

**MEETING OF THE
WINNEBAGO COUNTY
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES BOARD**

Minutes

DATE: Monday, April 28, 2025

TIME: 2:00 p.m.

PLACE: Oshkosh Human Services Building Room 33

MEMBERS PRESENT: Ralph Harrison, Chris Kniep, Larry Lautenschlager, Karen Powers, Harold Singstock, Mark Weisensel, Bryan Stafford (Arrival at 3:04 p.m.)

MEMBERS EXCUSED: Koby Schellenger

STAFF PRESENT: Bill Topel, Renee Soroko, Annette Beattie, Heather Foust, Ann Kriegel, Janet Rohloff, Mackenzie Rusch, Jill Holzhausen, Cindy Hasenohrl, Lisa Pendleton, Elizabeth Wagner, Melissa Hoodie, Karen Sokol and Julie Kotajarvi

OTHERS PRESENT: County Executive Gordon Hintz, Steve Binder County Board Supervisor District 13, Lu Scheer present online, Jane & Jesse Schiltz

Chairman Larry Lautenschlager called the meeting to order at 2:01 p.m.

AGENDA ITEM B: PUBLIC COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS

There were no comments.

AGENDA ITEM C1: APPROVE MINUTES OF THE MARCH 24, 2025, HUMAN SERVICES BOARD MEETING

Ralph Harrison moved for approval of these minutes; seconded by Mark Weisensel and carried unanimously. (6-0)

AGENDA ITEM C2: ACCEPT MINUTES OF THE MARCH 10, 2025, ADRC COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Karen Powers moved for acceptance; seconded by Harold Singstock and carried unanimously. (6-0)

AGENDA ITEM D2: FOSTER PARENT RECOGNITION FOR JANE & JESSE SCHILTZ

Annette Beattie introduced Jane & Jesse Schlitz, Foster Parents, for almost 30 years. First licensed in 1999 they became the county's "Emergency Resource Home" in 2013. This means we placed children in their care anytime of day or night 24/7. Often, children came with only the clothes they were wearing or wrapped in a blanket from law enforcement. They adopted two foster children and cared for over 239 children. Jesse and Jane shared a few stories reflecting their time and all the lives they've influenced. We are incredibly grateful for their service, compassion and dedication. We can't thank them enough for being a safe place for so many.

AGENDA ITEM D1: ELIZABETH WAGNER – LONG TERM SUPPORT DIVISION MANAGER INTRODUCTION

Elizabeth Wagner introduced herself sharing her education and experience. Elizabeth has a bachelor's degree in psychology, a master's in counseling, and is a licensed social worker. She has worked as the CLTS (Children's Long-Term Support) Supervisor with Winnebago County since 2016. Elizabeth currently oversees the Winnebago County Advisory Committee for Children's Voluntary Services. Members in attendance provided self- introductions to Elizabeth as well as County Executive Gordon Hintz.

AGENDA ITEM D3: DISCUSSION OF DESIGNATING A COUNTY PARKING ARE FOR OVERNIGHT USE BY HOMELESS INDIVIDUALS WHO HAVE A VEHICLE

Chairman Lautenschlager generated discussion on the idea of a dedicated parking lot on county property. Supervisor Binder suggested land near the Expo Center and said that would be an ideal space as well as finding people that would help with funding and assigning a social worker for those looking for services. Several advantages and disadvantages shared by the group. Green Bay's service is managed by a nonprofit agency, "Wise Women Gathering Place" providing on site staff management. Director Topel outlined the process if the board if the board prefers to act on this subject. He suggested 'Winnebagoland Housing Coalition' investigate the need further. Overall agreement that is the agency to pursue.

AGENDA ITEM E1: REPORT ON RECRUITMENT AND RETENTION BY DEPUTY DIRECTOR RENEE SOROKO

Deputy Director, Renee Soroko, shared there are 14 current vacancies. Interviews and job offers are ongoing. Annette Beattie mentioned the 24-hour facilities are the most challenging to staff. Renee Soroko added a recent Human Resources update of improved online application process.

AGENDA ITEM E2: FINANCIAL REPORT

Janet Rohloff shared the unaudited 2024 year-end which is not yet final. The auditors are here this week. Current surplus is \$2.1 million. One notable expense under 'operating expenses' which are \$98,764 mostly due to placement costs and vendor increases. First quarter closed March 31st so projections are early. There is uncertainty with federal funding and how it will impact programs/services. Bill reminded the board how the budget works and receiving reimbursements months later. Discussion over Human Services budget surplus transferred to the county's General Fund. Some board members suggest surplus stays with Human Services.

AGENDA ITEM D1: INPATIENT & INSTITUTIONAL PLACEMENT STATISTICS

Human Services Director Bill Topel reviewed placement statistics: Child Welfare (CW) Division – Juvenile Corrections is at 0.0 Actual Daily Populations (ADP). Residential Care Centers are currently at 4.0 ADP. Behavioral Health (BH) - Specialty Hospitals for adults is at 4.4 ADP with the youth being at 10.2 ADP. Secure Detention is at 3.4 ADP. Foster Care is at 34.8 ADP. Kinship Placements are at 166.5 ADP.

AGENDA ITEM D2: DIRECTOR'S REPORT – BILL TOPEL

Director Bill Topel reminded the board that the Spring WCHSA (Wisconsin County Human Services Association) Conference begins this Wednesday. Larry Lautenschlager, Harold Singstock, and Mark Weisensel are attending. The biggest item on the agenda this year is impact on federal funding changes.

AGENDA ITEM G1: BOARD MEMBER REPORTS

Chris Kneip mentioned her involvement with Powerful Tools for Caregivers which is a 6-week education workshop designed to enhance caregiver well-being and skill sets. There were an initial 10 participants.

With no further business, Karen Powers moved for adjournment; seconded by Bryan Stafford and carried at 4:00 p.m. The next meeting will be held on **Wednesday May 28th, 2025 at 2:00 p.m. in the Oshkosh Human Services Building in Room 33.**

Respectfully submitted by Julie Kotajarvi, Human Services Department/jk