

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

Minutes

DATE: Wednesday, June 19, 2019

TIME: 6:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.

PLACE: Oshkosh Human Services Room 33

MEMBERS PRESENT: Jim Koziczkowski, Donna Lohry, Mike Norton, Harold Singstock, Larry Lautenschlager, Jerry Finch, Judy Wright, Karen Powers

MEMBERS EXCUSED: Chris Kniep

STAFF PRESENT: Bill Topel, Mary Fredrickson, Annette Beattie, Beth Roberts, Ann Kriegel, Janet Rohloff and Pam Bartelt

Jim Koziczkowski, chair of the Department of Human Services Board, opened the hearing at 6:00 p.m. by welcoming those present in the audience and introducing the Human Services Board members and Human Services staff that were present. Jim explained that the intent of the public hearing is to provide an opportunity for the public to comment on programs funded by the Department of Human Services for residents of Winnebago County who are affected by developmental disabilities, chemical dependency or mental illness, and on the financial and social service programs available through the Department. Jim reviewed the guidelines for the hearing.

The following information is testimony given:

Jean Erdman: Jean is an Oshkosh resident and an involved community member within the school districts. Area school districts are doing a great job and have an academic record that is good according to state expectations. 41% of the students are economically disadvantaged. The community is doing a good job covering food needs for students. Transportation needs and homelessness are of concern. Jean shared that according to a 2017 report from United Way, Oshkosh is the fastest growing city of extreme poverty the state in the past 10 years. Jean is requesting some money be designated for the unmet needs of the school districts to help improve child welfare and reduce truancy. Another priority she would like to see addressed is the monitoring of foster homes as well as locating relatives rather than placing children in foster homes. She addressed the importance of improving mental health care for the community and the need for translations services.

Brian Defferding: Brian is on the Winnebago County Board for District 6 in the city of Neenah. Brian is looking to solidify support for creating case manager positions for the upcoming Jail Diversion Program for Winnebago County. When consumers dealing with mental health or substance abuse issues break their parole rules they are incarcerated. With the new program, they would be diverted directly to a path of treatment rather than incarceration. Brian is asking that two positions for case managers and one part-time peer support specialist be created in the Department of Human Services. These staff

would work with consumers to guide them through the diversion process from start to finish. This would help reduce recidivism and lower the incarceration issue. Office space would be needed and there is ideal space available at the Orin King Building where all needed connections would be in the same local area.

Paul Eisen: Paul is a County Board Supervisor in District 4. Paul thanked the Financial Support Team for a well-organized and comprehensive 2020 Human Services Budget book. He asked that the Behavioral Health (BH) Division organizational chart reflect the new position for Tammy Steier of Clinical Supervisor. Paul commented on the 21,000 consumers being serviced by varied programs through this agency. He expressed his appreciation of the work done by the Human Services staff as they work to improve life experiences of residents. Paul asked that consideration be given to a plan that would be able to undergo changes in contractors as that is nearly 50% of our budget. Paul proposed that support of the initiative of an increase in county sales tax could lead to efforts in promoting the Safe Streets program in the county.

With no further testimonies offered, the Public Hearing was closed at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Pam Bartelt, Human Services Department/pb