

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

CALL TO ORDER:

The Manitowoc County Human Services Department Board met at 4:45 p.m. on Thursday, October 27, 2016 in open session at the Manitowoc County Human Services Department, 801 Jay Street, Manitowoc, WI.

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

Board members excused: Williams.

Board members absent: None.

County Board members present: None.

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

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Maura Yost, Centerville, referred to the minutes of the HSD Board meeting from September 22nd, 2016. Ms. Yost wanted to clarify the information that she gave at that meeting regarding funding for a single, qualified director for the Human Services Department.

Dan Groth, Manitowoc stated that he is a member of the recovery community. He asked that a serious look be given to the money that is given to Marco Services each year. Mr. Groth asked how many people actually graduated from the program. Mr. Groth stated that during his stay at Marco, there was a heroin dealer sent there from the jail for services who was using drugs at the facility.

Mr. Groth stated that it is not fair to taxpayers and residents to give county money to Marco Services since he doesn't feel there is accountability and transparency. Mr. Groth stated that he requested outcomes and statistics from Jeff Jenswold at HSD and was referred to Marco's Director, Mark Stephens. Mr. Groth stated that it took two months for Mr. Stephens to respond to his requests for numbers. Mr. Groth stated that there is a heroin epidemic in this county and that Marco Services is not a recovery program. Mr. Groth stated he would like answers as to transparency.

Mark Bittner, Two Rivers, stated that he is a Marco Services board member. Mr. Bittner stated that he pledges to get Mr. Groth's questions answered. Mr. Bittner stated that Marco Services will have an education session in the future at an HSD Board meeting regarding the heroin epidemic. Mr. Bittner thanked Lori Fure and Bob Ziegelbauer for working with them on the budget changes. Mr. Bittner stated that Marco is a good program and the only hope in the county for some people fighting addictions.

Nancy Slattery, Maribel, stated that she wanted to bring attention to a candidate's forum scheduled for October 28th at the Manitowoc City Hall for candidates running for the 6th Congressional District and the 25th Legislative District. Ms. Slattery said she read the proposed budget and stated she is worried about the people, not just the numbers. She urged the board members to consider people when voting on the budget.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

A MOTION WAS MADE BY BAUMANN, SECONDED BY CAVANAUGH TO APPROVE THE MINUTES FROM THE PREVIOUS MEETING. MOTION CARRIED.

UPDATE ON CLINICAL SERVICES PROGRAMS:

Lori Fure stated that the Adult Protective Services program is being overwhelmed with numbers of referrals.

Fure stated that there is an increased demand from state offices to track clients. Fure stated that time and attention is being spent on crisis training. Crises are often impossible situations and they are training the staff to develop and use critical thinking skills.

Fure stated that there is an increase in the demand for services and the complexity of issues. They are developing policy and procedure manuals. They are also working on increasing Medicare revenue and rolling out targeted case management which is a card service for MA.

Fure stated that crisis work was easier several years ago. Now the psychiatric hospitals don't always want to work with us and have gotten choosier. What used to take an hour to work on now takes 5 hours. The emergency rooms want to move people out but the process is slow.

Board members asked if there are foster homes for APS referrals. Fure stated no but that they wish there was a resource like that locally. Sometimes when they have a detention, the person has to stay in a psychiatric ward until it goes to court and then the order gets changed to allow them to move. Many nursing homes aren't equipped or don't take psychiatric clients.

Fure stated that sometimes they can access Elder Abuse funds but that doesn't cover all of the cost. Fure discussed the need to transport people to other counties by law enforcement staff and this takes their time and money, also. Fure stated that they could utilize peer support specialists to assist these clients. They need to be certified and paid. A peer-run home would be helpful for diversion of some of these clients.

FINANCIAL AND STATISTICAL REPORTS THROUGH SEPTEMBER:

Patricia Dodge provided handouts for the monthly statistics and the financial projections report. Lori Fure stated that some clients' behaviors are so severe that they can't find placements throughout the state. This is what drives the institutional costs up.

2017 BUDGET DISCUSSION:

Bob Ziegelbauer stated that the 2017 budget is aggressive and conservative. The county could always use more money but this is what we have. He stated the workforce is stable and they will be concentrating on more productivity in the future. Ziegelbauer stated that the CPS and foster care placements have increased needs and that APS and CCS are pressure points. Economic Support and new requirements as well as staff turnover are pressure points.

Ziegelbauer stated that the agency's Department Co-Directors are here and the board members can ask questions on the budget. He stated that the staff can adapt with limited resources and meet the needs of the public. The budget is around \$17 million and we struggle to get the most out of it.

Ziegelbauer stated that the Unemployment rate is 3.6%, the lowest in ten years in the county. He stated that juvenile detentions are much lower than a few years ago when it cost \$500,000.00 or more to maintain.

A board member asked when the layoffs at Manitowoc Cranes and Brillion Iron Works will hit the unemployment rate and percentages. It is assumed that there will be more demand in Economic Support with layoffs and the concern is for those people. Ziegelbauer stated that there has been higher unemployment in the past and we met our obligations and he thinks we will be able to do so since there are good staff members in place.

A board member stated that Ariens in Brillion is hiring 150 people and that Ameriquip in Kiel is also hiring.

A board member had questions regarding the former COP program budget figures and the new Childrens COP program.

Nancy Randolph asked for approval of a resolution to request an increase in the state's Basic County Allocation for children. It addresses allocations and the fact that every indicator of children in placements has increased each year for the past several years.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY WAACK, SECONDED BY AGNEW TO ACCEPT THE RESOLUTION SUPPORTING INCREASED FUNDING FOR CHILD WELFARE PROGRAMS. MOTION CARRIED.

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

A board member suggested that the board support Marco Services the best way they can. He stated that Marco has done a lot of good for county residents.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING:

The next regular meeting of the Human Services Department Board will be held on Thursday, December 15, 2016 at 4:45 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT:

A MOTION WAS MADE BY BURKE, SECONDED BY RUGGIRELLO TO ADJOURN THE MEETING OF THE HUMAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT BOARD AT 5:50 P.M. MOTION CARRIED.

Respectfully submitted,

Rick Henrickson, Chair
Human Services Board

RH/pd