

ROCK COUNTY HUMAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT
PUBLIC HEARING MINUTES
Wednesday, July 13, 2022 - 6:00 p.m.

Call to Order: Chair Knudson called the Public Hearing to order at 6:06 p.m. on July 13, 2022.

Present: Board members present: Chair Brian Knudson, Supervisor; Sally Jean Weaver-Landers, Citizen Representative; Kathy Schulz, Supervisor; Karla Herrmann, Supervisor; Angelina Reyes, Citizen Representative; Jim Farrell, Supervisor; Ron Woodman, Supervisor; and J. Russell Podzilni, Supervisor.

Staff present: Kate Luster, Director; Tera O'Connor, Deputy Director; Greg Winkler, Deputy Director; Sara Mooren, Administrative Services Division Manager; LaNaTasha Bell, Equity and Engagement Manager; Jordyn Miller, Communication Specialist; Jennifer Thompson, ADRC/Aging/Adult Protective Services Division Manager; Maria Delgado, Economic Support Division Manager; Kofi Abaidoo, Coordinator of Quality Improvement; Jillian Cline, Business Services Manager; Jenna Singer, Comprehensive Community Services (CCS) Manager; Julie Butz, Children's Long Term Support (CLTS) Manager; Bette Trimble, Crisis Intervention Program Manager; Ryan Trautsch, Youth Justice and Youth Services Center Manager; and Tina Day, CCS Service Facilitator.

Denise Peters-Kauihou, United Way. Lonnie Brigham, Jr., Brigham Impact Group. John Pfeiderer, Family Services. Rachel Houseman, Community member. Steve Pfingsten, Harpers Place. Patrick Singer, Rock County I.T.

Chair Knudson welcomed everyone to the annual Public Hearing for the Rock County Human Services Department 2023 Budget. Each HSD Board member introduced themselves. All HSD Managers introduced themselves.

Chair Knudson called for Speakers:

Speaker #1 – Lonnie Brigham, Jr. – Brigham Impact Group (BIG) – Mr. Brigham, Jr. the Director for BIG explained that BIG provides respite care for CLTS and CPS, 95% CLTS. He is interested in providing over night respite services. Mercy Options used to provide overnight respite care for CLTS, but they no longer do this. He has had an overwhelming number of requests for over night respite. Many caregivers are looking for this service. He would handle overnight respite the same way he handles the daytime respite as a two-pillar approach. Peer to peer with youth mentors close in age and all staff with the understating of trauma. The staff connect with families on those two levels. He feels BIG respite services differ from other providers because BIG is child centered and the children are the priority.

Speaker #2 – John Pfeiderer, Family Services – Mr. Pfeiderer has been with Family Services for 23 years. Family Services has been involved with children since the 1930s, starting with helping families of the depression and World Wars. Mr. Pfeiderer emphasized the difficult

job that CPS staff have, and the pressure and stress associated with their work. He commented that CPS is a necessary resource but not sufficient to intervene to address family challenges and break the cycle of intergenerational trauma. Family Services has launched a Family Resilience project in Beloit to provide support to families to prevent crises and strengthen their ability to cope and resolve stressors. A key element of this has been the ability to provide concrete supports in times of need, for example help with car repairs. Another essential area is early childhood development. Family Services partnered with the County to develop a plan to serve families at risk of CPS involvement and there is a contract in place. Mr. Pfleiderer hopes that the board will continue to support and expand this program and similar upstream efforts that help to prevent entry or reentry into CPS.

Chair Knudson thanked everyone for coming. There were no further requests to speak.

Adjourn: The meeting adjourned at 6:40 p.m.

Jodi Parson, Administrative Secretary

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