



ROCK COUNTY HUMAN SERVICES BOARD MEETING
Wednesday, April 13, 2022 – 4:30 P.M.

Call to Order: Chair Knudson called the hybrid meeting to order at 4:31 p.m. on Wednesday, April 13, 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; Sally Jean Weaver-Landers, Citizen Representative; Pam Bostwick, Supervisor; and Stephanie Aegerter, Supervisor attended in-person. Kathy Schulz, Supervisor; Shirley Williams, Supervisor; Ashley Hoffman, Citizen Representative attended virtually.

Committee Members Absent: Angelina Reyes, Citizen Representative.

Staff Present: Katherine Luster, Director; Tera O'Connor, Deputy Director; Greg Winkler, Deputy Director; Sara Mooren, Administrative Services Manager; Tana Adams, CPS Supervisor; Shelby Puppe, Subcare Supervisor; Cassie Baacke, CPS Supervisor; Amber Gregory, CPS; Shelby Wachtveitl, CPS; Kayla Tucholke, CPS; Allyson Brissette, Family Recovery Court; Kendra Schiffman, Analyst; Jillian Cline, Business Manager; Jordyn Miller, Communications Specialist; Kami Williams, CPS Lead Supervisor; Hannah Pogantsch, CPS; Stefanie Getchell, CPS; Heidi Gibbons, Behavioral Health; and Merebeth Rye, CPS Supervisor.

Others Present: Patrick Singer, Rock County I.T. Scott Froehlich, Janesville Gazette. Pamela Belanger. Pegg Kribs Cadd. Kelly Berg. Cheri Diehls. Zoom attendees with no last name given Jamie, Terri, Leslie, Tiffany, Kristen.

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 23, 2022: Citizen Representative Weaver-Landers moved the minutes to the floor, second by Supervisor Schulz. The minutes were unanimously approved. APPROVED.

Public Comment: Ms. Cadd read a letter from Pamela Belanger. The letter states concerns and questions regarding the makeup of the members on the committee formed by Butler Institutes. There should be more members who are not HSD staff and there should be more parents on the committee. She explained that the Board approved this independent assessment, but the membership seems to be weighted toward HSD with seven Human Services staff on it.

Ms. Berg read a letter from a foster parent who was unable to attend. The letter stated concerns regarding the independent assessment process. She stated that the definition of an independent assessment states no leadership of the group under the assessment should be included. She does not feel it is a fair and impartial assessment with HSD leadership in the group.

Communications and Announcements from Staff and Board Members: Chair Knudson thanked Supervisor Bostwick, Supervisor Williams and Supervisor Aegerter for their service on the Human Services Board. Ms. Luster reiterated Chair Knudson and expressed thanks to all three Board members.

Ms. Luster introduced Jordyn Miller the new Communications Specialist.

Ms. Luster announced April is Child Abuse Prevention Month and on April 26th an event focusing on families we serve will be held at the DWRC from 4pm to 6pm. Fun. Games. Food. Community partners.

Chair Knudson expressed condolences to the Public Works Department.

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

Review of Bills: Ms. Cline advised there was nothing out of the ordinary to report.

Resolutions and Committee Action:

- A. **Recognizing Human Services Administrative Professionals** – Citizen Representative Weaver-Landers moved the resolution to the floor, second by Supervisor Aegerter. Ms. Mooren presented the resolution and explained there are 60 HSD administrative professionals with numerous positions throughout the Department. They perform a diverse set of tasks and assisting every Rock County HS program area to ensure effective and efficient functioning of day-to-day operations. The resolution was unanimously approved. Approved.
- B. **Acceptance of Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) Family Drug Court Program Grant Funds and Creation of 2.0 FTE Human Services Professional and 1.0 FTE Psychiatric Technician Positions** – Citizen Representative Weaver-Landers moved the resolution to the floor, second by Supervisor Podzilni. Ms. O'Connor presented the resolution. The funds received from this grant will be used to expand the Family Recovery Court (FRC) Treatment Court program to enhance and improve the services offered to participants, increase capacity, and add additional services FRC is currently unable to provide. Ms. O'Connor responded to questions regarding voluntary services. The resolution was unanimously approved. Approved.
- C. **Review and Possible Revision of Policy for Rotating/Temporary Exhibit Space in the DWRC** – Ms. Luster advised she sent the revised policy to the HS Board members prior to the meeting. The policy was written before the move and references both the exhibit wall and the display case. It required a 60-day prior approval and a minimum of two HS Board meetings. Ms. Thompson has requested using the empty display case to highlight ADRC month. Ms. Luster revised the policy to make a distinction between the display case and the wall display, so that the Director would have the authority to approve displays in the display case if the display is connected to Human Services. Ms. Luster responded to questions about handling an overlap of multiple requests and about the digital displays on the televisions in the lobbies. Supervisor Aegerter moved to approve the amended policy

