

**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, May 23, 2019 in open session at the Manitowoc County Human Services Department, 801 Jay Street, Manitowoc, WI.

Board members present: Baumann, Cavanaugh, Geimer, Henrickson, Nasep, Ruggirello, Williams.

Board Members Excused: Burke, Williams.

Board Members Absent: Agnew, Nasep.

County Board Members Present: None.

County Staff Present: Fure, Randolph, Dodge, Ziegelbauer.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Nancy Slattery, Maribel, stated that there was a Christian Pastors' Ecumenical meeting yesterday. There were 34 pastors present. The topic was how to support opioid recovery. Christma Rusch from the Lighthouse Recovery Center attended the meeting and provided information. Ms. Slattery stated that some of those present were not aware of the services provided by the Human Services Department. Ms. Slattery encouraged board members to follow up with their own pastors.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

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

INFORMATION ON LAKESHORE FOSTER FAMILIES AND FRIENDS AND FOSTER CARE:

Karie Kobel, Director of the Lakeshore Foster Families and Friends non-profit organization provided information on their group and services. Karie and her husband have been foster parents for 21 years. They have 11 children and some are adopted.

The Kobels wanted to inspire and recruit people for fostering, guardianships, and Kinship Care. They wanted to provide resources and promote retention. They recognized the need for foster families to join forces to support each other and create a great environment for their kids. Their goal is to ensure that every placement provider has the resources they need to provide children with a safe and loving home.

As a non-profit, they are conducting fundraisers to raise money to support some of their activities. There was a successful winter fundraiser and this will be held again next year. The organization was set up a year ago in July. Some of the things they provide are birthday bags, welcome bags filled with items to help children settle into their new home, a holiday party, piano lessons, camps, and they are always in need of baby supplies.

The organization moved in to an office at 812 Washington Street in Manitowoc. Their office will be staffed by volunteers and will be open every Wednesday. There was an open house today and Judge Jerilyn Dietz spoke about her support for kids in care, Mayor Nickels spoke, and HSD staff attended.

Board members asked questions and thanked Ms. Kobel and the Lakeshore Foster Families and Friends group for the very important work that they do.

FINANCIAL AND STATISTICAL REPORTS THROUGH MAY, 2019:

The financials continue to project a deficit from budgeted figures. The Wisconsin Home Energy Assistance Program ended this month and the numbers served were similar to 2018.

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

A board member stated that they saw a story on the news about a foster parent from Brown County who was poked with a used hypodermic needle that was located inside a foster child's bag. What do we do about the contents of the children's bags? Nancy Randolph replied that most of the time the children don't have any belongings with them when they are removed from the home. Foster parents are warned to exercise care when checking bags and backpacks.

A board member asked if people who report elder abuse are required to give their name. Lori Fure responded that they don't need to identify themselves unless they request follow up contact. All reporters' names are kept confidential in the department.

Bob Ziegelbauer, County Executive, distributed handouts of the Secure Detention activity and Local Unemployment Rates for April.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT OF AGENCY OPERATIONS:

The Child Protective Services – Ongoing position was approved at the recent County Board meeting. The job description has been updated and is posted internally as well as advertised.

The Community Support Program position has been filled. Due to some reassigned job duties, there is now a Comprehensive Community Services facilitator position vacant.

In addition to National Foster Care Month, May is also Mental Health Awareness Month. Clients and staff members posted signs and words of encouragement on the building windows facing Washington Street.

An opioid treatment program opened recently in West Allis. The facility is accessible 24 hours per day, 7 days per week.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING:

The next regular meeting of the Human Services Department Board will be held on Thursday, June 27, 2019 at 4:30 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT:

A MOTION WAS MADE BY CAVANAUGH, SECONDED BY RUGGIRELLO TO ADJOURN THE MEETING OF THE HUMAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT BOARD AT 5:35 P.M. MOTION CARRIED.

Respectfully submitted,

Rick Henrickson, Acting Secretary
Human Services Board
RH/pd