

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

Minutes

DATE: Monday, October 3, 2022

TIME: 3:00 p.m.

PLACE: Shelter Care Facility

MEMBERS PRESENT: Jeffrey Beem, Ralph Harrison, Chris Kniep, Larry Lautenschlager, Donna Lohry, Rebecca Nichols, Karen Powers, Harold Singstock, Rachel Youngquist

STAFF PRESENT: Bill Topel, Renee Soroko, Annette Beattie, Heather Foust, Ann Kriegel, Beth Roberts, Janet Rohloff., 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

There were no public comments.

PROGRAM #2: CHILD WELFARE OVERVIEW

Annette Beattie, Child Welfare (CW) Division Manager, provided a summary of services and programs of the CW division. CW consists of approximately 100 staff and 10 supervisors. There is one Juvenile Intake (JI) team and two Initial Assessment (IA) teams. Juvenile Intake reviews community referrals for youth committing chargeable offenses. This team evaluates the situations and decides how to proceed. JI has a Family Mobile Team consisting of two staff that work 2:00 – 10:00 p.m. to assist families with de-escalating situations in the home. Juvenile Intake includes a supervisor with twelve on-call staff that will respond to calls for youth that are in trouble with law enforcement. The two Initial Assessment teams, one in each of our Oshkosh and Neenah offices, include 'access' which are calls from the community for child abuse/neglects reports. Staff take reports which supervisors screen using state regulations. If cases are 'screened in', a social worker is assigned to complete an assessment. Depending on case needs, the case could be referred to ongoing Child Protection Services (CPS). Initial assessment is short term (60 days). CPS Ongoing is continued support through one of two teams located in Oshkosh and Neenah. The Placement Resource team finds placements for youth that must be removed from their home. This team licenses and supports all of our foster homes. We currently have about 85 foster homes and use private treatment foster care agencies. There are group homes and residential care centers that can be used for a higher level of care as determined by the team. The Placement team also licenses family members under "Kinship Care" which is highly preferred to keep the child/youth with a family

member. This team has a Family Find social worker searching for relatives that may provide placement opportunities or at least provide a family connection for the youth. The Resource Support Team are home consultants that provide direct services to families i.e., parenting skills, supervised visits, search for housing, budgeting needs, transportation, resources, etc. The Resource Support team has a social worker that helps track data. This guides the practice of what is working the best for our youth. This social worker also assists with finding alternative options when returning youth to their homes. There are two Youth Justice (YJ) teams, one in Neenah and one in Oshkosh, that work with youth who have repeated law enforcement contact. These teams work with youth and families to build on their strengths to make healthier choices and offer additional supports/resources. Each team has a social worker dedicated to truancy to help youth get to and stay in school. The newest CW team is the Shelter Care team consisting of a supervisor, social worker and several contracted staff. This team provides direct care to the youth 24/7 to support them with programming and activities.

AGENDA ITEM #3: APPROVE MINUTES OF THE SEPTEMBER 7, 2022 HUMAN SERVICES BOARD MEETING

Jeff Beem moved for approval of these minutes; seconded by Chris Kniep and carried unanimously. (9-0)

AGENDA ITEM #4: ACCEPT MINUTES OF THE SEPTEMBER 12, 2022 ADRC COMMITTEE MEETING AND THE MAY 10, 2022 ADVISORY COMMITTEE FOR CHILDRENS VOLUNTARY SERVICES

Donna Lohry moved for acceptance of these minutes; seconded by Ralph Harrison and carried unanimously. (9-0)

AGENDA ITEM #5: CONSIDER AND ACTION TO APPROVE THE PURCHASE OF 2831 HARRISON STREET, OSHKOSH, WI FOR \$700,000 PLUS AN ADDITIONAL \$300,000 IN RENOVATION COSTS WITH EITHER A TRANSFER FROM THE UNDESIGNATED GENERAL FUND BALANCE OR AN ADVANCE FROM THE GENERAL FUND TO BE REIMBURSED WITH A SUBSEQUENT BOND ISSUE

Karen Powers made a motion to bring the resolution to the table for discussion; seconded by Chris Kniep.

