

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

Minutes

DATE: Thursday, June 20, 2019

TIME: 8:30 a.m. – 9:30 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, chair of the Department of Human Services Board, opened the hearing at 8:30 a.m. 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 give:

Lori Hill: Lori is a representative of the *Friendship Place* which is a facility that serves adults with severe and persistent mental illness. She thanked the board for past support which has allowed them to help provide enriching programs to the community. Consideration of future support would be greatly appreciated as their numbers are going up and the complexity of cases are requiring more services to meet the needs of the community.

Kris Forster: Kris shared that she has been a client of the *Friendship Place* since 2012. Prior to that she had been homebound for about three years. She now attends the facility two days a week and has learned so much about how to better utilize herself helping with mental illness. Kris is now a Certified Peer Specialist through the support of the *Friendship Place*. She was thankful for continued support.

Roxanne Hogue: Roxanne has been going to *Friendship Place* for about three and a half years now. She previously isolated herself for about three year. She attends five days a week now and looks forward to it daily. It provides her a purpose and has learned coping skills from staff as well as friends she has made there. The programs they provide give her an outlet for her mental health issues.

Ellen Enders: Ellen gave testimony that her connection with the *Friendship Place* has transformed her life. She is now able to go out in public, has made friends that support her and has discontinued self-

harming behaviors. Ellen feels she would not be here without the support and programs provided at this facility.

Paul Eisen: Paul is a County Board Supervisor of District 4. As a patron of the Menasha Senior Center, he thanked the board for their generous long term support funding that is provided to the City of Menasha in support of the Menasha Senior Center and specifically the 60 Plus Health Screening Program. Paul also mentioned that \$20 million of the \$46 million budget is paid to contracted service providers. He is asking that the board members consider the impact that it would have on the Human Services Department if any of our contracted providers were to discontinue their services and a new provider would need to be sought out.

The Public Hearing was closed at 9:30 a.m.

Respectfully submitted by Pam Bartelt, Human Services Department/pb