

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

Minutes

DATE: Thursday, June 22, 2017

TIME: 8:30 a.m. – 9:30 a.m.

PLACE: Neenah Human Services Building, Room 008

MEMBERS PRESENT: Larry Lautenschlager, Jim Koziczkowski, Mike Norton, Harold Singstock, Donna Lohry, Judy Wright

MEMBERS EXCUSED: Jerry Finch, Karen Powers

STAFF PRESENT: Bill Topel, Mary Fredrickson, Beth Culp, Ann Kriegel, Leo Podoski, Renee Soroko, Gina VandenBranden and Pam Bartelt

Larry Lautenschlager, chair of the Department of Human Services Board opened the hearing at 8:30 a.m. 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.

Larry Lautenschlager called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m.

The following information is testimony given:

Robbi Cumbie: Robbie is program coordinator from the Friendship Place which is an outreach center that deals with mental health issues. She shared that she and their staff are grateful for all the support and funding which enables them to provide their services. Robbi shared the following stats regarding the use of their services by Winnebago County residents in May of 2017: 292 visits to the Friendship Place; 81% of their members live in Winnebago County; 64% receive county services. Thank you very much.

John Emenecker: John shared that he is a member of the Friendship Place. It has been very beneficial for John to meet new people there and get out in the community to partake in activities. They have offered several programs that have helped him. The support from the staff as well as advice from the members has been very beneficial to John as a member. Thank you for your past support.

Bonnie Phernetton: Bonnie is the Director of Children Services with Family Services of Northeast Wisconsin. The county has contracted with Family Services to provide a number of different programs in Winnebago County, one of them being Parent Connection. She thanked the board, the department and the citizens of Winnebago County for the all the support they have been given. Parent Connection is a preventative child abuse and neglect program that focuses on working with parents that are at higher risk for abuse and neglect. They start working with families when the children are very young as 85% of brain development occurs in the first 3 years of life. It is very cost effective to put the funding on the preventative end rather than on the intervention end. Family Services is asking that the county consider bumping up the funding as the cost of services continues to rise. There is currently a waiting list of more than 55 families. They also provide parenting workshops and supervised visitation out of this program. Thank you your past support and for considering their request moving forward.

Paul Eisen: Paul is a Winnebago County Supervisor. He shared that he would like to see the Human Services Board assess and discuss programs that are impacting people's lives in Winnebago County. Paul is asking that we address the Drug Court program and identify the funds allocated to the program and tie them into the accomplishment of the program. He mentioned the Second Chance Program that is shared with the Oshkosh Area School District and would ask to identify the budget dollars that are allocated to this program and provide an update of the ongoing experience of the program and identify the success stories of this program. Paul thanked the Human Services Board for their support of the Neenah/Menasha YMCA adult programs in providing funds to the Menasha Senior Center. He inquired as to any other grants to the YMCA or Senior Center. Paul shared it is a privilege to provide testimony to the Human Services Board.

With no further testimonies offered, the public hearing was closed at 9:30 a.m.

Respectfully submitted by Pam Bartelt, Human Services Department/pb