

**WINNEBAGO COUNTY
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES**

PUBLIC HEARING

DATE: Wednesday, June 22, 2016

LOCATION: Neenah Human Services Building

TIME: 6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Jerry Finch, Jim Koziczkowski, Ron Kuehl, Larry Lautenschlager, Donna Lohry, Mike Norton, Rob Paterson, Karen Powers, and Harold Singstock

STAFF PRESENT: Bill Topel, Mary Fredrickson, Tom Saari, Leo Podoski, Ann Kriegel, Gina Vanden Branden, and Dorothy De Grace

Larry Lautenschlager, 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 staff who were present. Larry 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. Larry reviewed the guidelines for the hearing.

The following information is testimony given:

Testimony given by Alisha Damrow: Alisha said she frequents Friendship Place, and it has given her a wealth of opportunity that she wouldn't otherwise have, such as activities at the YMCA, peer support, etc. All of the programs have helped her to grow significantly, and she thanked the Board for its continued support of Friendship Place.

Testimony given by Paul Eisen: Paul is a Winnebago County Supervisor. Today he shared his experience serving on the County Board and on various committees over the past ten years. He said Winnebago County has been a leader in funding alternatives to incarceration, providing treatment to offenders and diverting thousands of jail days through the Safe Streets Drug Court and Options programs. Paul said Winnebago County should receive more recognition, and he recommended that a \$10,000 contingency fund be included in the Human Service budget to have the history and statistics of these two programs be accumulated and published so other counties can learn from our trials and errors. It could also serve as a basis for future funding requests for enhancing the programs.

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

Submitted by:

Dorothy De Grace, Recorder
Winnebago County Department of Human Services