

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

Minutes

DATE: Monday, December 4, 2017

TIME: 3:00 p.m.

PLACE: Neenah Human Services Building, Room 008

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

MEMBERS EXCUSED: Donna Lohry, Michael Conley-Kuhagen

STAFF PRESENT: Bill Topel, Mary Fredrickson, Ann Kriegel, Renee Soroko, Carol Morack and Pam Bartelt

OTHERS PRESENT: Dr. Fredi Giesler, University of Wisconsin Oshkosh

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.

AGENDA ITEM #2: APPROVE MINUTES OF THE NOVEMBER 13, 2017 HUMAN SERVICES BOARD MEETING

Jerry Finch moved for approval of these minutes; seconded by Jim Koziczkowski and carried. (7-0)

AGENDA ITEM #3: ACCEPT MINUTES OF THE NOVEMBER 14, 2017 SPECIALIZED TRANSPORTATION MEETING

Judy Wright moved for acceptance of these minutes; seconded by Mike Norton and carried. (7-0)

Program was moved to the next agenda item.

PROGRAM: DRUG COURT EVALUATION

Carol Morack introduced Dr Fredi Giesler who is the chair of the Social Work Department at UW Oshkosh who was hired to do an evaluation for Winnebago County Drug Court Program which has been running since 2006. The study includes participants that were involved in the program between 2006 thru May, 2017. There was data collected on 376 people: 113 graduated; 73 withdrew early; 40 were terminated early; 135 were screened out. The majority of the participants were Caucasian males with the average age of early to mid-thirties. The drug of choice was heroin or opiates. The degree of education did not show a significant difference; however the graduates did have slightly more education. There was a difference in the people that were employed full time at intake with those employed have a much higher graduation rate. There were significant gender differences in regards to women being more likely to graduate; less likely to commit another crime; more likely to be employed; the prevalence of heroin/opiates being the drug choice is higher than for men.

In 1997 the National Association of Drug Court Professionals developed a list of best practices in drug court services. Winnebago County has an excellent drug court that has adhered to these best practices with additional work needed in the area of how they monitor, measure and evaluate the achievement of program goals. This needs to happen on a more frequent ongoing basis. The county has a great team that has good integration with other services.

There was a recent report released on the federal level on child welfare issues showing an increase in out-of-home care for youth across the country affecting about 10,000 children. The primary issue is substance abuse by the parents. Heroin/opiate epidemic is really rampant right now.

The outcomes of participants that finish out the program and graduate show a much higher percentage that do not reoffend and that are more likely to improve their employment status. Some of the people that graduate return to be mentors for the program. Interviews were conducted with 7 graduates and staff was by far the greatest strength to the participants. They also benefited from the program structure and accountability. Areas for improvement were having more tailored and customized treatment plans.

Drug court costs did not show a significant difference in average cost between graduates, those who withdrew early or those terminated early. Research did show that when participants had some financial involvement there was more motivation to be successful in the program.

Recommendations that were shared included: Develop a routine and systematic process for measuring level of risk, outcomes and costs. Routinely measure participant satisfaction. Systematically attend to employment, mental health needs, and mentoring. Use graduate student interns to support evaluation efforts and for organizing and supporting mentors.

Karen Powers arrived.

AGENDA ITEM #4: INPATIENT & INSTITUTIONAL PLACEMENT STATISTICS

Bill Topel shared that all inpatient and institutional utilization charts are all staying the same or going in the correct direction. There has been a statewide increase in additional foster care that had to be created throughout most of Wisconsin due to opioid related matters. We do have foster care placements for family dealing with this. However, our numbers did not go up and in fact went down and stayed down primarily due to the in home safety program started a year and a half ago with additional supervised visitation, parent support programs, and in home crisis services. We are better able to recognize families that are dealing with substance abuse and work with them to keep the children in the home reducing the trauma created for the child.

AGENDA ITEM # 5: FINANCIAL REPORT

Mary Fredrickson shared that the reduced placements in Child Welfare are resulting in a surplus. There were two unanticipated sources of revenue in November with one being the Base County Allocation (BCA) with extra \$25,000 for 2017. The other was over \$235,000 based on 2016 enhancements in Economic Support Division.

AGENDA ITEM #6: DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Bill reminded the board of the Holiday Luncheon coming up December 13, 2017, 11:00 a.m. at the Expo Center. The WCHSA Conference was held last week and was a very well planned and informational conference enjoyed by members that attended. Bill shared that there is a scheduling conflict on January 19, 2018 with the regional WCHSA and the Mental Health Institution Conference which we are hosting this year. An alternate date will be sent out soon.

AGENDA ITEM #7: BOARD MEMBER REPORTS
PROGRAM:

Jim Koziczkowski shared that the WCHSA Conference was set up nicely designating one day to Opioids and the second day was designated to Foster Care making it easy to connect all the information.

Judy Wright had asked for follow up on the pharmaceutical company issue. There are now forty counties involved and will be addressed later this month.

Karen Powers stated that she enjoyed the WCHSA Conference particularly the portion on Foster Care.

Mike Norton shared that he and Larry had attended State Health & Human Services Steering Committee in November and attended a presentation on ADRC's which he will share with the ADRC Committee. There was also a presentation on Homelessness in Wisconsin and the Director is willing to come speak about it.

Jerry Finch commented that the WCHSA Conference was very well done. Jerry has contacted TV stations and they are willing to cover the Winnebago County Wheelchair Wash next summer.

With no further business Mike Norton moved for adjournment; seconded by Jerry Finch and carried at 4:25 p.m. The next meeting of the Human Services Board will be held on **Wednesday, January 3, 2018 at 3:00 p.m. in the Neenah Human Services Building, Room 008.**

Respectfully submitted by Pam Bartelt, Human Services Department/pb