

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

Minutes

DATE: Monday, October 4, 2021

TIME: 3:00 p.m.

PLACE: Virtual Meeting via Zoom

MEMBERS PRESENT: Larry Lautenschlager, Mike Norton, Jerry Finch, Chris Kniep, Karen Powers, Harold Singstock, Ralph Harrison, Bryan Stafford

MEMBERS EXCUSED: Donna Lohry

STAFF PRESENT: Bill Topel, Renee Soroko, Janet Rohloff, Beth Roberts, Ann Kriegel, Annette Beattie, Heather Foust, Carol Morack, Jen Delfosse, Sarah Whitman, Morgan Hoffman, Rachel Tharnish, Amy Geffers and Pam Bartelt

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

AGENDA ITEM #1: PUBLIC COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS

There were no public comments.

Larry introduced Ralph Harrison and Bryan Stafford as the new Human Services Board Members. They were welcomed by all and introductions followed.

Jerry Finch joined the meeting at 3:07 p.m.

AGENDA ITEM #2: PROGRAM

Bill Topel announced the presentation today will give a brief overview of our diversion programs for those involved in the legal system. Carol Morack, Adult AODA Supervisor, shared a brief introduction of the diversions programs and how they started. Programs are all under the 'Safe Streets' umbrella which is our Criminal Justice Coordinated Council (CJCC) formed in 2004. Safe Streets members consist of staff from Human Services, Sheriffs Dept, judges, county board members and the DA's office. This group meets quarterly as a public meeting. All diversion programs give updates.

Jen Delfosse, Case Manager – Safe Streets, gave a general background on Drug Court which was established in Miami, FL in 1989. Drug Courts were designed to divert drug-involved offenders with less serious charges into treatment instead of prison. With approximately 78% of property crimes and 77% of public order offenses being related to drug or alcohol abuse, this costs the United States an estimated \$74 billion a year for services with police, jail, court, prison, probation, parole and others. The main goal is to reduce recidivism. Drug Courts have better retention rates than other types of treatment offered to

offenders at 60% as compared to 35%. Winnebago County's Drug Court program was established in 2006 with 4 program phases taking 18 months to complete. This program includes one judge, one coordinator, one case manager, one deputy DA, one public defender, one treatment provider and three probation agents. There are currently 29 active participants in various phases of the program with 1,149 total graduates and 4 pending referrals. The cost to the participant is \$750 which can be reduced by \$250 for doing extra community volunteer hours.

Sarah Whitman, Case Manager – Justice Programs, works with two programs: DHS Condition and Teen Court. DHS Condition has been running for 6 years with 44 active participants currently. This program focuses on making referrals for mental health services as well as providing case management for service provision; community resources; substance use disorder, anger management, parenting, employment, housing, etc. The most common offenses include, but are not limited to: battery, domestic violence, theft, child abuse, possession charges, obstruction and neglect charges. Many referrals for mental health services are made to DHS as clients are uninsured and/or receive state assistance.

Teen Court is a program that started in 1966 and is facilitated by peers with the assistance of case managers and judges. Teen Court is offered for first time offenders in Winnebago County and offers teens an opportunity to have their citation/fine dismissed upon successful completion. The program consists of participating in a court hearing, jury duty, writing an essay, community services or other services as deemed appropriate by the jury pending case manager approval. Currently there are 13 active participants, 4 volunteers, 6 pending volunteers, 12 judges. Common referrals include theft, obstructing, vape/tobacco use, battery, and school related offenses. The case manager receives referrals from local police departments, municipal judges/clerk of courts, juvenile intake and parents.

Morgan Hoffman is the Project Case Manager for Justice Programs at DA's Office and works with the 24/7 Drug Monitoring Program. This program is designed to serve as an alternative to incarceration and helps participants maintain sobriety and avoid other sanctions for illegal drug use. The overall goal is to help participants successfully complete court obligation while keeping the community safe. Currently, there are 30 clients with 10 participants in compliance, 19 are not in compliance and 1 client in treatment.

Morgan also works with the Stimulant and Opioid Addiction Recovery (SOAR) program which has 2 phases and is recommended by the prosecutor if the charge is related to opioids or methamphetamine. If the conditions are met and sobriety is maintained for 90 days, the case will be dismissed. Phase 2 is recommended if there are continued positive/missed tests and includes a 9-month post-charge diversion agreement with the DA's office. Currently, there are 11 clients with 10 in compliance, 1 not in compliance and 3 referrals pending.

Rachel Tharnish, Project Case Manager-Justice Programs-DA's Office, informed the group of a program called 'Connect'. Connect was created to help vulnerable community members navigate and connect with community resources. All have opportunities to achieve greater wellness and self-sufficiency. Service provision is related to employment, job skills, housing, applying for benefits, education, financial management and referrals to mental health/ substance use disorder (SUD) as needed. This program is able to address specific barriers by providing case management and taking an individualized trauma informed approach. The goal is to improve community safety, reduce crime, promote independence and recovery, support, and lessen re-incarceration rates. Connect is primarily a diversion program with a few exceptions to voluntary enrollments. The program is between 9 and 24 months. Referrals can be for theft, disorderly

conduct, child abuse, criminal damage to property, truancy, possession of THC charges and more. Services are not limited to clientele who have entered the legal system. People may just need support and guidance for where to turn.

