

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

**Minutes**

**DATE:** Wednesday, June 20, 2018

**TIME:** 6:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.

**PLACE:** Neenah Human Services Room 008

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Larry Lautenschlager, Jim Koziczowski, Mike Norton, Harold Singstock, Donna Lohry, Jerry Finch, Judy Wright, Karen Powers, Michael Conley-Kuhagen

**MEMBERS EXCUSED:**

**STAFF PRESENT:** Bill Topel, Mary Fredrickson, Beth Culp, Ann Kriegel, Leo Podoski, Renee Soroko, Janet Rohloff and Pam Bartelt

Jim Koziczowski, chair of the Department of Human Services Board, opened the hearing at 6:00 p.m. by welcoming those present in the audience and introducing the Board members and Human Services staff that were present. 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 given:

**Paul Eisen:** Paul is a County Board Supervisor in District 4. Paul is advocating that Winnebago County establish a Mental Health Court. He feels that this would be a good fit with the range of services Winnebago County has committed to mental health services which include community services, a full range of mental health, inpatient, residential and vocational services. If a Mental Health Court is established, a Mental Health Coordinator would be needed. Paul is asking that the county support the establishment of a Mental Health Court and consider including approximately \$100,000 in the 2019 budget to fund this position.

**Mary Parsons:** Mary is the Executive Director of *Leaven* out of Menasha in the Midway Outreach Campus. The center was founded back in 1987 when there was a need for additional resources that were not currently being met by the community. 90% of what *Leaven* assists consumers with are housing and utilities with about 10% covering transportation issues and other basic needs. In 31 years, they have served over 130,000 households. Their service area includes Outagamie, Calumet and northeastern Winnebago County. 33% of the households served last year were Neenah and Menasha addresses. Last year they undertook a capital campaign and are in the process of expanding their building to create the *Leaven Community Resource Center* where they will have 14 organizations on site to help clients transition from crisis management to self-sufficiency by connecting them with the proper resources and connections. There will also be 9 visiting part-time partners on-site. These services will impose accountability on the client to assure they get connected with the resources that are available to them. Mary wanted to share their information with us and they would appreciate any support Winnebago County would be able to provide to them.

**Lori Hill:** Lori is the Executive Director of the *Friendship Place* and shared their new brochures that include their new logo. She thanked the county for their past support as small agencies like theirs do not charge their members and could not exist without this support.

**Angie Schmidt:** Angie is the Social Director for *Reach Counseling Services* which is the only provider of *long term* sexual assault counseling in the Fox Valley area. Angie shared some of the programs they provide which included a 24 hour phone service, advocates that will accompany families to the hospital, no-cost counseling for children through a grant they receive, and education programs in the schools. They also do offender work in the prison. Currently there is a 6 to 9 month waiting list. Angie explained that they are petitioning for additional funding for a therapist at \$45 - \$50,000. She thanked the county for their current support.

With no further testimonies offered, the Public Hearing was closed at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Pam Bartelt, Human Services Department/pb