

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

**Minutes**

**DATE:** Monday, May 6, 2019

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

**PLACE:** Oshkosh Human Services, Room 33

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Jim Koziczkowski, Donna Lohry, Mike Norton, Harold Singstock, Jerry Finch, Karen Powers, Christine Kniep

**MEMBERS EXCUSED:** Judy Wright, Larry Lautenschlager

**STAFF PRESENT:** Bill Topel, Mary Fredrickson, Beth Roberts, Ann Kriegel, Annette Beattie, Renee Soroko, Becca Groleau and Pam Bartelt

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Sarah Meyer, School Counselor, Winneconne Community School District; Connie Bernier, Special Education Director, Omro School District; Mike Altekurse, Mental Health Coordinator Neenah School District

Jim Koziczkowski called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m.

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

Rebecca Groleau, Winnebago County Dementia Care Specialist, ADRC, announced an upcoming event ‘2019 Dementia Summit’ taking place Monday, May 13<sup>th</sup> at the Oshkosh convention Center 7:30 – 9:30 a.m. She also shared a handout on ‘Powerful Tools for Caregivers’ which is a 6 week class that will be starting May 23<sup>rd</sup> at the Oshkosh Library. More information can be found on the ADRC website.

**AGENDA ITEM #2: WELCOME NEW BOARD MEMBER**

Bill Topel introduced our new Human Services Board member – Chris Kniep.

**AGENDA ITEM #3: APPROVE MINUTES OF THE APRIL 1, 2019 HUMAN SERVICES BOARD MEETING**

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

**AGENDA ITEM #4: ACCEPT MINUTES OF THE APRIL 8, 2019 ADRC COMMITTEE MEETING AND FEBRUARY 26, 2019 CHILDREN’S COP MEETING**

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

**PROGRAM: MENTAL HEALTH IN THE SCHOOLS**

Renee Soroko, Behavioral Health Division Manager, shared information she had gathered by reaching out to all the school districts in our county in regards to mental health and initiatives in their districts. Some common positive initiatives include Trauma Informed Care trainings and awareness; some schools are having a therapist on-site to meet with students and provide treatment; several suicide prevention programming; mental health

awareness and education; mental health screening and referrals. Some of the barriers include: communication breakdown in transitioning students to and from hospitals; parent engagement; there is a state-wide shortage of community psychiatrists; funding issues; schools would like to see more trainings for those working with students with behavioral health or trauma concerns.

Sarah Meyer, High School Counselor with Winneconne Community School District shared a variety of items they are working on in regards to mental health. They recently became part of *Allies in Mental Health Education Team* through CESA that meets once a month to discuss mental health initiatives for the district. Currently they are focusing on student and staff connectedness; staff self-care; starting *Sources of Strength* next year; trauma sensitive trainings with staff; partnership with *Collaborative Wellness* of Ripon; screenings with *Samaritan Counseling* that will be adding more grade levels next year. The biggest barrier is the lack of communication when a student is returned to the school environment. Access to services or determining the next step is also a challenge.

Connie Bernier, Special Education Director, Omro School District identified similar things to those Winneconne Schools have done in their district. They have been working with *Collaborative Wellness* for two years now, coming in twice a week. In addition they have done some trainings with the teachers and will be doing more of this next year. A *Student Assistance Program* is set up through Aurora where students and their families can get six free sessions. One of the school counselors has a therapy dog and there are also several other therapy dogs in the community that come in to work with students.

Mike Altekrose, Mental Health Coordinator, Neenah Joint School District mentioned that the suicide attempt rate in their district had been quite high at 14.3% the year he was hired and even higher in previous years. A change was made to their screening process and had bought a universal screener *Signs of Suicide* which was extremely helpful in their schools. They are now at 5.4 % which is lower than state and national averages. A change in their presentation uses 20% validation of what depression is, with 80% of what steps can be taken to help yourself, help a friend and be sure to tell a trusted adult. They have also done school based mental health K-12 by working with community agencies, they have a Community Foundations Basic Needs grant in order to have K-5 to have a therapist available to their students. Mike also mentioned the program they use *Sources of Strength* which is very helpful for the students. Education is key in helping build resiliency. A *Parent-Peer Advocate* program helps getting connections as resources for the students and parents in working through mental health concerns.

Discussion was had regarding interest in the possibility of a collaborative group that would address these issues throughout the county school districts. Renee Soroko will follow up.

#### **AGENDA ITEM #5: INPATIENT & INSTITUTIONAL PLACEMENT STATISTICS**

Bill Topel mentioned that the placement statistics have not changed from previous months and continue to look good. Karen Powers inquired about information she had obtained at the WCHSA spring conference regarding foster care being phased out. Bill explained that what is being encouraged is placing children where they are comfortable and primarily that would be with family members. Many foster care placements are with relatives. The main goal will continue to be to have children remain at home with supports.

#### **AGENDA ITEM # 6: FINANCIAL REPORT**

Mary Fredrickson shared a preliminary 2019 report showing what we have received so far for January through March 2019. Labor is showing 3.5% under budget. Travel is under budget by 15.2% however much of our conferences and trainings take place in spring and in fall. Capital shows money for the van which we have now received. Operating Expenses show Admin being over budget which is a result of many purchases that take place early in the year. Child Welfare is considerably under budget but is expected to level out throughout the year. At this point, total revenues are expected to be 1.2% higher mainly due to prior year funding adjustments

for economic support work that was done in 2016 and 2017. Long term support is also showing more revenue due to the state providing more revenue based on projected reduction of the wait list by more children enrolling in Children's Long Term Services.

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

Bill acknowledged that at the *WCHSA Spring Conference* during the award ceremony the *Woodrow "Woody" Smith Award* for distinguished service was awarded to Jim Koziczowski.

The Wheelchair Wash is taking place June 22, 2019 at J & R Auto on 629 North Main Street in Oshkosh from 9:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m.

The parking lot for the Oshkosh Human Services building will be repaved towards the end of this month.

*WCHSA Fall Conference* will be in November, 2019 in the Wausau area. The *WCHSA Spring Conference 2020* will take place at the Oshkosh Convention Center.

Public Hearings will be held Wednesday, June 19, 2019 from 6:00 – 7:00 p.m. at Oshkosh Human Services Room 33; and Thursday, June 20, 2019 from 8:30 – 9:30 a.m. at Neenah Human Services Room 008. Human Services Board Budget Review will follow at 9:30 a.m.

A handout on *Governor Evers' Budget* was shared showing a breakdown of money that would go to each county if the Medicaid expansion gets passed. Winnebago County has a high percentage of Medicaid eligible people resulting in a higher amount allotted.

Bill recognized Ann Kriegel and her staff for receiving the *Certificate of Excellence Wisconsin Shares Child Care Subsidy* for exceeding standards with no errors on reports for the Child Care Program.

### **AGENDA ITEM #8: BOARD MEMBER REPORTS**

Mike Norton commented on the nice job done by Annette Beattie at the County Board Meeting. The resolution on the Early Childhood Development was passed by the County Board.

All members that attended the WCHSA Conference found the conference informative and worthwhile.

Karen Powers commented on the *WCHSA Eastern Region Human Services Board Member Group* that Bill has restarted and the positive reaction it has received from other counties.

With no further business Jerry Finch moved for adjournment; seconded by Mike Norton and carried at 4:55 p.m.

The next meeting of the Human Services Board will be held on **Monday, June 3, 2019 at 3:00 p.m. in the Neenah Human Services Building in Room 008.**

Respectfully submitted by Pam Bartelt, Human Services Department/pb