virtual holiday party.

Mike Norton asked for an update on the new Diversion Program. Bill shared that he receives weekly reports. They currently have approximately 17 participants doing "Connect" virtually. Once the program reaches 20 consumers, another person will be hired to handle the caseload. Discussion was had on the possibility of new transitional housing in the area, waiting on more information.

The 2021 schedule of Human Services Meetings was accepted.

With no further business Jerry Finch moved for adjournment; seconded by Karen Powers and carried at 4:15 p.m. The next meeting of the Human Services Board will be held on **Monday, February 1, 2021 at 3:00 p.m. via Zoom.**

Respectfully submitted by Pam Bartelt, Human Services Department/pb