

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

Minutes

DATE: Wednesday, January 5, 2022

TIME: 3:00 p.m.

PLACE: Virtual Meeting via Zoom

MEMBERS PRESENT: Larry Lautenschlager, Mike Norton, Donna Lohry, Chris Kniep, Karen Powers, Harold Singstock, Ralph Harrison, Bryan Stafford

MEMBERS EXCUSED: Jerry Finch

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

OTHERS PRESENT: Representative Lee Snodgrass, Assembly District 57

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: MEDICAID UPDATES

Ann Kriegel, Economic Support (ES) Division Manager, provided information on services provided by the division as well as recent updates. ES processes FoodShare (previously know as food stamps); child care applications for daycare while working; healthcare application such as Medicaid, Badger Care, etc. which is health insurance for those unable able to afford private insurance or do not have insurance through employment. Rules and guidelines are based on state and federal program parameters. Funding comes from the feds through the state and we are required to follow strict program rules. In 2012, Winnebago County became part of a consortium with Calumet, Green Lake, Manitowoc, Kewaunee, Marquette, Outagamie, Waupaca and Waushara counties. Calls from any of these counties are answered and handled by whomever is assigned to the call center at that time. ES workers were able to continue serving consumers all through the pandemic through the call center. Recent Medicaid changes were made during the pandemic which impacted programs. There are several categories for consumers to qualify: elderly over age 65; blind or disabled by social security standards; Badger Care which is a program for families and single individuals. March 18, 2020 was the beginning of the federal Public Health Emergency (PHE) where everyone that was receiving any type of Medicaid could not be ended, regardless of reason. Consumers will continue to receive health care unless they request removal from the program or if they move out of state. Other impacts included temporary removal of work requirements for Medicaid

Purchase Plan (MAPP); no monthly premiums were charged no matter income; renewals were suspended; treatment needs questions were suspended for Badger Care childless adults; and work requirements that were set to be implemented for childless adults were never implemented. Wisconsin is currently planning to end PHE status on March 31, 2022 but may likely extend since there is no firm date. Once ended, renewals will be spread over 12 months. Healthcare will not immediately end for everyone, it will roll over the next 12 months.

Representative Snodgrass shared that she is interested in becoming informed of the work and challenges that the county has been working on. She will keep the county apprised when issues come up that may impact us. Her office is available to assist with any of our local concerns.

AGENDA ITEM #3: APPROVE MINUTES OF THE DECEMBER 6, 2021 HUMAN SERVICES BOARD MEETING

Mike Norton moved for approval of these minutes; seconded by Karen Powers and carried unanimously. (7-0)

AGENDA ITEM #4: ACCEPT MINUTES OF THE SEPTEMBER 14, 2021 ADVISORY COMMITTEE FOR CHILDREN'S VOLUNTARY SERVICES; NOVEMBER 23, 2021 SPECIALIZED TRANSPORTATION COUNCIL AND THE DECEMBER 13, 2021 ADRC COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Donna Lohry moved for acceptance of these minutes; seconded by Ralph Harrison and carried unanimously. (7-0)

Bryan Stafford joined the meeting.

AGENDA ITEM #5: INPATIENT & INSTITUTIONAL PLACEMENT STATISTICS

Bill Topel reviewed placement statistics: 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 4.5 ADP with the youth being at 2.1 ADP. Secure Detention is at 2.4 ADP. Foster Care is at 77.7 ADP.

Bill addressed an inquiry on why we are not reimbursed by Medicare for mental health treatment assistance for children/adults. Under federal Medicaid rules for a facility larger than 16 beds, there is an exclusion for Medicaid and they do not have to pay for this. The rationale was that larger institutions were getting other federal monies. Over the years, the institutions have not received other federal funding. We have repeatedly tried to remove the old rule with no success.

AGENDA ITEM # 6: FINANCIAL REPORT

Janet Rohloff shared the financial report based on November. The surplus is now project at \$4.9 million at year end. Revenue accounts for 51.4% with Operations being at a little over 40% for the savings. 2021 funds were used to purchase furniture and equipment for additional Clinical Diversion Program staff

located at Orrin King. WI Medicaid Cost Reimbursement (WIMCR) was received in December in the amount of \$1.1 million which was \$540,665 over the budgeted amount contributing to the 2021 surplus. Unanticipated revenue increased by about \$12,000 due to money received related to a past state audit in 2012 and 2013. There is no formula to calculate this revenue for projected budgets.

AGENDA ITEM #7: DEPUTY DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Renee Soroko mentioned that background checks are done for all county employees every four years as per state regulation. It's time for agency wide background checks for the next cycle 2022 - 2026. Also due is the next four-year Civil Rights Compliance Plan renewal. A compliance plan is required for any entity receiving federal funding. There has been an unprecedented amount of vacancies in the last several months which is a struggle for many counties. There aren't as many applicants overall thus limited qualified applicants. The staff and management team are working hard to ensure all services are covered; however, it is taxing on all to cover additional cases and duties long term. There were suggestions/questions from board members with good discussion about what we've tried, could try again and new ideas. Renee shared that *Stay Interviews* as well as *Exit Interviews* are being used to gather information that may be helpful with finding and maintaining qualified/skilled staff. Renee will share vacancy details as a standing update for future board meetings.

AGENDA ITEM #8: DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Bill Topel shared that the 2022 Budget has been resolved and passed by the County Board with approximately \$1.8 million in cuts in line items without cutting services. As mentioned in the financial report, there is not a method that can be used to calculate money that we will receive from federal funds for work done in previous years.

AGENDA ITEM #9: BOARD MEMBER REPORTS

Chris Kniep commented on the professionalism of child placements being done with careful consideration and respect for all involved to resolve the situation in the best interest of the child.

Mike Norton mentioned that Monday, 1/17/2022, City of Oshkosh will be having an open house to reveal their Housing Study which will help in addressing the senior housing issue in the community. The Diversity Affairs Commission is meeting 1/6/2022 at 3:00 p.m. via Zoom and will have a presentation by Judge LeKeisha Haase. The ADRC Meeting on 1/10/2022 at 3:00 p.m. will be reviewing the Aging Plan Budget. WCA Legislative Exchange is taking place February 8-9, 2022 in Madison. NACo Legislative Conference is taking place February 12-16, 2022. Mike welcomes any concerns you would like him to share.

With no further business Karen Powers moved for adjournment; seconded by Mike Norton and carried at 4:35 p.m. The next meeting will be held on **Monday, February 7, 2022 at 3:00 p.m. via Zoom.**

Respectfully submitted by Pam Bartelt, Human Services Department/pb