to the floor, second by Supervisor Podzilni. The policy with amendments was approved unanimously. Approved.

- D. **Request for Approval of ADRC Display in DWRC Display Case** – Ms. Thompson explained after the last item was approved, we would no longer need this item, but needed to have this item on the agenda in case it was not passed. She explained May is ADRC Recognition month. She would like to celebrate the month by highlighting the ADRC in the display case. Supervisor Bostwick moved the resolution, second by Supervisor Aegerter. The ADRC display was unanimously approved. Approved.

Reports and Update:

- A. **Child Welfare Systems Change Update: Workforce Update, use of Flex Funds, Family Recovery Court (FRC) Team Report:** – Ms. Luster provided updates regarding current vacancies, new hires, transfers, promotions, and resignations. The new salary study is in progress and a new HR Director has been hired. The hope is a focus on removing barriers and attracting new staff.

Ms. Luster advised she wanted to provide information regarding the use of flex funds to respond to a previous agenda item request from Supervisor Schulz. Funding is provided to help children stay safe and families to stay strong. Lack of supports can stress families. Funding is available to help families with basic needs such as car repairs, food, and paying for bills or housing. Helping families with basic needs can set them up for success in the future. We have ARPA funding and Rock-Solid Alia flex funding to use for this purpose. Recent items that have been purchased by flex funds include hotel stays, rent, food, clothing, gas, phone, and laundry expenses. Providing families with basic needs can allow them to focus on other things. This funding is for families we serve in Human Services through an approval process with their worker.

Ms. Baacke explained that FRC staff do a lot of collaborating with each other, with Therapists and other community partners. Data is being collected and measurable outcomes are being tracked.

Ms. Gregory advised FRC is a voluntary program. Many partners can be involved in these cases such as the court system, county administration, public offenders, Corporation Counsel, Guardian et Litem, Child Protective Services (CPS), Behavioral Health (BH), Professional Services Group (PSG), Foster Lane, and Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA). This program is for parents who have substance abuse issues with children in out-of-home placement and are working toward reunification with their children. She explained that FRC meets weekly prior to court and regularly receives updates from CPS, BH, and updates regarding probation and others as needed.

Ms. Wachtveitl presented the measurable outcomes for the FRC and provided data from August 2019 to March 2022. There were 63 parents/caregivers referred to FRC and 41 total parents/caregivers admitted to FRC in the first 2.6 years. She provided detailed information regarding ineligibility reasons of individuals referred and screened, discharge reasons of admitted FRC participants, FRC participants' median length of time in Out-of-Home care and FRC participants reunified with their children.

Ms. Brissette explained that screenings get connected to a therapist very quickly, especially if the client has high risk needs. They connect clients to meds, group therapy, housing, food, and any other basic supports as soon as possible. It is very important to connect clients who want treatment quickly and she explained in detail what intensive case management involves.

Ms. Luster played a video of a client who graduated the program this year and has full custody of her four children. She spoke of how the program saved her life and how grateful she was to have this opportunity.

Committee Requests: Ms. Luster advised she sent out emails today regarding information for follow up on the outstanding agenda items.

Next Meeting: April 27, 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 Bostwick with unanimous approval at 5:31 p.m.

Jodi Parson, Secretary

NOT OFFICIAL UNTIL APPROVED BY THE BOARD