

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

**Minutes**

**DATE:** Monday February 1, 2021

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

**PLACE:** Virtual Meeting via Zoom

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

**MEMBERS EXCUSED:** Judy Wright, Stephanie Spellman

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

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Wendy Hein, Valley Packaging Birth-to-3 Program

Bill Topel called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m.

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

There were no comments.

**AGENDA ITEM #2: ELECTION OF OFFICERS**

Bill Topel opened nominations for Chairperson for the Human Services Board. Jerry Finch nominated Larry Lautenschlager for Chairperson; seconded by Harold Singstock. With no other nominations brought forward Donna Lohry motioned that nominations be closed; seconded by Mike Norton. By unanimous vote Larry Lautenschlager was chosen as Chairperson. (7-0) (Judy Wright and Stephanie Spellman were not present.)

Larry opened the nominations for Vice-Chairperson. Harold Singstock nominated Mike Norton; seconded by Donna Lohry. Jerry Finch nominated Karen Powers; this was declined. Mike Norton was approved as Vice-Chairperson unanimously. (7-0)

Larry opened the nominations for Secretary. Mike Norton nominated Karen Powers; seconded by Jerry Finch. Harold Singstock nominated Donna Lohry; seconded by Jerry Finch. Donna Lohry declined. Karen Powers accepted the nomination. Karen Powers was approved by unanimous vote. (7-0)

### **PROGRAM #3: BIRTH TO 3 REPORT**

Bill Topel introduced Elizabeth Wagner, Long Term Family Support Supervisor and Wendy Hein Program Director with Valley Packaging Birth to 3 Program. Winnebago County contracts with Valley Wendy has been working in this program close to 20 years in five to six different counties. She has been working with Outagamie County since 2010 and with Winnebago County since 2018. Wendy shared a handout describing the Early Intervention Program (EIP) which provides resources, supports and services to children under the age of three who have special needs and their families. Their mission is to help children develop skills by focusing on supporting parents so they are the ones promoting their child's development. Their team consists of 28 professional staff. In 2020, they had 920 total referrals with 416 of those from Winnebago County. 563 total children served with 252 children in Winnebago County. Of the 927 families connected, 395 were in Winnebago County. Program goals include strengthening partnerships with child welfare agencies, increased fidelity to the Coaching model and reviewing and updating program information. The EIP team participated with several community partners including *Children and Youth with Special Healthcare needs* and *Winnebago County CPS Intake and Ongoing Teams*. They are involved in a variety of community projects. Wendy shared several family testimonials.

### **AGENDA ITEM #4: APPROVE MINUTES OF THE JANUARY 4, 2021 HUMAN SERVICES BOARD MEETING**

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

### **AGENDA ITEM #5: ACCEPT MINUTES OF THE JANUARY 11, 2021 ADRC COMMITTEE MEETING AND THE DECEMBER 8, 2020 CHILDREN'S VOLUNTARY SERVICES MEETINGS**

Mike Norton moved for acceptance of these minutes; seconded by Jerry Finch and carried unanimously. (7-0)

### **AGENDA ITEM #6: INPATIENT & INSTITUTIONAL PLACEMENT STATISTICS**

Bill Topel stated that placement statistics are being shown for the end of 2020. These numbers show 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 2.6 ADP with the youth being at 2.0 ADP. Secure Detention is at 1.7 ADP. Foster Care is at 73.5 ADP. Bill also mentioned that ten families have been reunified this past month. Bill shared that Winnebago County received the NACo Excellence award for our child welfare programming.

### **AGENDA ITEM # 7: FINANCIAL REPORT**

Janet Rohloff addressed the Cares Act Reimbursement summary of claims that had been submitted for the period which ended October 31, 2020. Total reimbursement was \$393,015 which was broken down into the following categories: Public Health & Safety, Personal PPE, Cleaning/Sanitizing Supplies, Telework Facilitation, Emergency Housing. The large expense under Cleaning/Sanitizing Supplies included the sanitizing robot (Skytron) that was purchased for the Crisis Center. Janet also mentioned we are closing

the fiscal year 2020. The estimate of \$6,000,000 will return to the general fund. They are working with the county finance department reviewing the effects of Covid.

**AGENDA ITEM #8: CONSIDER RESOLUTION ON ADRC REINVESTMENT TO BE SEND TO THE GOVERNOR & LEGISLATURE – ACTION IF ANY**

Bill shared that counties across the state have not been funded equally since county ADRC's were established. WCHSA has asked counties to consider adding \$27,000,000 to the 2021-2023 state biennial budget and for county board approval. Some ADRC's were encouraged to review consortiums in order to share resources. Overall, this has not worked and they are unable to meet obligations. Additional Winnebago County funds would be used to support prevention and other outreach programs and would benefit counties statewide.

Mike Norton motioned to forward this resolution to our legislators, senators, assembly, governor and county board members. The board also recommended Bill Topel provide a supporting letter with the resolution. Jerry Finch seconded the motion which was approved unanimously (7-0).

**AGENDA ITEM #9 DEPUTY DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

Renee Soroko asked for areas of interest from board members regarding future presentations. Renee shared that she and other staff have been coordinating DHS staff vaccinations and assisting Public Health with their efforts. Safety policies continue to be updated. Renee met with the director of Emergency Management System regarding the existing county phone notification system, *AlertSense*. This can be activated in the event of an emergency to provide mass cell phone communication quickly. There is no cost to add DHS employees.

Funds have been provided to our paratransit system to assist consumers needing transportation to a vaccination site. The Oshkosh Senior Center has a program called "Connect with Tech" and is available to county residents needing assistance in scheduling an online appointment. The ADRC website has the link to access UW Madison website of 'endtherona.com' to locate vaccination sites and eligibility.

**AGENDA ITEM #10: DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

Bill mentioned the plan for eliminating surpluses to balance the budget. We continue with 0% tax levy increase. Increased costs for employee salary, fringe, insurance and providers increases will absorb \$500,000 to \$800,000 over three years. We need to keep our costs from escalating in the large budget items. Covid had an impact of \$3.5 million on the \$6 million unspent allocations which resulted in a slight decrease from 2019.

Stephanie Spellman has resigned as she is moving out of her district. There will be a county board member position open on the Human Services Board. Please notify Mark Harris of suggestions of a new member.

Community partners have been asked if they had needs that were not met due to Covid. *Day-by-Day Warming Shelter* of Oshkosh and *Pillars* of Appleton were allowed an additional \$5000 of funding. *Salvation Army* of Oshkosh has asked for an additional \$2000 to package underutilized meals. Four Senior Center locations (Oshkosh, Menasha, Pickett, Omro) requested \$2000 in additional senior programming.

This will be added to this year's budget with current agreements with these partners. Funds have service provision guidelines specific to the allocations. This will be shared at the next county board meeting.

Renee and Janet suggested eliminating the current Public Hearing Booklet as it's mostly narrative. The idea is to draft a brief announcement alerting the public to the hearing dates/times and highlighting significant budget changes. We can post where additional information can be found and/or requested.

#### **AGENDA ITEM #11: BOARD MEMBER REPORTS**

Mike Norton inquired about the previous program on the collaborative efforts of the school districts in the area. Covid has been an issue of concern with mental health issues.

With no further business Jerry Finch moved for adjournment; seconded by Karen Powers and carried at 4:40 p.m. The next meeting of the Human Services Board will be held on **Monday, March 1, 2021** at 3:00 p.m. via Zoom.

Respectfully submitted by Pam Bartelt, Human Services Department/pb