



ROCK COUNTY HUMAN SERVICES BOARD MEETING
Wednesday, June 22, 2022 – 4:30 P.M.

Call to Order: Chair Knudson called the meeting to order at 4:30 p.m. on Wednesday, June 22, 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; Ron Woodman, Supervisor; Karla Herrmann, Supervisor; Kathy Schulz Supervisor (in at 4:35 p.m.); and Jim Farrell, Supervisor attended in-person. Sally Jean Weaver-Landers, Citizen Representative; and Ashley Hoffman, Citizen Representative attended virtually.

Committee Members Absent: Angelina Reyes, Citizen Representative.

Staff Present: Kate Luster, Director; Sara Mooren, Administrative Services Manager; Jordyn Miller, Communications Specialist; Cori Marsh, Aging Unit Supervisor; Jennifer Thompson, ADRC/APS/Aging Manager; Maria Delgado, ES Manager; Melissa Genz, ES Child Care Coordinator Supervisor.

Others Present: Genia Stevens, County Board Supervisor. Josh Smith, County Administrator.

Approval of Agenda: Supervisor Podzilni moved the agenda to the floor, second by Supervisor Woodman. Chair Knudson requested an amendment to remove agenda items #6 and #8C. The agenda with amendment was unanimously approved. APPROVED.

Approval of Minutes of Human Services Board Meeting on June 8, 2022: Citizen Representative Weaver-Landers moved the minutes to the floor, second by Supervisor Podzilni. The minutes were unanimously approved. APPROVED.

Public Comment: None.

Communications and Announcements from Staff and Board Members: Ms. Thompson explained that the tour of the Aging Unit transportation vehicle will be rescheduled due to the van not being available because of a flat tire.

Ms. Luster reminded that the HS Public Hearing will be held on July 13, 2022, at 6 p.m. in the Beckman Mill Conference room at the DWRC. She reminded the Board members the list of media, interested parties, and businesses that were notified was emailed previously to them. Ms. Miller will be posting the notification on the social media sites as well.

Ms. Luster advised the Joint Committee meeting will be held next Thursday on June 30th, at 6:00 p.m., DWRC Boardroom. This is the HSD pre-budget presentation. She invited all Board members to attend but noted she will present the same information at a future HS Board meeting.

Approval of Contracts and Transfers: Supervisor Herrmann moved one contract to the floor, second by Supervisor Schulz. Ms. Mooren provided details and responded to questions regarding the contract. The contract was unanimously approved. Approved.

Reports and Updates:

- A. Report on Human Services Department Role Regarding Child Care:** County Board Supervisor Stevens provided an overview regarding the huge need for childcare for all families. Families need help with childcare so they can work, and there may be more foster families if foster parents could find childcare. There are not enough childcare providers to fill the need. She will be presenting a resolution soon to request using ARPA small business funding that is not currently being utilized for childcare providers.

Ms. Delgado presented a power point explaining Rock County HSD childcare responsibilities. The Wisconsin Department of Children and Families (DCF) contracts with Rock County HSD for two key functions: 1. Administration of Wisconsin Shares Child Care subsidy program – via the Economic Support Division; 2. Child Care Provider certification – via contract with Community Coordinated Child Care (4-C). She provided detailed information explaining Wisconsin Shares subsidizes childcare costs for low-income parents or persons taking the place of parents while they are at work, going to school or engaged in job training for children up to the age of 13 or 19 if special needs. She explained in detail the ES staff responsibilities regarding eligibility determination. She advised the Wisconsin Shares Child Care subsidy does not cover the full cost of childcare in most cases, and there is a parent share that parents are responsible to pay. The ES Division monitors a contract with 4-C to perform childcare certification functions of which she provided details.

Ms. Genz explained that the childcare census tract shows a childcare desert in Rock County. Rock County is not unique as childcare deserts are found statewide. There are areas with more than 50 children under age 5 that contain either no childcare providers or few options. There are three times as many children as licensed childcare slots. The DCF has implemented several funding opportunities to prioritize Child Care Providers and their goals are to include investing in worker training, increasing equity and eliminating disparities in early childhood education, expanding existing childcare centers, and covering the cost of COVID related sick leave.

Ms. Luster responded to questions regarding childcare funding. Ms. Delgado responded to questions regarding recovery of overpayments. County Supervisor Stevens added more information regarding Dream Up which is specific to childcare but will take longer to initiate. The resolution she will be proposing is to use the small business funds to get something started now, then in three years or when Project Growth - Dream Up is established, transition to that funding. Ms. Luster advised Wisconsin Early Childhood Association (WECA) are the subject experts, they would be the primary resource and develop the program. The HSD is not responsible for childcare but does look at how to remove barriers and get people connected to childcare. Discussion regarding second shift childcare, more employers offering childcare, and more training took place. WECA is looking at all those items.

- B. Director's Report: HSD Use of Vouchers, including Farmer's Market Vouchers:** Ms. Luster explained this item was follow up from Supervisor Farrell's question from last meeting. She explained that vouchers are used in divisions that support clients for various

needs such as temporary housing, hotel stays, and pharmacy items. Vouchers are useful when the worker is in the community, they can provide a voucher to cover the expense and the vendor is paid later. The payments are all on the bill report that is an agenda item on the HSD Board monthly.

Ms. Thompson and Ms. Marsh presented information regarding the Farmer's Market vouchers. The USDA regulates the Farmer's Market voucher program, and the amount can not be increased. The Human Services Department cannot increase the amount. Families are allowed \$25 per household per season. They explained that not all vendors except vouchers, but those who do get reimbursed by the state. Produce must be grown within 50 miles of Wisconsin. The next distribution day is set for July 5, 2022, at the DWRC from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. A flyer of the events was emailed to the HS Board members and widely distributed.

Committee Requests: Supervisor Schulz requested an agenda item regarding an update from Family Services pertaining to the housing resources development.

Next Meeting: Wednesday, **July 13, 2022**, at 4:30 p.m. – will be a hybrid meeting via zoom and in-person at the DWRC, in the **Beckman Mill** Conference room, 1717 Center Avenue, Janesville, WI. ****The Human Services Public Hearing - 2023 Budget will follow at 6:00 p.m.****

Adjournment: Supervisor Woodman motioned to adjourn, second by Supervisor Herrmann with unanimous approval at 5:36 p.m.

Jodi Parson, Secretary

NOT OFFICIAL UNTIL APPROVED BY THE BOARD