

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

Minutes

DATE: Thursday, June 20, 2019

TIME: 8:30 a.m.

PLACE: Neenah Human Services Room 008

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

MEMBERS EXCUSED: Harold Singstock

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

Jim Koziczkowski called the meeting to order at 9:15 a.m. with the intent of considering any additional testimony for the Public Hearing.

AGENDA ITEM #1: PUBLIC HEARING:

The Public Hearing concluded at 9:30 a.m.

AGENDA ITEM #2: REVIEW, DISCUSS AND RECOMMEND 2020 HUMAN SERVICES BUDGET TO COUNTY EXECUTIVE:

Mike Norton moved to bring the proposed 2020 Budget to the floor for review, discussion and recommendation to the County Executive; seconded by Karen Powers and carried.

Bill Topel shared information from the Wisconsin Statutes regarding the duties of the Human Services Board and the Director in regards to the budget and the programs of Human Services. County Executive has asked that the budget be held at 0% increase in all accounts except for salary and fringe. Revenue is generated through billing for services or from state and federal funding. State funding has remained the same since 1995. Expenses can be reduced through reducing contracted services, staff and/or programming. Some changes that are being proposed are budgeting less for placements in Institute for Mental Disease (IMD), specialty hospitals for youths and adults, foster care, group homes and shelter care.

Bill addressed the requests from the public hearings. The topic of transportation for youth that live in town and are not able to take the school bus to be able to get free public transportation would not be something we would be able to assist with but has been addressed by the City of Oshkosh and the school district. Homelessness is certainly a situation for our area and we do address this with consumers that are under our service areas. Our agency does contribute to several of the current shelters. Foster homes that are operating under our certification are regulated and investigated if they are not operating as they

should be. Not all foster homes are under our authority. It is not difficult to find a replacement for a contracted service quickly if it ends. *Family Find* is a program we currently use to help identify relatives to help with placements rather than foster care. Vacancies in Child Welfare (CW) and Economic Support Division (ESD) are common to most counties and there is a fair amount of time required for the hiring and training process for these positions. Translator numbers are going down due to utilizing it less as we are using family members as much as possible when it is not a legal issue being addressed. The new initiative for a *Justice Support Center* would divert offenders directly to treatment services and avoid incarceration. Human Services case managers (2) are being proposed as *project positions* that would become permanent full-time after 2 years if the concept is working; or these positions would be eliminated. These positions would walk the consumer through the process to help successful completion of the transition. A Peer Support Specialist position is also being proposed and would be a recovering consumer that has gone through training.

Mary Fredrickson commented on the decrease in numbers of consumers getting medical assistance. In the past the report included all consumers that were getting medical assistance which included those receiving through the social security administration. There is now a report that breaks out the number of people that just Economic Support staff are assisting. With Foodshare, there was a change in work requirement which also showed a reduction. In Juvenile Intake there was previously some duplication as the information needed to be reported in two areas; which has been eliminated.

ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES DIVISION:

Mary stated that administrative services showed a 24.5% levy change. Looking at the same number of positions. The decrease shown in revenue is a result of now leaving administrative fees in Long Term Support and Economic Support Divisions. There was an increase in operating expenses as county phones were needed for communication purposes. Mobile devices were also purchased for more efficient reporting.

BEHAVIORAL HEALTH DIVISION:

Bill Topel shared that the position for the night supervisor for the crisis center carried over from last year's requests was added to the table of organization. Other changes include replacing one full time mental health technician with two part time positions. The Community Recovery Services program had changes made to the program making it no longer beneficial to our agency which resulted in reduced revenue. Expenses increased with additional labor costs and increase in travel expenses in keeping up certifications for our professional staff in this division. Operating expenses decreased as we no longer have rental or utility fees for Summit House and Toward Tomorrow when our new facility is finished.

LONG TERM SUPPORT DIVISION:

Beth Roberts mentioned a change to the table of organization as Mark Weisensel will be retiring in July and his replacement will be responsible for the Adult Protective Services Program moving forward. Revenue shows an increase which is related to state funds received for Children's Long Term Support in order to reduce the waiting list. Travel cost has decreased due to additional internal trainings being available. Children's waiting list will require additional operating expenses with the cost of those services unknown at this point.

CHILD WELFARE DIVISION:

Annette Beattie confirmed that there are no staff changes and three of the five vacancies have now been filled. One change in revenue will be the Post Reunification Grant is being discontinued as of September, 2019. The In Home Safety Services Grant will be available but the amount of funding is not

known at this time. Travel has increased as there are more new staff and child welfare does have intensive training requirements. Operating expenses have decreased due to fewer foster care and group home placements as focus is to keep youth in the home with supportive services.

ECONOMIC SUPPORT DIVISION:

Ann Kriegel reviewed that we are part of a nine county consortium for economic support that work through a call center together. Starting in July the call center will be taking calls 8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. with Thursday hours being 12:00 – 4:00 p.m. to allow more dedicated time for training and completing paperwork. The numbers of consumers being served are more accurate with better reporting specific to this division. Translation services have decreased due to need. Five Winnebago County Economic Support staff are bilingual and are able to process those calls.

The motion on the floor to review, discuss and recommend the 2020 Human Services Budget as presented to the County Executive was passed unanimously 8-0. (Harold Singstock was not present for the vote.)

With no further business, Jerry Finch made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 1:15 p.m., seconded by Mike Norton and carried unanimously. The next meeting of the Human Services Board Members will be held on August 5, 2019 at the Oshkosh Human Services Building in Room 33.

Respectfully submitted by Pam Bartelt, Human Services Department/pb