



ROCK COUNTY HUMAN SERVICES BOARD MEETING
Wednesday, August 24, 2022 – 4:30 P.M.

Call to Order: Vice Chair Weaver-Landers called the meeting to order at 4:30 p.m. on Wednesday, August 24, 2022, in the Boardroom, at the Dr. Daniel Hale Williams Rock County Resource Center, Janesville, WI.

Committee Members Present: Sally Jean Weaver-Landers, Citizen Representative; Russell Podzilni, Supervisor; Ron Woodman, Supervisor; Kathy Schulz, Supervisor; Karla Herrmann, Supervisor; and Jim Farrell, Supervisor attended in person.

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

Staff Present: Kate Luster, Director; Greg Winkler, Deputy Director. Jordyn Miller, Communication Specialist; Terrell Hanson, YSC Assistant Operations Manager; Jackie Revels, Homelessness Prevention Coordinator; Becky Huber, Coordinator of Prevention and Community Engagement; and Merebeth Rye, CPS Supervisor.

Others Present: Alexis Camacho-Stedman; Aaron Stroede; and Stacia Conneely, Legal Action. Jason Heidenreich.

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

Approval of Minutes of Human Services Board Meeting on August 10, 2022: Supervisor Podzilni moved the minutes to the floor, second by Supervisor Woodman. The minutes were unanimously approved. APPROVED.

Public Comment: None.

Communications and Announcements from Staff and Board Members: Supervisor Schulz advised that foreclosure properties in Rock County will be open for bid on October 18th.

Approval of Contracts: Supervisor Herrmann moved one contract to the floor, second by Supervisor Schulz. Mr. Winkler provided details regarding the contract and funding. The contract was unanimously approved. Approved.

Review and Approval of Resolutions: Supervisor Woodman moved the resolution to the floor, second by Supervisor Herrmann. Mr. Hanson presented the resolution. Ms. Gerber was not in attendance. Ms. Gerber has served the citizens of Rock County over 17 years as a dedicated and valued employee of Rock County. Her career began in 2004 working with juveniles at the Rock County Youth Services Center (YSC) formerly known as the Juvenile Detention Center, she remained there until her resignation. She served many years as a Youth Specialist, Field Training

Officer, Art Programmer and Float Lead Youth Specialist. As Art Programmer she facilitated many art projects with the youth over the years, which provided a positive outlet and creative expression for youth. This brought out untapped artistic potential in some youth that may never have been discovered. Youth art projects decorated the YSC and created a festive holiday feel at the YSC during holiday times. Ms. Gerber was very passionate about being an Art Programmer and she has had a profound impact on many of the youth in the art program at the YSC. The resolution was unanimously approved. Approved.

Reports and Updates:

- A. Legal Action Report** - Ms. Conneely advised Legal Action of Wisconsin, for more than 50 years, has been fighting to remove barriers to justice through civil legal aid and systemic change. Civil legal problems threaten the most basic human needs, like food, housing, and safety. Mr. Stroede advised that even housing with safety concerns does not justify withholding all the rent payment, but possibly a portion of the payment. He stated if a renter withholds all the rent payment the landlord has grounds to evict. If a tenant gets help from Legal Action, they can try to work with both the tenant and landlord to help prevent homelessness. He provided more details with examples. Ms. Camacho-Stedman who leads the outreach and education advised she is out in the community. She provides information regarding how to avoid eviction, knowing tenant rights, and can help connect individuals to Legal Action services. She provided the different dates and items she will be at the libraries, Echo, and other locations. Also, she provided the intake line number and walk-in information. Ms. Conneely, Mr. Stroede, and Ms. Camacho-Stedman responded to questions.
- B. 2023 HSD Budget** - Ms. Luster advised there are a lot of moving parts in the HS budget. Even after submitting the budget something can change. For example, she received a memo today from DCF regarding Targeted Safety Services funds that HS will receive. She is not sure how this funding will affect the budget exactly yet, but it will be integrated, and she will keep the Board members updated. She advised the Board members to call her with any questions. She responded to questions regarding the projected foster home budget and current trending. Ms. Luster explained that the Targeted Safety Services funding is Federal funding and is distributed to States based on objective data.

Discussion and Possible Action Regarding ARPA Matching Grant Fund for Homelessness

Prevention: Ms. Luster introduced Ms. Revels and Ms. Huber. She explained that back in March the Board approved \$3 million dollars of ARPA funds, as matching funds, to take steps to address homelessness in Rock County. She explained the different match for large and small municipalities. Ms. Revels was hired by HSD to administer, along with Ms. Huber, and develop a structure for the funding. They are asking for feedback and formal endorsement from the Board to proceed. Ms. Revels reviewed the cover sheet, application for funds, and the ARPA Funds Rubric. She advised that there would be a formal review process of applications by a review panel. Ms. Luster added that they want to be flexible and not over manage but will be overseeing and have expectations. She advised there will be a contract and monitoring. Ms. Revels responded to questions and concerns regarding the money does go where the applicants say it will. Ms. Revel provided more detail regarding who would be on the review panel. Supervisor Podzilni moved to support and endorse moving forward, second by Supervisor Schulz. The motion to support and endorse moving forward was unanimously approved. Approved.

Committee Requests: None.

Next Meeting: Wednesday, **September 14, 2022**, at 4:30 p.m. – TBD - may be held at Beloit Eclipse Center in the HS office in the Conference room - in person only.

Adjournment: Supervisor Herrmann motioned to adjourn, second by Supervisor Woodman with unanimous approval at 5:58 p.m.

Jodi Parson, Secretary

NOT OFFICIAL UNTIL APPROVED BY THE BOARD