Bill Topel, Human Services Director, addressed the group regarding the purchase of a property for our Shelter Care facility. The state requires that a county have a shelter care of its own or contract. There are no longer private vendors that provide shelter care services. Winnebago county had previously contracted with Lutheran Social Services (LSS) until November 2021. We had contracted services with Outagamie county for a short term between November 2021 until we were able to get licensed and open again in August 2022. Currently we are renting the facility from LSS and using contracted staff until the end of 2022. The facility has been appraised identifying areas that will need immediate attention to meet the state codes for shelter care. Funding options are included in the resolution to allow for using the best option available

at the time this resolution is approved. Upon approval of the resolution, the current contracted staff will move to Winnebago County employees.

Chairman Larry Lautenschlager called for a vote on the resolution on the table which was approved unanimously. (9-0)

AGENDA ITEM #6: INPATIENT & INSTITUTIONAL PLACEMENT STATISTICS

Human Services Director Bill Topel reviewed placement statistics: Child Welfare (CW) Division – Juvenile Corrections is at 1.0 Actual Daily Populations (ADP). Residential Care Centers are at 2.0 ADP. Behavioral Health (BH) - Specialty Hospitals for adults is at 3.6 ADP with the youth being at 0.1 ADP. Secure Detention is at 0.9 ADP. Foster Care is at 63.8 ADP.

AGENDA ITEM # 7: FINANCIAL REPORT

Janet Rohloff, Administrative Division Manager, shared the financial report based on August 2022 financials. The projected surplus is at \$3.6 million. The travel and operating expense category projections are slowly rising throughout the year. This is attributed to the lessening of Covid impacts on department operations. Revenues show August being low as the state issued two reimbursements for the month of July with none in August. The majority of surplus is in operating expenses. Director Bill Topel noted that it is expected that the Federal public health emergency declaration will be ending around the first of the year. This will affect our Economic Support division where the extra FoodShare and additional exemptions will be discontinued. In addition, staff will be returning to home visits with less telehealth, remote and video visits.

AGENDA ITEM #8: DEPUTY DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Renee Soroko, Deputy Director, reported that we are part of a nine-county consortium that received ARPA grant money with \$90,000 designated for Winnebago County to be used by the end of September 2022, which is the end of the federal fiscal year for this specific grant. Following the parameters of the grant, the funding was applied to improving technology within Oshkosh and Neenah Human Services buildings. Room 008 in Neenah and Room 33 in Oshkosh will be set up as 'Zoom Rooms' to provide hybrid meetings and have the ability to record public meetings. A few improvements include: additional wireless internet access points, conference room tables and a grant software program.

AGENDA ITEM #9: DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Bill Topel, Director, mentioned that there will be a Wisconsin Counties Human Services Association (WCHSA) Conference taking place this year in Stevens Point on December 1 - 2, 2022. This association consists of 72 counties throughout the state and advocates for all counties at the state level. The director of each county is a member of the association with officers for president, vice president and treasurer. This is also connected to Wisconsin Counties Association which county board members are part of. More information to come on the conference. Bill shared that while we do still have vacancies for some positions in the

agency, we are doing better. There will be a pay-study done over the next couple months looking at pay scales for certain positions and comparing with surrounding counties.

AGENDA ITEM #10: BOARD MEMBER REPORTS

Harold Singstock inquired about whether there has been any action being taken to stop unfunded mandates. Director Bill Topel suggested this be brought to the Day at the Capitol next spring.

Chris Kniep announced that the *Face to Face Powerful Tools for Caregivers Class* with Alisa Richetti from our Aging & Disability Resource Center (ADRC) will again be taking place. This is a six-week program starting October 17, 2022 that will focus on caregivers providing care for individuals with chronic conditions.

Chairman Larry Lautenschlager addressed an inquiry about the WAVE Committee which stands for *We Are Valued Employees*. This is a wellness committee made up of Human Services employees interested in putting on events for staff such as silent auctions and casual days with proceeds going to designated charities; holiday activities; picnics; etc. The is funded solely by the employees. Another inquiry was on the status of the *Specialized Transportation Council*. There have not been any recent changes as they continue to meet quarterly. Beth Roberts can be contacted with any questions.

With no further business Jeff Beem moved for adjournment; seconded by Rebecca Nichols and carried at 4:40 p.m. The next meeting will be held on **Monday, November 7, 2022 at 3:00 p.m. in the Oshkosh Human Services Building in Room 33.**

Respectfully submitted by Pam Bartelt, Human Services Department/pb