



ROCK COUNTY HUMAN SERVICES BOARD MEETING
Wednesday, March 9, 2022 – 4:30 P.M.

Call to Order: Chair Knudson called the hybrid meeting to order at 4:30 p.m. on Wednesday, March 9, 2022, in the Boardroom, at the Dr. Daniel Hale Williams Rock County Resource Center, Janesville, WI.

Committee Members Present: Brian Knudson, Supervisor; Russell Podzilni, Supervisor, Stephanie Aegerter, Supervisor; and Kathy Schulz, Supervisor, Sally Weaver-Landers, Citizen Representative attended in-person. Shirley Williams, Supervisor; Angelina Reyes, Citizen Representative; Ashley Hoffman, Citizen Representative; and Pam Bostwick, Supervisor attended virtually.

Committee Members Absent: None.

Staff Present: Katherine Luster, Director; Tera O'Connor, Deputy Director; Greg Winkler, Deputy Director; Sara Mooren, Administrative Services Manager; Jillian Cline, Business Manager; Kelly Frei, CPS Supervisor; Stefanie Getchell, CPS Trainer; Merebeth Rye, CPS Supervisor; Jamie Proctor, CPS Supervisor; Hannah Corrigan, CPS Lead Worker; Tana Adams, CPS Supervisor; Amber Johnson, CPS Ongoing; Katarina Ploch, CPS Analyst; Kami Williams, CPS Lead Supervisor; Lee VanZandt, CPS Ongoing; Nicole Johnson, CCS Therapist; Liane Felton, CCS Supervisor; Cassandra Petrick, CPS Ongoing; Destinee Kafka, CPS Ongoing; Robin Gleason, CPS Ongoing; Morgan Williams, CPS Ongoing; Cassie Baacke, CPS Supervisor; Kayce Wilson, CPS Supervisor; Alisha Haase, CPS Supervisor; Emily Jones, CPS Ongoing Lead Worker; Tiffany Meredith, Alia; Cassandra Anderson, CPS Ongoing Lead Worker; Jennifer Varela, CPS Ongoing; and Haleigh Thomas, CPS Worker.

Others Present: Josh Smith, County Administrator. Terri Carlson, County Risk Manager. Richard Greenlee, Corporation Counsel. Mary Beaver, County Board Supervisor. Patrick Singer, Rock County I.T. Bob Yeomans, County Board Supervisor. Chris Cullen.

Approval of Agenda: Citizen Representative Weaver-Landers moved the agenda to the floor, second by Supervisor Podzilni. Citizen Representative Weaver-Landers moved to amend the agenda, requesting moving agenda item 10A after agenda item 9A, second by Supervisor Aegerter. The agenda with the amendment was unanimously approved. APPROVED.

Approval of Minutes of Human Services Board Meeting on February 23, 2022: Supervisor Podzilni moved the minutes to the floor, second by Citizen Representative Weaver-Landers. The minutes were unanimously approved. APPROVED.

Public Comment: None.

Communications and Announcements from Staff and Board Members: Ms. Luster advised the Child Welfare third party assessment is moving forward and will be soliciting participation for the Steering Committee.

Supervisor Schulz advised the Legal Action representative will be hired and provided more details.

Approval of Contracts and Transfers: Supervisor Aegerter moved the six contracts to the floor, second by Supervisor Schulz. Ms. Mooren provided information about the contracts. The contracts were unanimously approved. Approved.

Review of Bills: Ms. Luster introduced Ms. Cline, the new HSD Business Manager. There were no questions or anything out of the ordinary to highlight.

Rock County HSD February Employee Impact Recognition Award: Ms. Luster introduced and recognized Nicole Johnson, CCS Therapist, as the February HSD Employee Impact recipient. Ms. Johnson serves mainly adults, most of whom have dual diagnoses. She developed a new group to build social skills and sober recreation that has been a huge success. Her energy and genuineness have contributed to the success of the group. She is positive, fun, motivating, and creative. She provides the backbone of the substance use services in CCS. She has challenged herself to learn and implement DBT. She provides significant support to coworkers, especially during the struggles with COVID and balancing safety and providing in-person services during a pandemic. She brings a sparkle of energy and creativity to her team of coworkers.

