

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

**Minutes**

**DATE:** Wednesday September 8, 2021

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

**PLACE:** Virtual Meeting via Zoom

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Larry Lautenschlager, Donna Lohry, Mike Norton, Jerry Finch, Karen Powers, Harold Singstock

**MEMBERS EXCUSED:** Chris Kniep, Nicole Neuhoff

**STAFF PRESENT:** Bill Topel, Renee Soroko, Janet Rohloff, Beth Roberts, Ann Kriegel, Annette Beattie, Heather Foust, Brian Nagler and Pam Bartelt

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Bill Roh, Winnebago County Resident

Chairman Larry Lautenschlager called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m.

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

Bill Roh introduced himself as a resident of a Neenah apartment complex. The county has provided them with wellness programs through Joanne Murphy Spice with approximately 30 participants that have benefitted from these programs. Wellness Plus is one of the programs that help individuals better self-manage their chronic health problems. He is asking for continued support in funding to maintain and promote these services for the physical and mental health well-being of these residents.

**PROGRAM #2: ADRC UPDATES**

Beth Roberts, LTS Division Manager and Brian Nagler, ADRC Supervisor provided information on community programs and some of the impact from Covid. The ADRC is a resource center for all adults, not just for adults with disabilities or the elderly. They provide various resources and information and are the gateway to Family Care. They are also involved with other programs that are requested by community members such as the Wellness Plus program and the Wheelchair Wash. They provide funding to launch programs as well as maintain operations. One of the more recent programs ADRC is now involved with is "Falls Prevention Program" which is run by Theda Care in conjunction with the Oshkosh Fire Department. Program staff engage with consumers that tend to fall frequently. The program started in 2019 with 12 calls. During 2020 they responded to over 100 calls. The fire department also responds. If the consumer is agreeable, an electronic contact is sent to the ADRC allowing them to contact that person to offer services. The Falls Prevention Program is targeted to be released to other area fire departments when they are safely able to do so give Covid concerns. Dementia Crisis Response Program is able to respond when a caregiver is in crisis. Once police are called to a site, they are unable to leave until the

caregiver is deemed safe. Once the police are notified that the consumer has dementia, they are able to contact this program which will give the caregiver support to hopefully continue in that role. This program is now county wide and the dementia care specialist has trained the after-hours crisis team regarding dementia services.

Brian Nagler mentioned that through the Falls Prevention Program they have been able to assist consumers in obtaining durable medical equipment thus having independence in their homes. They assist in making connections with case management services such as Family Care and IRIS for additional services. ADRC averages 35-40 calls per day with an average of 45 enrollments each month. With Covid, there have been some changes in practices with care conferences at nursing homes in order to get a better idea of a person's functional level. Verbal signatures will suffice to enroll in these programs. Supportive home care agencies are having a difficult time staffing facilities during Covid. There are two funding sources for the informal care giver programs: AFCSP for dementia caregivers and NFCSP for those consumers that have a need for certain functions in their life. Relatives as Parents (RAP) is another program where grandparents or other relatives are caring for grandkids that are disabled in some manner.

Beth shared that an area of concern is the number of senior citizens in our county that are being taken advantage with financial abuse as the highest concern. Known investigated cases were not prosecuted which resulted in less investigating. This was happening in many counties. In collaboration with the DA's office and recognizing the importance of prosecution, much progress is being made to move cases along. Consumers are forced into needing public assistance since their funds have been depleted as a result of financial crimes.

### **AGENDA ITEM #3: APPROVE MINUTES OF THE AUGUST 2, 2021 HUMAN SERVICES BOARD MEETING**

Jerry Finch moved for approval of these minutes; seconded by Mike Norton and carried unanimously. (6-0)

### **AGENDA ITEM #4: ACCEPT MINUTES OF THE AUGUST 9, 2021 ADRC COMMITTEE AND AUGUST 10, 2021 SPECIALIZED TRANSPORTATION COUNCIL MEETINGS**

Mike Norton moved for acceptance of these minutes; seconded by Jerry Finch and carried unanimously. (6-0)

### **AGENDA ITEM #5: 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 1.7 ADP. Behavioral Health (BH) - Specialty Hospitals for adults is at 2.7 ADP with the youth being at 1.9 ADP. Secure Detention is at 1.6 ADP. Foster Care is at 70.2 ADP.

