



ROCK COUNTY HUMAN SERVICES BOARD MEETING
Wednesday, February 23, 2022 – 4:30 P.M.

Call to Order: Chair Knudson called the hybrid meeting to order at 4:30 p.m. on Wednesday, February 23, 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 attended in-person. Shirley Williams, Supervisor; Angelina Reyes, Citizen Representative; Ashley Hoffman, Citizen Representative; and Sally Jean Weaver-Landers, Citizen Representative attended virtually.

Committee Members Absent: Pam Bostwick, Supervisor.

Staff Present: Katherine Luster, Director; Tera O'Connor, Deputy Director; Sara Mooren, Administrative Services Manager; Kayla Daum, Communication Specialist; Katarina Ploch, Analyst; 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; Shelby Puppe, CPS Supervisor; Abigail Zinzow, Access; Nicole Smith, CPS Lead Worker; Haleigh Thomas, CPS Lead Worker; and LaMikka James, Community Cultivator.

Others Present: Josh Smith, County Administrator. Terri Carlson, County Risk Manager. Family Services: Lonnie Klecher; Angela Bautista; Bill Flanagan; John Pfleiderer; Eboni Morran; Chris Popoola; Kelsey Hood-Christenson; Stephanie Hornig; Tammy Fanning; Elizabeth Tinder. Carol Wickersham. Steve Howland. Linh Trinh. Tracy Buck. Mary Westness.

Approval of Agenda: Supervisor Podzilni moved the agenda to the floor, second by supervisor Schulz. The agenda was unanimously approved. APPROVED.

Approval of Minutes of Human Services Board Meeting on February 9, 2022: Citizen Representative Weaver-Landers moved the minutes to the floor, second by Supervisor Schulz. The minutes were unanimously approved. APPROVED.

Public Comment: All comments were in support of the resolutions.

- Angela Bautista – Read a letter from Dan Kaiser, School District of Beloit regarding the struggles and challenges of raising young children and the vital need and significant value of transitional housing.
- Bill Flanagan – In favor of transitional housing in Rock County. He is a member of a few community agencies including Literacy for Life whose primary mission is teaching children to read with a focus on mothers as well for the importance of reading.
- John Pfleiderer – Read a letter from Kelly Mattingly in support of allocating ARPA funds for a 20-unit building. Families with elementary age children need housing to reduce family trauma and homelessness.
- Eboni Morran – She is a family advocate for Family Services and works with many children who open-up to her because they feel safe. Children express concerns that to her they do not know where they will sleep.

- Chris Popoola – Read a letter from Gwendolyn, a mother who received help from Family Services regarding her personal story of how Family Services helped her.
- Kelsey Hood-Christensen – Read a letter from Troy Knudson, Rock County Sheriff regarding his support for transitional housing and gave an example of an inmate who had no where to go upon release from jail.
- Stephanie Hornig – Read a letter from Steve Howland, former County Board Supervisor, regarding his full support for housing. He is a member of the Beloit Areas Task Force for the homeless and there is a significant need for housing.
- Linh Trinh – Read a letter from Tammy King Johnson who serves on multiple homeless committees regarding the lack of housing availability for many homeless exponentially for black children and families in Beloit.
- Tammy Fanning – Stated as Vice President of the Board of Directors of Family Services and lifelong resident she has seen the negative effects on families who need housing. Housing provides stability and transitional housing will improve life.
- Elizabeth Tinder – Read a letter from Jessica, a mother who received help from Family Services regarding her personal story of how Family Services helped her.
- Tracy Buck – Read a letter from Ashautee regarding the need for housing as Family Services helped her after her house burned down and it was hard to find housing. They helped her to get her driver's license as well to continue working. She is now part of the Family Service's team.
- Mary Westness – Stated she works at the library and sees the homeless every day in the library to keep warm or cool and in the parking lot. She read a letter from Betsy a business owner regarding the extreme need for housing for families to get out of poverty. Many are already in the system and need housing supports.
- Lonnie Klecker – Stated families need help not a handout. Stabilizing housing would benefit the community and help families stay intact. Many of the families qualify already.
- Jodi Parson – Read three emails that were received prior to the meeting. Neil Deupree, former County Board Supervisor regarding he is in favor of the Housing Coordinator position. Jessica Locher, Echo, and member of the Homeless Intervention Task Force regarding the community's need for housing and she is in favor of both resolutions. Nancy Stabb strongly in support of both resolutions as there is an acute shortage of affordable housing.

