

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

Minutes

DATE: Monday, March 7, 2022

TIME: 3:00 p.m.

PLACE: Virtual Meeting via Zoom

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

STAFF PRESENT: Bill Topel, Renee Soroko, Janet Rohloff, Beth Roberts, Ann Kriegel, Annette Beattie, Heather Foust, Tammy Steier and Nancy Ruedinger

OTHERS PRESENT: Candice Lane, COTS Deputy Director

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: COTS (HOMELESSNESS RESIDENTIAL PROGRAMS)

Renee introduced Candice Lane, Deputy Director of COTS, to explain their program which has expanded services into our county. COTS has been in Appleton area for over 20 years and currently serve single men and single women experiencing homelessness in a transitional shelter. They serve to bridge the gap for those currently in a crisis care setting and not ready for independent living. An individual can stay up to two years, taking part in all programs they offer. The program has monthly program fees. The COTS program will assist residents in their transition to self-sufficiency with a safe, affordable place to live, food, hygiene and basic household needs. One of the four key areas the program encompasses is stable housing. Another key area of focus is the individual's well-being (physical, dental, behavioral health). In Appleton, they partner with Partnership Community Health Center for all well-being needs with an on-site clinic. The new facility in Oshkosh will also have an on-site partnership clinic. An individual may already have services, so the COTS program will ensure they are keeping appointments and follow up. The program also has internal Substance Abuse Disorder Counselor which provides immediate assessment, counseling and resource connections. The third, and largest, part of programming is education and employment. The goal is to make the connection of employment stability and stable housing. Every individual is required to keep a meaningful schedule of 40 hours per week, which may include full time work, medical or behavioral health appointments, group meetings, daily chores, etc. The idea is to avoid individuals from self-isolating which can lead to barriers in graduating. This is all explained up front when applying for the program. Education includes life

skills programming which individuals must participate. These include financial literacy, rent smart and other classes dependent on the individual needs. One example is their partnership with Fox Valley Tech as they provide a variety of adult culinary basics. The fourth key area is Pro-Social Connection which looks at ways the individual will become a self-sustainable community member. One of the biggest pieces is a support group. Graduates are enrolled in Aftercare Programs which provide three years of follow up services. In Oshkosh, there are currently six available openings for the men's building with 8 available openings for the women's facility and they are accepting applications. Current success rate of individuals remaining in safe, stable and independent housing is 90% three years past graduation (leaving the facility). This program is not funded by government nor United Way. It's is fully funded with private donors and grants only.

AGENDA ITEM #3: APPROVE MINUTES OF THE MARCH 7, 2022 HUMAN SERVICES BOARD MEETING

Jerry Finch moved for approval of these minutes; seconded by Karen Powers and carried unanimously. (8-0)

AGENDA ITEM #4: ACCEPT MINUTES OF THE DECEMBER 14, 2021 AND FEBRUARY 14, 2022 ADRC COMMITTEE MEETINGS

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

AGENDA ITEM #5: CONSIDER AND ACTION IF ANY, ON RESOLUTION TO CREATE A RESERVE FUND FOR DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

Karen Powers moved to bring this agenda item off the table; Bryan Stafford seconded the motion and was approved unanimously. (8-0)

A draft of the resolution was shared with board members. Bill Topel stated that the executive team is recommending we do not pursue the creation of the special reserve fund. The main reason being that if there is a need for additional funds, this would still go through the county board for approval either way.

Mike Norton made a motion to deny the resolution as presented; seconded by Bryan Stafford and approved. (7-1) The resolution was denied.

AGENDA ITEM #6: 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 2.5 ADP with the youth being at 0.2 ADP. Secure Detention is at 1.9 ADP. Foster Care is at 77.3 ADP.

AGENDA ITEM #7: FINANCIAL REPORT

Janet Rohloff mentioned the regular financial report will begin in May with first quarter date. Currently working on 2021 year end entries. Surplus is in the \$4 million range.

AGENDA ITEM #8: DEPUTY DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Renee Soroko gave an update on vacancies in the agency. There are currently 18 positions with active recruitment: Administrative Division – 4; BH – 7; CW – 7. There will be one additional posting coming soon in CW. Positions are listed on the county website. Many are "ongoing" meaning they are posted until filled. There may be offers and interviews pending however, the position still is listed on the website and appears as "vacant".

AGENDA ITEM #9: DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Neighborhood Investment Grant from Governor Evers was announced recently. Winnebago County submitted a grant to the Dept of Administration State of Wisconsin for AARPA funding for a homelessness project continuum. The project recognizes homelessness as a concern in Winnebago County. The grant is for \$10 million that covers four areas. One is prevention which would help people not currently homeless but need resources to help them stay in current housing. Once approved, Human Services will set up a prevention of homelessness resource center to be located in the Oshkosh location. Other areas cover adding to the Warming Shelter to double capacity and offer 24/7 year-round services; Tiny Homes project with a community center; and Habitat for Humanity will be building additional permanent housing.

Donna Lohry joined the meeting.

Becoming active this fall, there will be a 988 phone service, similar to 911, for mental health emergencies such as depression, suicidal and need to know where to go to get help. Family Services of Green Bay will answer calls for all counties except for Milwaukee and Dane. They will contact our department if our services are needed. There will be a connection with law enforcement.

Bill shared a tentative announcement for a drop-in center for mentally ill that will be coming to Oshkosh if approved. This will be similar to Friendship Place in Neenah.

AGENDA ITEM #10: BOARD MEMBER REPORTS

Mike Norton asked about youth aging out of the foster care program and how that is handled. Annette Beattie explained that while there aren't many, we provide transitional assistance and make connections for adult services, housing, furthering education, etc. This process starts when a youth turns 17 ½. Youth are able to contact us if additional assistance is needed. In the past, counties would receive federal funding according to the number aged out while in care. Funding was used in any way needed to support the youth with the transition. Five to seven years ago this was regionalized and contracted to Transitional Regional Advisors (TRA). Due to funding

changes, the position that previously met this need was lost. Each county is now responsible to provide services through current staff.

Mike attended a *Healthy Counties* forum and learned of interesting ideas of delivering food to immobile or elderly consumers using food trucks. In addition, there was discussion on connecting resources i.e., nurse, physical therapist, social worker and /or psychologist.

Donna Lohry mentioned a concern of how food is genetically altered. She would like to bring this to public attention.

Chris Kniep complimented Alyssa Richetti on her presentation to the Altrusa Club on the functions of the ADRC and available services.

With no further business Jerry Finch moved for adjournment; seconded by Mike Norton and carried at 4:30 p.m. The next meeting will be held on **Monday, April 4, 2022 at 3:00 p.m. in DHS Oshkosh Building.**

Minutes recorded by Nancy Ruedinger.

Respectfully submitted by Pam Bartelt, Human Services Department.