

**WINNEBAGO COUNTY
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES**

PUBLIC HEARING

DATE: Thursday, June 23, 2016

LOCATION: Oshkosh Human Services Building

TIME: 8:30 a.m. to 9:30 a.m.

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

BOARD MEMBERS EXCUSED: Larry Lautenschlager

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

Mike Norton, vice-chairperson of the Department of Human Services Board opened the public hearing at 8:30 a.m. Mike 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. Mike reviewed the guidelines for the hearing.

The following information is testimony given:

Ann Marshall: Ann is a community member of the Public Health Department Board. She learned that the Human Services Board is considering reducing funding for the Living Healthy Community Clinic in the 2017 Budget. Ann clarified that she is not officially representing the Board of Health at today's hearing. She said that many of the people who are currently seeking service at the clinic are employed in low-paying jobs and can't afford the large deductible through the affordable care act or the cost of non-covered medicine. The Living Healthy Clinic is sometimes used as a crisis service to avoid some of the more expensive services. The clinic is seeing a sharp increase in first-time visitors, and the total number of visits is rising. Many community partners refer patients to the clinic, such as hospital emergency rooms, primary care physicians, the Salvation Army, and the Human Services Department. She asked the Board to consider restoring the \$25,000 decrease in our Budget to the Living Healthy Community Clinic.

Testimony given by Paul Eisen: Paul is a County Board Supervisor. He thanked Bill Topel and the Human Services Department for presenting an overview of the Department and its Budget at the County Board meeting on May 3, 2016. Paul noted that there is clearly a staggering need for services in Winnebago County. He thanked the Board for its dedication in improving the lives of Winnebago County residents.

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

Submitted by:
Dorothy De Grace, Recorder
Winnebago County Department of Human Services