

**WINNEBAGO COUNTY
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES**

PUBLIC HEARING

DATE: Wednesday, June 19, 2013

LOCATION: Oshkosh Public Library

TIME: 6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

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

BOARD MEMBERS EXCUSED: Jerry Finch and Donna Lohry

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

Jim Koziczkowski, chair of the Department of Human Services Board, opened the hearing at 6:00 p.m. by welcoming those present in the audience and introducing the Board members and staff who were present. Tom 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 Paul Eisen: Paul is a Winnebago County Supervisor. He stated that he is very aware and sensitive to the benefits of treatment, alternatives to incarceration, and diversion from prosecution, as well as issues of re-entry into society of persons released from prison. He appealed to the Board to work on expanding treatment and alternatives to incarceration, including prisoner re-entry and adjustment to society through housing, employment, and family support to help break the cycle of recidivism. He said our efforts could result in the county being able to avert or at least postpone the planned addition to the County jail which is part of the 2013-2017 executive capital improvements program that designated \$15 million for the jail expansion. He said \$1 million has been appropriated for treatment, alternative and diversion programs in the next biennium for Wisconsin. Half that amount has been designated for drug courts in counties that don't currently have a drug court.

Testimony given by Amanda Albert: Amanda is an interested observer. She suggested that in the department's budget book the goals and outcomes should be stated more explicitly so a person can understand what the goal actually is and what constitutes success for the department.

With no further testimonies offered, the hearing was closed at 7:00 p.m.

Submitted by:

Dorothy De Grace, Secretary
Winnebago County Department of Human Services