

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

**CALL TO ORDER:**

The Manitowoc County Human Services Department Board met at 4:00 p.m. on Thursday, June 25, 2020 in open session at the Manitowoc County Human Services Department, 801 Jay Street, Manitowoc, WI. The meeting was also accessible electronically by Zoom.

Board Members Present: Cavanaugh, Henrickson, Bauman, Williams, Ruggirello, Agnew, Burke, Nasep, Shimulunas

Board Members Excused: None

Board Members Absent: None

County Board Members Present: None

County Staff Present: Joas, Weber, L. Fure, Kubec, Dodge, Ziegelbauer

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

No public comment.

**ELECTION OF OFFICERS:**

Election of Officers had taken place at the May 27<sup>th</sup> meeting.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

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

**EDUCATION TOPIC; Human Trafficking 101 – Tressa Weber, Anti-Human Trafficking Hub Representative:**

Tressa Weber gave a presentation on Trafficking. She is the Hub Liaison in our area, there are 7 Hubs across Wisconsin. The Hubs were created to help different regions work together, on training and placement. Even though you don't hear a lot about it, it is taking place in Manitowoc County.

There are three types of trafficking: Sex Trafficking, Forced Labor and Domestic Servitude.

The average age of a trafficking victim is 12 – 14 years old. The hot spots in Wisconsin are Appleton, Green Bay, Madison and Milwaukee.

Traffickers are looking for psychologically vulnerable people, victims could have been previously sexually abused, lived in poverty, foster care, etc. They find victims near schools, malls, on social media, etc.

Victims can be hard to identify as some don't identify themselves as victims

In Manitowoc County if the victim is under 18 it is reported to CPS and an investigation takes place. There are detectives trained in Manitowoc also. The most prevalent in Manitowoc is sex trafficking of minors. There is high demand.

Courts are working on how to improve prosecution of buyers, if there was no demand wouldn't see as much trafficking.

Workers in our department are getting more training as we are seeing more trafficking cases.

**FINANCIAL AND STATISTICAL REPORTS THROUGH May, 2020:**

CPS calls in May were close to last year's numbers.

Crisis calls are still down a little but the calls are lengthier.

The State was planning on setting up a residential center for trafficking victims, but that never really developed. Each county is on their own. We recently had a child trafficking victim that we had to arrange transportation back and forth to Tennessee. Staff applied for funding from the State for Trafficking and was reimbursed \$86,000. Can request funding from the State each year and depending on the requests they get in, they determine which counties get reimbursed.

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

A question regarding if Economic Support has hired anyone. There is one open position. They have interviewed and two good candidates are doing testing, should have someone hired soon.

A question on how Avatar is working. Our Clinical Services Unit is currently using Avatar, IT is currently working with the fiscal unit on billing/entering issues. IT is also developing training for the children's units.

**DIRECTOR'S REPORT OF AGENCY OPERATIONS:**

As of June 30<sup>th</sup> all staff are working back in the building. Although we have found there was higher productivity with some people working from home. We have been using Zoom for business and trying to get Zoom for healthcare.

HSD buildings will be extending protective measures (face masks, etc.) at least through the end of July. We require clients to wear masks unless they are unable to, if they refuse they would have to meet outside.

Public Works has made table top barriers for our building that can be moved and used where needed.

Patricia is working with Personnel on modifying the current work from home policies. Trying to be flexible with intermittent working from home if workers are exposed to caregivers or others exposed to Covid. Understandably this is a complicated topic as we have to work with several different aspects such as equipment availability, work that can't be performed from home, the services that are best provided in person, etc. and also the "fairness" to all workers. A work from home policy could be helpful as we are running out of space in our building and also as a perk in hiring, would be competitive with other counties trying to attract new hires.

A question was asked about any outbreaks in our Nursing Homes. Nothing reported so far.

We have begun the 2021 Budget Process, looking at any changes.

**Date of next meeting:**

The next regular meeting of the Human Services Department Board will be held on Thursday, August 27, 2020 immediately following the Public Hearing for the 2020 budget which begins at 4:00 p.m.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

A MOTION WAS MADE BY BURKE, SECONDED BY NASEP TO ADJOURN THE MEETING OF THE HUMAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT BOARD AT 4:50 P.M. MOTION CARRIED.