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

Janet Rohloff covered the financial report estimating \$3.2 million in unspent money at year end. Expenses exceeded the monthly budgeted amount due to costly placements during July. Revenues spiked in July as

there were several large amounts released by the state: BCA disbursement, Income Maintenance disbursement as well as a Children's Community Option Program disbursement. The biggest surplus is with Operations. Labor is right on budget. Operating expenses are below budget. Travel remains low due to pandemic. Under Capital, a new van was purchased this year but has not yet been received. Revenues show an increase in 3<sup>rd</sup> party insurance being \$100,000 ahead of last year. The number of claims being submitted through July 2021 is 10% or more as compared to July 2020. We continue efforts to focus on accurate data entry and denial follow up in a timely manner which impacts revenue. There was a 3<sup>rd</sup> payroll in July which has impacted year end projections to be 0.8% of budget. Additional BH expenses have been offset with some of the opioid grant funding. We were one of 25 agencies across the county to receive a \$2000 grant as part of a 9/11 Day of National Service. There will be an event taking place Saturday 9/11/2021 in conjunction with Teen Court supported by this grant. There was no additional unanticipated prior year revenue posted.

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

Renee Soroko mentioned that we are in the peak of budget preparations. There continue to be discussions for service expansions. Grant applications are a notable topic at this time of year thus require a careful review of opportunities and requirements.

#### **AGENDA ITEM #8: DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

Bill addressed the topic of the 2022 Proposed Budget as they continue to meet with County Executive Doemel to address needs. There has been discussion on creation of a sub account in the general fund rather than creating a reserve fund for Human Services. In future years, some amount in the sub account would come back for future budgets to offset the levy impact.

Another budget change is that we are looking at adding human services staff to support alternative programming that will expand the current Connect Program based in the Orrin King building. Programming provides treatment, recovery support and connect consumers to resources/services. Tax levy was re-allocated for new positions. One new support staff position will also be hired to process required records request as courts are demanding more information. BH division will reach 102 positions in five locations. We are requesting a Deputy BH division manager to assist with division oversight.

The Secretary of the Department of Children and Families (DCF), Emilie Amundson, is visiting counties to check in with CW staff to gather stories of success. They will be meeting with us on 9/16/2021 from 10:00 a.m. -12:00 p.m. in Oshkosh Human Services Room 33.

Currently, there are approximately 8000 Afghan Humanitarian Parolee's at Fort McCoy. World Relief has been notified that our county will receive about 100 individuals in the Fox Valley area of Winnebago, Outagamie and Calumet counties. World Relief is the social services organization to assist with housing and employment. Ann Kriegel and our ES Division will assist to determine eligible benefits. World Relief will notify the community of possible collections for the needs of these families.

WCHSA Fall Conference scheduled for December 2-3, 2021 will be virtual format this year. The Spring Conference is still scheduled to be held here in Oshkosh.

### **AGENDA ITEM #9: BOARD MEMBER REPORTS**

Mike Norton informed the board members of a WCA Webinar on county and community opportunities to leverage local ARPA funds to support child care taking place 9/13/2021 at 9:00 a.m. Mike met with staff from First Five Coalition and is looking to arrange a meeting with County Exec Doemel and County Exec from Outagamie and Calumet counties. Mike shared information from the coalition with the board.

With no further business Jerry Finch moved for adjournment; seconded by Donna Lohry and carried at 4:20 p.m. The next meeting of the Human Services Board will be held on **Monday, October 4, 2021 at 3:00 p.m. via Zoom.**

Respectfully submitted by Pam Bartelt, Human Services Department/pb