Amy Geffers, AODA Counselor – Jail, works with the Jail Reintegration program developed in 2017 by Winnebago County Sheriff and Human Services. This program helps Winnebago County residents who are currently incarcerated with programming for drug and alcohol issues; applying for insurance prior to release; setting up appointments for medical assisted treatment (MAT) and other recovery services; housing, employment and food insecurity resources. As of 9/28/2021, there have been 262 service requests thus far this year.

Heather Foust, Behavioral Health Division Manager, discussed a new initiative of 'Safe Response Team' (SRT). This will provide early intervention to individuals in hopes of connecting them to services. The team will take direct referrals from law enforcement for individuals in need of community resources and services. The goal is to reduce legal system involvement and promote overall wellbeing. Someone may be referred to SRT if they are a Winnebago County resident and have unmet needs that don't rise to the level of crisis. The SRT will follow up with the person after the referral is made.

AGENDA ITEM #3: APPROVE MINUTES OF THE SEPTEMBER 8, 2021 HUMAN SERVICES BOARD MEETING

Jerry Finch moved for approval of these minutes; seconded by Mike Norton and carried unanimously. (8-0)

AGENDA ITEM #4: ACCEPT MINUTES OF THE SEPTEMBER 13, 2021 ADRC COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Jerry Finch moved for acceptance of these minutes; seconded by Bryan Stafford and carried unanimously. (8-0)

AGENDA ITEM #5: INPATIENT and INSTITUTIONAL PLACEMENT STATISTICS

Bill reviewed placement statistics and shared some background on these reports. Child Welfare (CW) Division – Juvenile Corrections remains at 0.0 Actual Daily Populations (ADP). Residential Care Centers are at 1.6 ADP. Behavioral Health (BH) - Specialty Hospitals for adults is at 1.8 ADP with the youth being at 3.1 ADP. Secure Detention is at 1.7 ADP. Foster Care is at 73.9 ADP.

AGENDA ITEM # 6: FINANCIAL REPORT

Janet Rohloff explained financial reporting. Projection for the levy impact falls at \$3.4 million surplus at year end. Actual expenses through August is running about 13% less than budgeted. Revenues show spikes due to when the state releases their funds to us. A pie chart shows where the surplus is coming from with about 73% coming from operations savings. Graphs showing the budgeted versus projected expenses show labor expenses being as projected; operating expenses showing a surplus; travel shows a savings; capital is showing an expense as we expect the van to come in prior to year-end. The same is done for revenue categories. Intergovernmental revenues are grants, medical assistance and is at the

projected budget amount. Client and 3rd party fees include anything that is charged to the public in the way of fees and is slightly over budget.

AGENDA ITEM #7: DEPUTY DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Renee Soroko mentioned that the United Way campaign kickoff is October 19th with DHS being the liaison for all 27 departments. MaryAnn Dilling will be presenting to the agency on October 13th to address any questions on where the funds are distributed. We are looking to increase the amount of staff donors this year, not tracking the amount of the pledge. There is a friendly competition amongst Winnebago County, Oshkosh Area School District, University of Wisconsin and the City of Oshkosh in regards to number of donors. We continue to discuss agency-based training opportunities which are still being held via zoom. The executive management team has been addressing a variety of items that have been brought in from other workgroups. Covid concerns continue to be addressed. DHS staff are encouraged to wear their masks when indoors or in close contact with others, however there is not a mask mandate.

AGENDA ITEM #8: DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Bill followed up on the United Way campaign to note that all pledges can be designated on the form as to the locale they would like their pledge applied to (for ex: United Way, Fox Valley). Bill gave an update on the NACo prescription card. Ann Kriegel added that we have registered and the next step is to have staff contact pharmacies and other vendors for card distribution. Cards allow discount prescriptions for consumers whether or not they have insurance.

The WCHSA Fall Conference will take place December 2 & 3, 2021 and will be held virtually. Next May, 2022 it is scheduled in Oshkosh.

Bill reminded members that there will be new appointments for members with terms expiring 12/31/2021.

AGENDA ITEM #9: BOARD MEMBER REPORTS

Larry mentioned that he and Mike Norton attended WCA Conference that had several good workshops with one being on Emergency Detention and issues for the northern part of the state with placement and medical clearance.

With no further business, Jerry Finch moved for adjournment; seconded by Mike Norton and carried at 4:45 p.m. The next meeting will be held on **Monday, December 6, 2021 at 3:00 p.m.** via Zoom.

Respectfully submitted by Pam Bartelt, Human Services Department/pb