Communications and Announcements from Staff and Board Members: Ms. Luster introduced Kayla Daum, Communication Specialist. Ms. Luster thanked the Board for approving this new position in the HSD 2022 Budget.

Supervisor Schulz announced the contract for Tenant Legal Aide is finished and they are in process of hiring an attorney. In the interim contact Supervisor Schulz and she has the number to call. She will give further updates when information is known.

Approval of Contracts and Transfers: Citizen Representative Weaver-Landers moved the four contracts to the floor, second by Citizen Representative Kleven. Ms. Mooren provided information about the contracts. The contracts were unanimously approved. Approved.

Resolutions and Committee Action:

- A. **Creating a Housing Coordinator and Allocating Funding for Housing Consultant Services Using American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Funds** – Supervisor Aegerter moved the resolution to the floor, second by Supervisor Schulz. Chair Knudson advised there were amendments to the resolution as follows:

- Changing title of position to Homeless Prevention Coordinator. Therefore, in the title of the resolution will now read “Creating a Homelessness Prevention Coordinator and Allocating Funding for Housing Consultant Services Using ARPA Funds”
- At the end of paragraph three add after Authority, “and other municipalities that choose to prioritize strategic efforts to address homelessness; and,”
- Paragraph 5 will read ...with a targeted effort toward homelessness prevention including work to develop employment readiness resources and to improve access to mental health and substance use disorder treatment; and,
- Add a paragraph after paragraph 5 to read: “Whereas, effective needs assessment and strategic planning efforts will require outside consultant expertise; and,
- Change Housing Coordinator to Homelessness Prevention Coordinator in paragraph 7 and paragraph 10.

The resolution was recommended for approval by acclamation. The amended resolution was moved to the floor by Supervisor Schulz, second by Supervisor Aegerter. The resolution was recommended for approval as amended by acclamation.

- B. Reserving American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Funds for an Initiative to Develop a Family Centered Transitional Housing Resource in Rock County** – Supervisor Aegerter moved the resolution to the floor, second by Citizen Representative Weaver-Landers. Some discussion took place. The resolution was recommended for approval by acclamation.

Reports and Update:

- A. Child Welfare System Update: Initial Assessment** – Ms. Luster introduced the Initial Assessment group who were present representing the CPS Initial Assessment unit. Ms. Williams, Ms. Adams, Ms. Getchell, Ms. Frei, Ms. Smith, Ms. Thomas provided information regarding decision making, safety protocols and personal experience of work they do each day. Ms. Frei and Ms. Ploch presented a power point providing calendar year 2021 data points: Initial Assessments Completed, Response Times, Timeliness Face to Face Contacts, Initial Assessment Report Timeliness, and Number of Temporary Physical Custody (TPC). Ms. Thomas, Ms. Smith, and Ms. Williams responded to questions regarding families’ basic needs, protective plans, safety plans and CIRT program for staff.
- B. Report on Homeless Count** – Supervisor Aegerter presented a power point regarding the Point in Time Homeless Count she attended in January at midnight. She shared the survey used to gather information when contact is made and provided some information regarding the contacts that were made throughout the years of attending the events. The next Homeless Count event will be on July 27, 2022. Everyone is welcome.

Committee Requests: None.

Next Meeting: **March 9, 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 Schulz motioned to adjourn, second by Supervisor Aegerter with unanimous approval at 6:48 p.m.

Jodi Parson, Secretary

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