



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

Call to Order: Chair Knudson called the hybrid meeting to order at 4:30 p.m. on Wednesday, March 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; and Stephanie Aegerter, Supervisor attended in-person. Kathy Schulz, Supervisor; Sally Weaver-Landers, Citizen Representative; Shirley Williams, Supervisor; Angelina Reyes, Citizen Representative; Ashley Hoffman, Citizen Representative; and Pam Bostwick, Supervisor (in at 4:37 p.m.) 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; Tana Adams, Supervisor; Jessica Kramer, Subcare; Sara Avalos, Subcare; Shelby Puppe, Subcare; Cori McCann, CPS; Tricia Stilen, Subcare; Katarina Ploch, CPS Analyst; Jamie Proctor, CPS Supervisor; and Abby Zinzow, CPS.

Others Present: Josh Smith, County Administrator. Terri Carlson, County Risk Manager. Rich Bostwick, County Board Chair. Patrick Singer, Rock County I.T. Wes Davis, County Board Supervisor.

Approval of Agenda: Supervisor Podzilni moved the agenda to the floor, second by Citizen Representative Weaver-Landers. The agenda was unanimously approved. APPROVED.

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

Public Comment: None.

Communications and Announcements from Staff and Board Members:

Approval of Contracts and Transfers: Citizen Representative Weaver-Landers moved twenty-one contracts to the floor, second by Supervisor Aegerter. Ms. Mooren provided information about the contracts. Ms. O'Connor provided more information regarding Safe Families for Children WI contract and responded to questions. The contracts were unanimously approved. Approved.

Rock County HSD March Employee Impact Recognition Award: Ms. Luster introduced and recognized Cori McCann. Ms. Luster read her nomination submitted by her coworker as follows: Cori is one of the hardest, most compassionate social workers that I know. She is given difficult cases because of her ability to connect with clients, build trust and work along side of them. I have six mutual clients with Cori. I understand how difficult the dynamics are between parents and multiple foster parents, but Cori is an amazing advocate for the children, foster parents, and the parents. It's a lot to juggle and I am sure at times, hard to maintain composure but Cori always is professional and caring. She develops trusting relationships with clients who have had a lot of trauma and negative experiences with the County. Her compassion comes through, and the clients are comforted by that. There is mutual respect shown for one another, that is what helps families move forward and they are then able to reunite with their children. Cori exemplifies the qualities that are needed to be an effective CPS social worker.

Review and Approval of Resolutions:

- A. **Amending the 2022 Human Services Department Budget to Accept Relative Caregiver Support Grant Funds** – Supervisor Podzilni moved the resolution to the floor, second by Supervisor Aegerter. Ms. O'Connor presented the resolution and explained that HSD has been awarded additional funding which will be used to start-up Relative Caregiver Support Groups. Ms. O'Connor responded to questions. The resolution was unanimously approved. Approved.
- B. **To Create .2 FTE Registered Nurse in Outpatient Behavioral Health Programs** – Supervisor Aegerter moved the resolution to the floor, second by Supervisor Podzilni. Mr. Winkler presented the resolution and explained that this .2 FTE position would be added to the .6 FTE position for a .8 FTE position making it more attractive to candidates. The resolution was unanimously approved. Approved.

Reports and Update:

- A. **Child Welfare Systems Change Update and Substitute Care Unit Report:** – Ms. Luster explained the Butler Institute has been working to finalize the members of the Steering Committee for the CPS assessment process. As soon as she receives more information, she will share it. She described the role of the Sub Care Unit in our CPS Program. Ms. Puppe, Ms. Avalos, Ms. Kramer and Ms. Stilen each introduced themselves and provided details of what they do each day. Ms. Stilen explained licensing and the shortage of homes for placements statewide. There are many challenges when finding placements, especially children with higher needs and mental health concerns. Another challenge is some parents who are willing to be foster parents cannot find childcare, so they decide not to become foster parents. Ms. Kramer explained the Family Find model when placing children, which means they look up all relatives who could possibly take children in. Ms. Avalos explained in detail the two tiers of Kinship Care which is either court ordered or volunteer.

Ms. Puppe explained that out-of-home placements are not always with a relative but can be placed in specific homes such as with a teacher for example. Working with out-of-home placements means trying to keep contact with birth parents, foster parents, courts, schools, and resources which can be very challenging. Ms. Puppe provided data points regarding Rock County out-of-home placements; total children in out-of-home placement, licensed foster homes by type of placement; number of Kinship Care court ordered and voluntary; and number of new licensed foster homes.

Committee Requests: None.

Next Meeting: April 13, 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 Williams with unanimous approval at 5:03 p.m.

Jodi Parson, Secretary

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