

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

Minutes

DATE: Monday, July 29th 2024

TIME: 9:00 a.m.

PLACE: Oshkosh Human Services Building Room 33

MEMBERS PRESENT: Ralph Harrison, Chris Kniep, Karen Powers, Harold Singstock, Koby Schellenger, Bryan Stafford

MEMBERS EXCUSED: Larry Lautenschlager, Mark Weisensel

STAFF PRESENT: Bill Topel, Renee Soroko, Annette Beattie, Heather Foust, Ann Kriegel, Beth Roberts, Janet Rohloff., Tammy Steier and Julie Kotajarvi

Vice Chairman Ralph Harrison called the meeting to order at 9:02 a.m. Ralph Harrison will execute the meeting due to the absence of Chairman Larry Lautenschlager.

AGENDA ITEM B: PUBLIC COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS

There were no comments.

AGENDA ITEM C: APPROVE MINUTES OF THE JUNE 3, 2024 HUMAN SERVICES BOARD MEETING

Karen Powers moved for approval of these minutes; seconded by Koby Schellenger and carried unanimously. (6-0)

AGENDA ITEM D: BUSINESS ITEMS REVIEW, DISCUSS, AND RECOMMEND 2025 HUMAN SERVICES BUDGET TO COUNTY EXECUTIVE

Director Bill Topel explained the budget process; each division manager will review significant changes for next year's projections. After board review, budget is presented to the County Executive. The County Executive can revise at his discretion. All departments have budget reviews with the County Executive in August using the new Priority Based Budgeting program.

Each department Division Manager for Administrative Services, Behavioral Health, Child Welfare, Economic Support, and Long-Term Support highlighted changes and explained new position requests. During the breakdown of Administrative Services conducted by Janet Rohloff, there was a discussion regarding county vehicles. For many years, the oldest van was removed (typically 10 years old) with a

new van purchased annually. Last year, purchasing bi-annually (instead of annually) was recommended. This option was discussed again. Karen Powers suggested a leasing program rather than purchasing. Karen Power's also questioned the difference for Interpreter budget requests changing from year to year going up and down. The reason for this is that the county purchased translation devices which is bringing that cost down.

Bryan Stafford asked about Pest Control expenses this year though no allotment for next year. Services were needed this year due to a bed bug infestation in a county run facility. Historically, we have not budgeted and hope this will not re-occur.

Bill Topel commented on Child Support. Referrals when children are in care are ceasing statewide. There was a national study stating enforcing child support payment extends time in out of home care. Annette stated they work closely with the child support department and if there is a family in which it would impact reunification, child support is not requested or stops if in place. Emergency rental assistance has increased quite a bit, and a lot of families are struggling to keep up. The application fees have also increased, and a lot of landlords are using credit scores to determine security deposits which significantly impacts our consumers with less housing options.

Ann Kriegel explained needs for an additional Economic Support Supervisor.

Beth Roberts shared the Children's long-term support waiver program will allow for certain case management time to be reimbursable/billable which will increase revenues. JJ Keller & Associates donated \$25,000 for emergency rental assistance in the HELP program (homeless, eviction and loss prevention).

Janet Rohloff gave a detailed review of the budget summary.

Bill Topel instructed the board to review, discuss, and motion with modifications or approved as is. Karen Powers suggested that we need to look at the possibility of leasing vans instead of buying them. Karen Powers motioned to lease vehicles instead of purchasing which was not seconded. Ralph Harrison said the van purchase should stay in the budget, so we don't miss purchasing a vehicle timely. Harold Singstock said \$50,000 needs to be cut somewhere else within the budget to offset new vehicle cost. Harold Singstock suggested reducing levy request to 6% instead of 7%. Ralph Harrison directed the conversation back to approving and/or modifying the proposed budget first. The vote was 6-0 approving the 2025 budget as is. Harold Singstock motioned to decrease levy requests to 6% and was seconded by Koby Schellenger. Vote 1 – 5. Motion was not carried.

Chris Kniep said she fully supports new position requests and thanked the department for their hard work. Additional position requests were approved with a unanimous vote (6-0).

AGENDA ITEM E: 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 3.6 ADP. Behavioral Health (BH) - Specialty Hospitals for adults is at 2.8 ADP with the youth being at 0.2 ADP. Secure Detention is at 1.9 ADP. Foster Care is at 39.1 ADP. Kinship Placements are at 135.0 ADP.

AGENDA ITEM F: BOARD MEMBER REPORTS

Karen Powers reminded everyone of the Wheelchair Wash coming up on August 10th at J & R Automotive from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m.

With no further business Koby moved for adjournment; seconded by Karen Powers and carried at 12:24 p.m. The next meeting will be held on **Wednesday, September 4, 2024, 2:00 p.m. in the Oshkosh Human Services Building in Room 33.**

Respectfully submitted by Julie Kotajarvi, Human Services Department/jk