

**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, September 26, 2019 in open session at the Manitowoc County Human Services Department, 801 Jay Street, Manitowoc, WI.

Board members present: Agnew, Baumann, Cavanaugh, Geimer, Nasep, Ruggirello.

Board Members Excused: Burke, Henrickson.

Board Members Absent: Williams.

County Board Members Present: None.

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

PUBLIC COMMENT:

No public comment.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

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

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

SECURE DETENTION ALTERNATIVES FOR YOUTH:

Sengsai Vang, Detention Alternatives Program Director with JusticePoint and Rodney Zahn, Youth/Family Services Worker provided information on the alternatives currently in place for youth.

JusticePoint is a nonprofit organization dedicated to the promotion of evidence-based criminal justice programs, practices and policies. JusticePoint has programs in 11 counties across Wisconsin and Minnesota, and there are 3 counties working with youth.

The Kids at Hope philosophy is a science-based philosophy that is incorporated into every program which is that every child can succeed, no exceptions. Some of the county school systems are knowledgeable with this philosophy and practice it. There is a Power of Hope event scheduled for March 12th and 13th, 2020 at the Holiday Inn in Manitowoc. This will include trainings on the Soul, Science and Culture of Hope.

Alternative programs include Intensive Case Management which is reserved for those with criminal behavior and have not responded to standard treatment. Skill building is done with parents or family members. Juveniles are typically living in their own homes. This is court ordered and usually lasts four to six months. There is a referral process, staffing, meetings with youth and family and a discharge plan.

Youth Tracking includes Electronic Monitoring and Home Detention. This provides a high level of supervision, tracking and general case management services to youth who are referred by the social worker or ordered to participate as part of a Temporary Physical Custody order. This level of supervision allows for accountability and community safety.

The Youth Wellness Center is a report center for youth ages 13 – 18 to work on the requirements of their court order and to increase prosocial skills. A youth can be assigned 5, 10, or 15 sessions with a minimum of 1-1/2 hours. The focus is on skill development, independent living and community engagement. This may include experiences in the community that they've never done before. They are encouraged to feel part of the community in order to change behaviors. They often don't feel connected so they don't think their behaviors hurt others.

FINANCIAL AND STATISTICAL REPORTS THROUGH AUGUST, 2019:

There were two reunifications of children with their families in August. The Energy Assistance Program begins on October 1. The Kinship Care Program is growing.

There were adjustments made to the projected spending during the 2020 budget process. The actual use of Winnebago/Mendota facilities through July is less than what was budgeted so that total was reduced by over \$300,000.00. There were one-time additional amounts awarded by the state in the AODA Block Grant and the Mental Health Block Grant. There is a program called WIMCR which is the process for reconciling the Medical Assistance funding with actual costs at year end. It is anticipated that there will be more available than what was budgeted. All of these items are contributing to a projected surplus for 2019.

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

A board member asked if we were familiar with the Family First Prevention Services Act. Yes, we've been informed of the Act. Wisconsin has chosen to delay this act for two years.

The Act was signed into law as part of the Bipartisan Budget Act on February 9, 2018. The act reforms the federal child welfare financing streams, Title IV-E and Title IV-R of the Social Security Act, to provide services to families who are at risk of entering the child welfare system. The bill aims to prevent children from entering foster care by allowing federal reimbursement for mental health services, substance use treatment, and in-home parenting skill training. It also seeks to improve the well-being of children already in foster care by incentivizing states to reduce placement of children in congregate care.

Bob Ziegelbauer distributed the Secure Detention Report and the Unemployment Report.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT OF AGENCY OPERATIONS:

The Lighthouse Recovery Community Center held their annual fundraiser last Friday evening and our agency was nominated for a support appreciation award in the Business category. Also nominated were staff members Dr. Caroline Poirier, Jerry Mutchie, and Don Sweet for their work with members of the Lighthouse and others in the recovery community.

Work has been completed on the 2020 budget. More efforts are being focused on alternatives and prevention services in order to have better outcomes while realizing potentially lower costs. There are 5 new positions being requested in the budget. The majority of the costs for the positions will be paid for with Medical Assistance case management funding and additional funding from the state.

The first Human Services Board Member seminar is being sponsored by the Wisconsin County Human Services Association on October 16th in Stevens Point. This is a no-cost seminar being held to provide information to board members to become more familiar with human services programs, funding, and cross-county collaborations. As an Executive Board member of WCHSA, I will attend this seminar and distribute any handouts or information to our HSD Board members.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING:

The next regular meeting of the Human Services Department Board will be held on Thursday, October 24, 2019 at 4:45 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT:

A MOTION WAS MADE BY BAUMANN, SECONDED BY AGNEW TO ADJOURN THE MEETING OF THE HUMAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT BOARD AT 5:40 P.M. MOTION CARRIED.

Respectfully submitted,

Bob Cavanaugh, Acting Secretary
Human Services Board
BC/pd