

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

**Minutes**

**DATE:** Monday, October 2, 2023

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

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

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Ralph Harrison, Chris Kniep, Larry Lautenschlager, Rebecca Nichols, Karen Powers, Harold Singstock, Mark Weisensel (Zoom)

**MEMBERS EXCUSED:** Jeffrey Beem

**STAFF PRESENT:** Bill Topel, Renee Soroko, Annette Beattie, Heather Foust, Ann Kriegel, Beth Roberts, Tammy Steier and Pam Bartelt

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

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

Kelly Olson, Support Services Director of Damascus Road Project Inc. introduced herself to the group. Their organization offers services to those that have been sexually trafficked or exploited. Most of their clients are adult women, however, occasionally they have worked with children and men. They are in the process of moving to a new location at 536 Bayshore that will offer a collaborative workspace with other community services. The women they serve have dealt with domestic violence, homelessness, financial and food insecurity. They partner with community organizations to provide services; and are the only ones that focus specifically on human trafficking and sexual exploitation. Resources they will offer include an onsite counselor, a healing garden, boutique for clothing, quiet room for one on one visits, a soft interview room for law enforcement, shower, and laundry facilities. They partner with local providers such as banks to provide education on budgeting and finance. They continue to have relationships with women as a support source once they have left the program. Professional education and community trainings are also offered.

**PROGRAM #2: DISCUSSION ON COUNTY EXECUTIVE'S PROPOSED DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES 2024 BUDGET PER REQUEST FROM DHS BOARD MEMBERS**

County Executive Jon Doemel noted that there will be a lot of Table of Organization changes as we add needed staff. The tax levy was not strongly affected as many of the positions are offset by billing and revenues, some positions are currently contracted and will become 'in-house' for more effective services. A van replacement was also added. Positions added since DHS board approval include a Substance Use Disorder Supervisor for the BH division to expand treatment services. No levy change with funding from Medical Assistance (MA), OWI assessment fees and Opioid settlement funds. Another need is for a CW Deputy Division Manager to assist in ensuring policies

and practices align with trauma informed, family first philosophy that keeps youth, children, and families safe; and to oversee service planning and decision making with supervisors to meet growing demands for services. CW division has grown exponentially within the last year. Modification of a lead case manager position to a supervisory position which is mostly covered with MA. Addition of a third intensive services child and family team includes four case managers and three psychotherapists to provide community based services and support, psychosocial treatment, and therapy for the increase in families needing county services. Position costs are offset with funding with MA and 3<sup>rd</sup> party billing. Overall increase in tax-levy for all new positions is approximately \$110,000. Jon complimented divisions on collaborating with community and state partners on finding revenues and funding to support programs.

Chris Kniep departed the meeting at 3:50 p.m.

### **AGENDA ITEM #3: APPROVE MINUTES OF THE SEPTEMBER 6, 2023 HUMAN SERVICES BOARD MEETING**

Ralph Harrison moved for approval of these minutes; seconded by Becky Nichols and carried unanimously. (6-0)

### **AGENDA ITEM #4: ACCEPT MINUTES OF THE SEPTEMBER 11, 2023 ADRC COMMITTEE MEETING**

Harold Singstock moved for acceptance of these minutes; seconded by Karen Powers and carried unanimously. (6-0)

### **AGENDA ITEM #5: 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 2.2 ADP. Behavioral Health (BH) - Specialty Hospitals for adults is at 4.1 ADP with the youth being at 0.6 ADP. Secure Detention is down to 1.7 ADP. Foster Care is 41.7 ADP. Kinship Placements are at 133.0 ADP.

### **AGENDA ITEM # 6: FINANCIAL REPORT**

Janet Rohloff, Administrative Division manager was not in attendance. Direct Bill Topel shared that the projected surplus remains at \$2.8 million. Labor remain overbudget due to the differential pay for 24/7 facilities and the reslotting adjustments approved earlier in the year. Karen Powers commented on her preference of the new line charts for the report.

### **AGENDA ITEM # 7: OHS ELEVATOR UPDATE**

Director Bill Topel informed the committee that the inspector communicated the need for an intermediary device for the proper operation of the fire alarm in the elevator. Rough estimate for the needed part is about two weeks. The fire alarm device is a relatively new change in the building code laws. Once the part is received it will be short order for the elevator to be operational.

## **AGENDA ITEM #8: DEPUTY DIRECTOR REPORT**

Renee and Bill are coordinating a county wide *Mental Health First Aid Training* that will be for all departments. The presenter was at the NACo Conference and attendees found the 90 minute presentation very informative. The training is aimed at recognizing when people are struggling with mental health concerns and struggles in the workplace. The presentation will take place on November 8 & 9, 2023 with three sessions offered each day at varying times to cover varied work schedules.

An *After Action Report* was gathered after an incident in one of our buildings. The report identifies what we are doing county wide and recommendations to provide safe workspaces for all. There are ongoing discussions on trainings, drills, designated evacuation routes, etc.

## **AGENDA ITEM #9: DIRECTOR REPORT**

Bill Topel noted his first agenda topic has been covered by the program with County Executive Doemel.

Human Services Department has been working on the 2023-2028 Strategic Plan, however, has been delayed a bit and will most likely be out in 2024. This exercise is done to provide staff with a focus for the next five years. One focus being how we can better share common resources inside the department and with other departments. Perhaps cross training staff across departments would be a consideration. This Plan will be shared with the boards as it develops.

## **AGENDA ITEM #10: BOARD MEMBER REPORTS**

Becky Nichols mentioned that the Habitat for Humanity *Rock the Block* event last week was a success.

Harold Singstock commented on the idea of cross training and suggested that we start small and follow through.

Karen Powers attended Wisconsin HHS quarterly meeting where she pushed for more funding for Kinship Care payments to caretakers making it more equitable to foster care payments for foster parents. Comments were made on the increasing childcare costs now that covid funds have ended so it might be helpful to contact your Representatives to support this concern. Karen also shared that she attended a presentation by the Chaplain at *Lincoln Hills Copper Lake* facility sharing stories of the broken children that come into their facility. The *Epic Bibles* that Karen assisted in getting a grant for have made a difference in these children's lives.

With no further business Becky Nichols moved for adjournment; seconded by Ralph Harrison and carried at 4:50 p.m. The next meeting will be held on **Monday, November 6, 2023 at 3:00 p.m. in the Neenah Human Services Building in Room 008.**

Respectfully submitted by Pam Bartelt, Human Services Department/pb