

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

Minutes

DATE: Monday, November 6, 2023

TIME: 3:00 p.m.

PLACE: Neenah Human Services Building Room 008

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

STAFF PRESENT: Bill Topel, Renee Soroko, Annette Beattie, Heather Foust, Beth Roberts, Janet Rohloff, Tammy Steier and Nancy Ruedinger

Vice Chairman Ralph Harrison called the meeting to order at 3:04 p.m.

AGENDA ITEM #1: PUBLIC COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS

Kay Horan complimented the board on a job well done on the budget.

AGENDA ITEM #2: INTRODUCTION OF NEW BOARD MEMBER

Ralph Harrison introduced new Human Services Board Member, Kay Horan, County Supervisor, District 5. Welcome Kay! Introductions were given by all in attendance.

AGENDA ITEM #3: ELECTION OF OFFICER FOR SECRETARY

Ralph Harrison opened nominations for Human Services Board Secretary. Karen Powers nominated herself. Kay Horan motioned to accept Karen's nomination; seconded by Mark Weisensel and carried unanimously (7-0). Congratulations and thank you Karen!

Chairman Larry Lautenschlager joined the meeting.

PROGRAM #4: CHRISTINE ANNE DOMESTIC ABUSE SHELTER

Deputy Director Renee Soroko introduced Alicia Wenger, Executive Director from Christine Anne's domestic abuse services which is a non-profit organization. They serve individuals and families that are impacted by domestic abuse with primary service areas in Winnebago and Green Lake Counties though there is not a residence requirement. They work closely with other sister organizations such as *Harbor House in Appleton* and *Solutions Recovery in Fond du Lac*. They operate a 37 bed emergency shelter located in Oshkosh to service men, women, children, and families affected by domestic abuse. They have been consistently full since the beginning of summer. They offer empowerment services which support survivors on an outreach basis. Consumers can make appointments to meet with staff in any of their three

locations in Oshkosh, Leaven building in Menasha, and in Green Lake. 200 to 300 individuals receive services annually. Outreach services support 500 to 600 persons per year with 70% receiving legal advocacy. This is one of their fastest growing programs. The youth program is another big part of their services which includes a team of advocates working with children on an outreach basis in nine different school districts. This helps provide an extra layer of safety and support for the youth and families. They are currently going through a capital campaign to purchase the building at 240 Algoma Blvd, right next door to their current location which will greatly expand services. Solutions Recovery plans to purchase their current location to expand their sober living programs. The new building will increase to 60 beds, allow pets and new transitional housing program which would support 11 families for two years if needed.

Chairman Larry Lautenschlager continued the meeting.

AGENDA ITEM #5: APPROVE MINUTES OF THE OCTOBER 2, 2023 HUMAN SERVICES BOARD MEETING

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

AGENDA ITEM #6: 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 2.8 ADP. Behavioral Health (BH) - Specialty Hospitals for adults is at 4.1 ADP with the youth being at 0.1 ADP. Secure Detention is at 2.4 ADP. Foster Care is at 42.1 ADP. Kinship Placements are at 132.0 ADP.

AGENDA ITEM #7: FINANCIAL REPORT

Janet Rohloff, Administrative Division Manager, presented financial reports projecting a \$2.8 million surplus. The labor category will likely be over budget partly due to position reslotting and differential pay for our 24/7 operations. Revenues spiked in September due to timing of the state releasing basic county allocations funds which will show up again in December. Nothing has changed as far as where our projected surplus is coming from which is unanticipated/other revenue. Janet shared the year end surplus that is continuing to come down to pre-pandemic levels.

AGENDA ITEM #8: PRESENT AND DISCUSS DRAFT OF 2024 HUMAN SERVICES BOARD MEETING SCHEDULE

2024 Human Services Board meeting schedule was reviewed with no changes at this time. Changes will be made by members as needed.

AGENDA ITEM #9: OHS ELEVATOR UPDATE

Director Bill Topel announced that the work on the elevator has just been completed and the inspector has notified us that it is now operational. There is one more non-safety related part that needs to be updated

once received. *Note, the elevator was still out of order for several days after this meeting however is operational as of minute writing date.

AGENDA ITEM # 10: DEPUTY DIRECTOR'S REPORT

- Report on Recruitment and Retention Efforts

Renee Soroko updated members of open vacancies posted on our website. There are still several vacancies though has decreased. Positions may remain posted 'ongoing' or may be in the process of being filled. Retention efforts continue to be discussed. Renee will be attending a training with two of the Human Resource Specialists to review our hiring process county wide as well as recruitment/retention strategies. The newly proposed PTO plan will hopefully improve recruitment and retention. A *Mental Health First Aide Training* is being offered to all Winnebago County employees to promote employee support in their professional and family roles.

AGENDA ITEM #11: DIRECTOR'S REPORT

- Review of County Budget Hearings and Changes to DHS Budget, if any.

Bill Topel shared Human Services requests were all approved by the county board with 28 new full-time employees. Several positions are in the Long Term Support division for children's services as we cannot have a wait list so are moving from contracted to permanent positions. Another area for new positions is Comprehensive Community Services which is a mental health program for youth given we have many families who are unable to find and/or receive similar services in the community.

- Reaction to Proposed PTO Changes

Bill mentioned there were a couple areas of concern regarding the proposed PTO which have been resolved. If staff had a benefit in the previous system, they would continue to have the same number of days in the new system.

AGENDA ITEM #12: BOARD MEMBER REPORTS

Ralph Harrison enjoys having the ability to have additional discussion on topics of interest. He stated his appreciation of being part of the plan this year to take care of and show employee appreciation.

Chris Kniep shared that Alisa Richetti, ADRC Specialist, and herself completed another session of the 'Powerful Tools for Caregivers' class. This is a six week program that focuses on self-care for consumers that are dealing with family or friends that have Alzheimer's, Dementia, or other chronic conditions. Topics include stress, communications, feelings, identifying the critical difference between '*guilt*' and '*regret*'. This is an extremely powerful program that connects those involved with valuable resources.

Mark Weisensel was honored to be appointed by the State of Wisconsin to the Area Agency on Aging Advisory Board of Directors. Congratulations Mark!

With no further business Karen Powers moved for adjournment; seconded by Mark Weisensel and carried at 5:00 p.m. The next meeting will be held on **Monday, December 4, 2023 at 3:00 p.m. in the Oshkosh Human Services Building in Room 33.**

Respectfully submitted by Pam Bartelt, Human Services Department/pb