

**MANITOWOC COUNTY HUMAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT
BOARD MEETING MINUTES**

CALL TO ORDER:

The Manitowoc County Human Services Department Board met at 4:30 p.m. on Thursday, September 22, 2016 in open session at the Manitowoc County Human Services Department, 801 Jay Street, Manitowoc, WI.

Board members present: Baumann, Burke, Cavanaugh, Henrickson, Nasep, Waack, Williams.

Board members excused: Ruggirello.

Board members absent: Agnew.

County Board members present: None.

County staff present: Dodge, Fure, Garceau, Kinzel, Randolph, Ziegelbauer.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Maura Yost, Cleveland stated her goal was to provide the HSD board with input on our pending budget, based on quotes from the 2015 CAFR. Ms. Yost referred to assets and deferred outflows of resources of the county. Ms. Yost referred to unrestricted net assets. Ms. Yost referred to interest earnings and governmental funds, and gave a breakdown of the fund balance.

The written text of Ms. Yost's public comment stated that it has been suggested that she find the money to fund a Human Services Director.

Nancy Slattery, Maribel, stated that she was happy to be attending the meeting.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM THE PUBLIC HEARING:

A MOTION WAS MADE BY BAUMANN, SECONDED BY WILLIAMS TO APPROVE THE MINUTES FROM THE PUBLIC HEARING. MOTION CARRIED.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

A MOTION WAS MADE BY WILLIAMS, SECONDED BY BURKE TO APPROVE THE MINUTES FROM THE PUBLIC HEARING. MOTION CARRIED.

TERMINATION OF PARENTAL RIGHTS PROCESS:

Lane Kinzel, Children and Families Unit Supervisor, explained the TPR process and why it is necessary for children. Lane stated that children are placed in alternate care or with relatives, there is a dispositional hearing, and then the timing begins for certain deadlines. The judge orders the terms of care in order to return the child to their home.

The county and workers have to prove that the parents can't care for the child. Parents are given resources for parenting help and for drug and alcohol counseling. Once the TPR is determined, the staff members get all facts of a case together such as letters sent, a witness list, and all contacts made. There is a 60 page write up and a summary is sent to the Corporation Counsel. A court date is set and 9 times out of 10 the parents disagree and hire an attorney to represent their position. The TPR hearing takes two to three days. The jury has to determine if there are grounds to proceed. Then the judge rules on it. The parents can appeal and an

appellate attorney is appointed. This can take months to get to court. The staff gives a lot of support to parents so that they can be reunified with their child but they need to put forth the effort it takes.

A board member asked how far into the adoption process could parents come back and say they want the child back? Lane replied that once the TPR is completed, parents can't change it.

A board member asked if there is a common theme of issues that the parents have. Lane stated that they often work with people who are struggling with drug addiction and changing jobs frequently. Sometimes adoptees come back into the foster care systems.

Lane distributed handouts of statistics that included ages and numbers of children, dates of the TPRs being filed and completed, and the cost of foster care between the start of the process to the completion of it, as well as a description of the process.

FINANCIAL AND STATISTICAL REPORTS THROUGH AUGUST:

Patricia Dodge provided handouts for the monthly statistics and the financial projections report. The number of mental health inpatient days was high. The institutional costs at Winnebago and Mendota were discussed. Lori Fure stated that they are dealing with people who have severe mental illnesses and the safety of the person is most important. Recently the Clinical Services staff worked for three months to find a suitable placement for one client at a facility in the state.

QUESTIONS AND INPUT FROM BOARD MEMBERS ON THE STATUS OF THE HUMAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT:

Bill Topel, Human Services Director in Winnebago County, asked if there would be interest from the HSD board members in re-establishing a regional Wisconsin County Human Services Association committee to discuss issues of importance and submit them to the state board. If any members are interested, please contact Patricia Dodge.

Bob Ziegelbauer distributed the Secure Detention report and the Unemployment report. He stated that the 2017 budget is being prepared and should be completed in the next few weeks.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING:

The next regular meeting of the Human Services Department Board will be held on Monday, October 27, 2016 at 4:45 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT:

A MOTION WAS MADE BY CAVANAUGH, SECONDED BY BAUMANN TO ADJOURN THE MEETING OF THE HUMAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT BOARD AT 5:10 P.M. MOTION CARRIED.

Respectfully submitted,

Rick Henrickson, Chair
Human Services Board

RH/pd