

PUBLIC HEARING OF THE
2021 HUMAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT BUDGET
August 27, 2020

Human Services Board Members Present: Agnew, Baumann, Cavanaugh, Henrickson, Nasep, Shimulunas.

Human Services Board Members Attending by Zoom: Ruggirello, Williams.

Board Members Absent: None.

Board Members Excused: Burke.

Staff Present: Dodge, Fure, Kubec, Latva, Randolph, Ziegelbauer.

CALL TO ORDER:

The Public Hearing for input into the 2021 Human Services Department Budget was called to order at 4:05 p.m. by Human Services Board Chair Rick Henrickson. Chair Henrickson stated the Ground Rules for Testifying.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Chair Henrickson introduced Mary Wallace whose topic was Drug Court.

Ms. Wallace stated that she is a member of the League of Women Voters she came today to speak about the Drug Court. She stated that she's been involved with Drug Court since it began. She stated that it has helped to change the lives of so many people. She stated that the current funding is coming to an end. She stated that since the court has done so much for the county that it might be time for the county to look at putting some funding in.

Ms. Wallace then discussed looking at Family Court and how it would be worth the investment. She stated that she has had discussions with the Jail Administrator about the number of parents with drug problems and how much they would benefit from something that would help their whole family.

Chair Henrickson introduced Kathy Protsman whose topic was Crisis Intervention Training and is with the NAMI group of Manitowoc County.

Ms. Protsman stated that the crisis intervention training that they had been supporting to train law enforcement staff in how to de-escalate a mental health crisis is on hold due to the pandemic. Ms. Protsman will let the board know and the officers know as soon as it is started again. It is a five day program and they are hoping that more people will attend as soon as it starts again.

Chair Henrickson introduced Nancy Slattery whose topic was the Drug Court.

Ms. Slattery thanked the Drug Court team for all of the services that are provided to the participants and their families. She stated that they have to be admitted by the DA and accept the limitations when they go into the program.

Ms. Slattery stated that the current grant will not continue so the county has to come up with money for it. Ms. Slattery stated that she saw at the county board meeting that Covid expenses were approved and others will be submitted. Ms. Slattery stated that she doesn't think Covid costs should be an excuse not to fund the Drug Court in the future. The members go through the program and then they get to keep their children who don't go into foster care. She stated that drug addiction is a mental health disorder and should be a covered service.

Ms. Slattery stated some don't succeed but should be given chances to continue. Ms. Slattery stated that the county benefits from this service and a lot of people prefer this to spending time in jail. Ms. Slattery encouraged the board to make the choice to continue funding the Drug Court.

Ms. Slattery asked the HSD staff and board members to ask for an update regarding changes in statutes for placement of children in Kinship Care. Ms. Slattery asked what Kinship offers. She stated that the rules should not be so rigid and they should be made friendlier for the child.

Ms. Slattery thanked the board members for all they do and stated that the HSD has the biggest budget in the county.

Since there was no other public comment, Judy Ruggirello moved to close the Public Hearing and Mike Williams seconded. Motion carried.

The Public Hearing closed at 4:18 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Rick Henrickson, Acting Secretary
Human Services Board

RH/pd