

**WINNEBAGO COUNTY
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES**

PUBLIC HEARING

DATE: Thursday, June 20, 2013

LOCATION: Neenah Human Services Building

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

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

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

Jim Koziczkowski, chairperson of the Department of Human Services Board, opened the hearing at 8:30 a.m. by welcoming those present in the audience and introducing the Board members and staff who 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:

Testimony given by Stephanie Wheeler: Stephanie is the mental health coordinator at Friendship Place. She thanked the Board for all of the past funding they provided. The monies directly touch between 10 and 30 people every day in supporting them in the therapy that they independently seek out to deal with their mental illness. She said they would like to continue to receive the funding.

Testimony given by Tim Styka: Tim is the Police Chief for the Menasha Police Department. He is here today representing Chief Wilkinson of the Neenah Police Department and Chief Rod McCants of the Town of Menasha Police Department. Tim said they've heard through the media that the intention of the Department of Human Services is that the Secure Juvenile Detention Services for next year will be moved to Fond du Lac. He said they would have liked to have a voice somewhere in the process of that decision being made. Last year Menasha had over 100 of the 72 hr. holds for juveniles that went to secure detention for violation of their court-ordered rules. This change will have a substantial impact on city and/or county services, and it remains to be seen who will be doing the transports to Fond du Lac. With a large number of the county's population being on the north side of the county, it makes some sense having the facility being in Outagamie County. We want to find another solution by going forward to see if the true costs of using the facility in Fond du Lac are going to outweigh the additional costs and time involved in taking juveniles down there. Tim said they appreciate the services that Human Services offers to the citizens in Menasha. They have a strong working relationship with many of the same entities. He thanked the Board for its commitment to those programs.

Testimony given by Deb Klopp: Deb is a coordinator with Professional Services Group. She is very appreciative of the funding made available to serve children and families in Winnebago County.

Testimony given by Holly Keenan: Holly works for Lutheran Social Services in operating the “Making the Ride Happen” program. They work closely with Winnebago County in serving their clients. They oversee a call center out of the Thompson Community Center where they are contacted for information regarding transportation needs of the elderly and disabled. In 2010 they expanded to the southern part of the Fox Cities, and they are hoping to get some grant money to expand to Oshkosh. They also manage a volunteer driver program that provides transportation to people in the Fox Cities and Oshkosh. They work closely with Go Transit in the city of Oshkosh in providing travel training to show people how to navigate the transportation system. She thanked the Board for its support.

Testimony given by Larry Schomer: Larry is a consumer of mental health services. He served 17 years on the Governor’s Council for Mental Health. He worked at Winnebago Mental Health Institute as a peer support specialist. The program was very successful and unique to the country. He spoke at conventions, universities, and mental health institutes promoting the idea of hiring people like him as support specialists.

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

Submitted by:

Dorothy De Grace, Secretary
Winnebago County Department of Human Services