Resolutions and Committee Action:

- A. **To Recognize Rock County Social Workers** – Supervisor Aegerter moved the resolution to the floor, second by Citizen Representative Kleven. Ms. Thompson presented the resolution. She emphasized how social workers see their clients' struggles and work very hard to help them. Some social workers can be put in very difficult situations, but they do this type of work because they want to help clients live happy lives in the community. Different Managers are recognizing their social workers in their own way. She explained some of the recognition events divisions are doing to celebrate. The resolution was unanimously approved. Approved.

Reports and Update:

- A. **Child Welfare System Update: Workforce Data, Ongoing Services Team Report** – Ms. Luster provided updates regarding new hires, staff promotions and vacancies. She reminded that the Access Unit and the Initial Assessment Unit have reported at previous meetings. Alisha Haase, Emily Jones, Kayce Wilson, Cassandra Anderson and Cassie Baacke introduced themselves and provided some background information along with details of a typical workday. Each explained the many tasks needed to move forward with families. They advised how they balance documentation and paperwork with meetings they conduct to make decisions of safety. They connect families to resources, transportation, services, and collaborate with other staff and supervisors to guide making decisions. Safety of the children is the main concern, and the goal is to try to reunify families by connecting them with the supports they need. If reunification is not able to be achieved, guardianship and termination of parental rights (TPR) are other options. Family First is a way to set families up for success and keep children safe in their home with the supports and services the family needs.

Ms. Haase explained in detail data points regarding Rock County's number of ongoing cases, types of placements, 2021 permanency percentage overall - reunification percentage, and 2021 Re-entry rates. Ms. Jones provided information about a case she worked on explaining how the family moved forward, as she was able to connect the family to CCS, and the parent is now a Parent Partner. Ms. Anderson explained more regarding worker trainings on child safety, effects of family trauma, building trust with families, and empowering families. She spoke about the toll this type of work can take on workers and

how self-care and work life balance is so important, but sometimes hard to obtain due to vacancies. Management seems to be changing and growing, and Alia is helping to make positive changes for workers. Ms. Jones identified there is not enough housing for families in Rock County and it is a problem. Sometimes there are six month wait lists for needed services. Ms. Wilson explained more about hiring workers and serving families better.

Resolutions and Committee Action: (continued)

B. Reserving American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Funds for Family Services to Develop a Family Centered Transitional Housing Resource in Rock County – Supervisor Aegerter moved the resolution to the floor, second by Supervisor Schulz. Chair Knudson advised he was given feedback, and he is bringing back this resolution with a few changes. There was discussion regarding the number of homeless in Rock County, homeless students not documented, wrap around services, basic housing needs, and not enough housing options. Chair Knudson verified with Mr. Greenlee that approving this resolution was reserving the funds and later another resolution would be needed to use the funding. The resolution was approved 8-1 as follows: Supervisors Knudson, Aegerter, Bostwick, Williams and Schulz; Citizen Representative Kleven, Weaver-Landers and Reyes were for. Supervisor Podzilni opposed. Approved.

C. Reserving American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Funds for an Initiative to Aid All Municipalities and 501C3 Charities in Rock County in Their Efforts to Provide Resources to Help Alleviate the Challenges of Homelessness – Supervisor Aegerter moved the resolution to the floor, second by Citizen Representative Weaver-Landers. County Board Supervisor Yeoman presented the resolution and explained there are many proposals for the use of ARPA funds. His approach is to treat the funds like a bank and look for the best ideas, best business plans and requests should offer some funds as well. He explained this is an attempt to be framework for the Homelessness Prevention Coordinator to have a tool to use to help homelessness in the county. Supervisor Schulz explained the housing consortia has money set aside for housing as well. County Board Supervisor Yeoman clarified he is not suggesting either this resolution or the other. Ms. Luster agreed flexible ways to use ARPA funds will be helpful. The resolution was unanimously approved. Approved.

Committee Requests: Supervisor Schulz asked about the use of flex funds. Ms. Luster advised a report about flex funds will be integrated into a CPS report in the near future.

Next Meeting: **March 23, 2022**, at 4:30 p.m. – will be a hybrid meeting via zoom and in-person at the DWRC, Boardroom, 1717 Center Avenue, Janesville, WI.

Adjournment: Supervisor Podzilni motioned to adjourn, second by Supervisor Schulz with unanimous approval at 6:11 p.m.

Jodi Parson, Secretary

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