



**ROCK COUNTY HUMAN SERVICES
BOARD MEETING
Wednesday, October 12, 2022 – 4:30 P.M.**



Call to Order: Chair Knudson called the meeting to order at 4:32 p.m. on Wednesday, October 12, 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; Kathy Schulz, Supervisor; Karla Herrmann, Supervisor; and Jim Farrell, Supervisor attended in-person. Sally Jean Weaver-Landers, Citizen Representative attended virtually.

Committee Members Absent: Ashley Hoffman, Citizen Representative. Angelina Reyes, Citizen Representative.

Staff Present: Kate Luster, Director; Greg Winkler, Deputy Director; Tera O'Connor, Deputy Director (virtual), Jillian Cline, Business Manager; Jordyn Miller, Communications Specialist; Bette Trimble, Behavioral Health; Brenda Endthoff, Behavioral Health; and Merebeth Rye, CPS Supervisor (virtual).

Others Present: Josh Smith, County Administrator. Mary Mawhinney, County Board Supervisor (virtual). Mike Zoril, County Board Supervisor. Genia Stevens, County Board Supervisor. Marc Perry, Community Action. Tracy Pierner, Blackhawk Tech. Brittaney Prince. Sheila Williams. Becky Brown (virtual). Kelly Matthews, WECA (virtual). Catherine Hansen, WECA (virtual). Sheryl Hengeueld (virtual). Amelia Franck Meyer, Alia.

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

Roll Call * see above.

Approval of Minutes of Human Services Board Meeting on September 28, 2022: Supervisor Podzilni moved the minutes to the floor, second by Supervisor Woodman. The minutes were unanimously approved. APPROVED.

Public Comment:

Sheila Williams – Spoke regarding concerns for item #8 to include: Funds going to WECA a state agency and they already has ARPA funds; Expressed concern that Rock County would not have control of the funds; Feels survey that was conducted was not reliable; Seems to service more in Beloit not all of Rock County.

County Board Supervisor Zoril – Asked the Human Services Board to consider tabling agenda item #8A. He feels the resolution has good intent, but a month ago he introduced a resolution to form a committee to research this more and give recommendations. He would like the resolutions to come before the Board in the order submitted. His resolution to create a committee first, then this resolution after.

Ms. Parson read letters from:

- Drew Pennington, AICP, President/CEO Greater Beloit Economic Development Corporation and Seth Frisbee & Kevin Day Co-Chairs Quality of Life Committee.
- Cameron Rebarchek, Boys & Girls Club of Janesville
- Dan Cunningham, Forward Janesville, Inc.
- Rebecca Veium, Boys & Girls Club of Janesville, Inc.
- April Whitley, County Board Supervisor.

Communications and Announcements from Staff and Board Members: Ms. Luster advised the results from the Butler Institute will be shared next Thursday, November 20th virtually starting 1:30 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. We will send out the link. We will also provide a report at an upcoming HS Board meeting.

Approval of Contracts: Supervisor Herrmann moved one contract to the floor, second by Supervisor Schulz. Mr. Winkler explained that the contract is to pass funds through to Healthnet. Healthnet is starting a substance abuse treatment program for women, and they will use the grant funding for startup costs and then they will sustain the program. Mr. Winkler responded to questions. The contract was unanimously approved. Approved.

Review of Bills Paid: Ms. Cline advised there was nothing out of the ordinary to report. Ms. Luster responded to questions regarding the PSG, Inc. entry, and the IM Consortium entry.

Review and Approval of Resolutions:

- A. Reallocation of Small Business Program American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Funds to Child Care Business Program and Amending the 2022 Budget – Citizen Representative Weaver-Landers moved the resolution to the floor, second by Supervisor Schulz. Chair Knudson moved to make a change and explained there was a typographical error under source of funds and the total amount for WECA should be \$2.2 million, second by Supervisor Schulz. This amendment to the resolution was unanimously approved. Approved.

County Board Supervisor Stevens provided background on this resolution and the need for childcare in Rock County. Funds in the small business program were not being utilized. She explained that there have been multiple meetings, surveys and studies done and Wisconsin Early Childhood Association (WECA) has provided handouts on how the funds will be utilized. Also, providing matching funds to Blackhawk Technical College (BTC) and Community Action, Inc. to expand childcare services to provide a centrally located childcare option. She read more specific details which were on the executive summary and resolution. She highlighted that Rock County will partner with BTC, Community Action and WECA to increase the number of childcare openings in Rock County. WECA is a 50-year-old organization that has served the needs of childcare. WECA has the expertise, data, and resources needed to assist on how the funds should best be utilized.

Discussion between Board members included the desire for some board members to have more time to digest the information; concern of WECA being a state entity and making sure the funding stays in Rock County; Ms. Matthews clarified there are mechanisms within WECA to make sure funding stays in Rock County. She advised there is a draft for a five-year sustainability plan. It was discussed that this resolution will need to be considered by the full County Board after this committee.

Supervisor Woodman moved to table the resolution, second by Supervisor Herrmann. Discussion to table or not to table the resolution took place. Motion to table the resolution failed with the following vote: Supervisors Herrmann, Woodman, and Podzilni voted to table. Supervisors Knudson, Farrell, and Schulz and Citizen Representative Weaver-Landers voted not to table. Citizen Representative Hoffman and Reyes were absent. Vote: 3 yes – 4 no – 2 absent. Motion to table failed.

The resolution was approved as follows: Supervisors Herrmann, Woodman, and Podzilni voted no. Supervisors Knudson, Farrell, and Schulz and Citizen Representative Weaver-Landers voted yes. Citizen Representative Hoffman and Reyes were absent. Vote: 3 no – 4 yes – 2 absent. Resolution Approved.

Reports and Updates:

A. Report on Child Welfare System Change – Ms. Luster introduced Dr. Amelia Franck Meyer. Ms. Luster highlighted Dr. Franck Meyer’s outstanding accomplishments and provided background on how they met. Dr. Franck Meyer is the founder and CEO of Alia. Rock County Human Services has been working with Alia for approximately four years mostly in CPS to work on child welfare systems change and workforce wellbeing, leadership, and coaching. Dr. Franck Meyer advised that Alia was given an opportunity to receive grant funds to work with a county to decrease racial disparity in the child welfare system. Alia chose partnering with Rock County HSD for a Co-design Equity Project. And she noted the strengths of Rock County CPS and its leadership. This project works with the community and parents, along with Human Services staff to be more aligned to ensure children can safely stay in the home whenever possible. Keeping families together is the key. She provided data and explained more detail regarding the 2018 Family First Prevention Services Act and the goals of the Rock County Equity Project. Dr. Franck Meyer responded to questions.

B. 2023 HSD Budget - Ms. Luster distributed a handout regarding the Analyst positions and responded to questions. This was in response to Supervisor Farrell’s request previously.

Committee Requests: Supervisor Herrmann requested an agenda item for the next HS Board meeting to discuss and understand the childcare resolution better.

Supervisor Podzilni asked Chair Knudson to provide information about the December 3rd children’s Christmas event he is involved in.

Next Meeting: Wednesday, **October 26, 2022**, at 4:30 p.m. – will be a hybrid meeting via zoom and in-person at the DWRC, in the **Boardroom**, 1717 Center Avenue, Janesville, WI.

Adjournment: Supervisor Schulz motioned to adjourn, second by Supervisor Herrmann with unanimous approval at 6:18 p.m.

Jodi Parson, Secretary

NOT OFFICIAL UNTIL APPROVED BY THE BOARD