

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

**Minutes**

**DATE:** Monday, May 1, 2023

**TIME:** 3:00 p.m.

**PLACE:** Oshkosh Human Services Building Room 33

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Jeffrey Beem, Ralph Harrison, Chris Kniep, Larry Lautenschlager, Rebecca Nichols, Karen Powers, Harold Singstock

**MEMBERS EXCUSED:** Rachel Youngquist

**STAFF PRESENT:** Bill Topel, Renee Soroko, Annette Beattie, Heather Foust, Ann Kriegel, Beth Roberts, Janet Rohloff., Tammy Steier, Nicole Davis-Dawald, and Pam Bartelt

Chairman Larry Lautenschlager called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m.

**AGENDA ITEM #1: PUBLIC COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS**

There were no comments.

**PROGRAM #2: ELDER ABUSE AWARENESS**

Beth Roberts, LTS Division Manager introduced Nicole Davis-Dawald, supervisor of Adult Protective Services (APS). The APS program protects vulnerable adults that may have cognitive delays, physical disability, or anyone over 60 years of age that may be at-risk. Recently we had a case with significant financial abuse charges filed which led to conviction, first conviction in the state. All calls are reviewed by staff to determine whether there is a need for an investigation and/or intervention is required to prevent possible further abuse. There are several types of elder abuse which include financial, sexual, physical, and self-neglect where a person may have a cognitive disability and the need to take care of themselves is compromised. This can get complicated as people do have the right to refuse insulin or medications; or to live in a home with poor living conditions regarding cleanliness and safety. Since it is harder to mandate intervention, this team works with the elderly to convince them to receive assistance voluntarily.

Nicole explained that as of February 2023, they have changed the procedure for handling APS cases. Previously, a call would be reviewed by the worker that took the call and a decision was made on how to respond. The concern was that the response would vary depending on which worker covered the call. To establish a more consistent response and build a better connection in the community, Nicole now screens all the calls and referrals for APS. She will complete a response metric as to how staff will respond. Nicole keeps data on referral types; referral response; and referral origination source. She shared recent data with 80 referrals in April with the highest of financial exploitation. We receive a lot of calls from

and work closely with banks, the police department and other community members that may have a concern about an individual. Financial exploitation is hard to prove as scammers are very creative in finding ways to have consumers buy cryptocurrency, bit coin or gift cards making it difficult to recover any of the money. There have been cases of consumers losing \$200 - \$100,000. Financial exploitation is a main area of focus covered in the outreach programs throughout the community. Welfare checks are a valuable tool and enables staff to provide education and outreach resources. Previously staff had been going out less than 5% of the time and are now going out at least 50% of time. Nicole noted that she has been able to do more of the transitioning of the non-emergent cases allowing APS staff more time to be out in the community. Even if it's not a welfare check, staff are going out more to engage with consumers. Sometimes it takes many visits to build relationships and become trustworthy for the consumer. Once a trusting relationship is established, staff work to connect them to services to evaluate needs of the consumer.

Beth announced that there is an Elder Abuse Awareness Event planned for June 15, 2023. It will start at the Oshkosh Human Services building at noon. The group will walk over to the sundial on Main Street carrying flowers to recognize the number of elder abuse cases from last year. There will be speakers, food, snacks, and beverages. More information will be shared.

### **AGENDA ITEM #3: APPROVE MINUTES OF THE APRIL 3, 2023 HUMAN SERVICES BOARD MEETING**

Ralph Harrison moved for approval of these minutes; seconded by Harold Singstock and carried unanimously. (7-0)

### **AGENDA ITEM #4: INPATIENT & INSTITUTIONAL PLACEMENT STATISTICS**

Human Services Director Bill Topel reviewed placement statistics: Child Welfare (CW) Division – Juvenile Corrections remains at 1.0 Actual Daily Populations (ADP). Residential Care Centers are currently at 2.0 ADP. Behavioral Health (BH) - Specialty Hospitals for adults is at 1.5 ADP with the youth being at 1.2 ADP. Secure Detention is at 2.6 ADP. Foster Care is down to 36.0 ADP. Kinship Placements are at 135.0 ADP.

### **AGENDA ITEM # 5: FINANCIAL REPORT**

Janet Rohloff, Administrative Division Manager, shared financials based on March information. A \$4.4 million surplus is projected at year end; however, this is expected to come down. Labor is currently favorable due to vacancies. Differential pay that has been approved and wage increases have not been included yet and will make a significant difference. Under Capital expenses, \$1 million was transferred into the department's budget to cover the cost of the Shelter Care facility with \$700,000 for the purchase and \$300,000 designated for repairs and maintenance. Operating expenses show a surplus as it is early in the year and contracted vendors are not paid until contracts are fully executed. Revenues are projected to be a little higher than budgeted. We will again see spikes throughout the year as revenues come in during certain months. There was one unbudgeted prior year revenue totaling \$123,000 and was related to Income Maintenance from 2021 true ups.

Director Bill Topel noted that the federal emergency for the pandemic is over on May 11, 2023. There had been a lot of exceptions made during the pandemic allowing for increased and easier consumer access to mental health services, food supplementation, Medicaid, etc. With the end of the federal emergency, guidelines will change back to 2019 requirements. This has already impacted economic support division programs including Foodshare, Medicaid, etc. With these changes, there may likely be less revenue coming in the fall.

#### **AGENDA ITEM #6: DEPUTY DIRECTOR REPORT**

Renee Soroko stated the division managers have been working on gathering information for the preliminary budget. Winnebago County is using a new process, *Priority Based Budgeting*, using consultants and new software. This process is done in phases. The first phase is *Program Inventory* where each division is briefly summarizing each service and/or program briefly. Board was asked to postpone board meeting until July 31 due to new budget process. After discussion, board decided to keep meeting as previously scheduled: Human Services Board Budget Review on July 17, 2023, at 9:00 a.m. in Room 33 of the Oshkosh Human Services Building.

#### **AGENDA ITEM #7: DIRECTOR REPORT**

Bill Topel thanked those that attended the Human Services Day at the Capitol which had a great turnout with a lot of the legislators present. Chelsea Shanks, lobbyist for WCHSA, has had follow up conversations with several of the legislators and many of them will be offering pieces of legislation to advocate for our requests.

Next month there will be a resolution regarding the sale of Silvercrest, an 8-bed group home for boys ages 13 to 17, that we currently rent from the Winnebago County Housing Authority. The facility is staffed by Family Services. We have had four to eight boys there on average. Silvercrest is selling the facility. Annette Beattie, CW Division Manager and Mike Elder, Facilities Director, visited the facility to determine the condition of the property and need for repairs. This will be a part of the county board member tour in May.

#### **AGENDA ITEM #8: BOARD MEMBER REPORTS**

Chris Kniep mentioned that the Powerful Tools for Caregiver class will not be taking place due to low enrollment.

Larry Lautenschlager mentioned that the WCHSA Spring Conference is taking place this week in Elkhart Lake.

With no further business Karen Powers moved for adjournment; seconded by Jeff Beem and carried at 4:45 p.m. **The next meeting will be the Public Hearing being held on Monday, June 5, 2023, at 3:00 p.m. in the Neenah Human Services Building in Room 008.**

Respectfully submitted by Pam Bartelt, Human Services Department.