



**ROCK COUNTY HUMAN SERVICES
BOARD MEETING
Wednesday, October 26, 2022 – 4:30 P.M.**



Call to Order: Chair Knudson called the meeting to order at 4:30 p.m. on Wednesday, October 26, 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; Sally Jean Weaver-Landers, Citizen Representative; and Jim Farrell, Supervisor attended in-person. Ashley Hoffman, Citizen Representative attended virtually.

Committee Members Absent: Angelina Reyes, Citizen Representative.

Staff Present: Kate Luster, Director; Tera O'Connor, Deputy Director; Sara Mooren, Administrative Services Manager; Jordyn Miller, Communication Specialist; Stacy Piccione, Youth Justice Specialist; Shelby Puppe, CPS Supervisor (virtual); Jeremy Brown, Youth Justice Supervisor (virtual); Kami Williams, CPS Program Manager; and Merebeth Rye, CPS Supervisor (virtual).

Others Present: Josh Smith, County Administrator. Richard Bostwick, County Board Chair. Brittney Prince. Genia Stevens, County Board Supervisor. Mike Zoril, County Board Supervisor. Marc Perry, Community Action. Tracy Pierner, Blackhawk Tech. Steve Pfingsten, Harpers Place. R. Escalera. Deb Lalor, LWV.

Approval of Agenda: Citizen Representative Weaver-Landers moved the agenda to the floor, second by Supervisor Herrmann. The agenda was unanimously approved. Approved.

Approval of Minutes of Human Services Board Meeting on October 12, 2022: Citizen Representative Weaver-Landers moved the minutes to the floor, second by Supervisor Schulz. The minutes were unanimously approved. Approved.

Public Comment: County Board Supervisor Stevens stated the resolution on the agenda seeks to create an Ad Hoc Committee to study and give recommendations regarding the use of the ARPA funding to be used for childcare in Rock County. She advised that studies have already been conducted. She has been working with the community agencies, business owners, and childcare providers since January of this year regarding the childcare funding. Many meetings and studies have been conducted to draft the resolution that passed the HS Board at a previous meeting. When she first presented the resolution, she was told she needed more information, which she obtained and has distributed to the Board members. She asked the Board to consider tabling the Creating an Ad Hoc Child Care Committee resolution until after the resolution she prepared goes to the County Board.

Communications and Announcements from Staff and Board Members: Ms. Luster advised the Butler Report has been shared with the HS Board members. There will be an agenda item in the future regarding what was learned and the strategy to integrate recommendations.

Approval of Contracts and Transfers: None.

Rock County HSD October Employee Impact Recognition Award: Ms. Luster introduced Stacy Piccione, Youth Justice, the recipient of the HSD October Employee Impact Award. Stacy has been working with a young man for a few years who has been placed in foster homes and treatment homes/programs. He recently aged out of care when he graduated from high school. This client has very little supports. Stacy has done an excellent job of setting him up for success in adulthood. She has coordinated many appointments and helped him in receiving services needed. Stacy is helping him navigate the many areas of adulthood as he learns to live independently. She has gone above and beyond in helping this client transition. She is an amazing social worker who is always looking out for the best interests of the youth we serve.

Review and Approval of Resolutions:

- A. **Authorizing Acceptance of Rock County Equity Project Grant Funds and Amending the 2022 Budget** – Citizen Representative Weaver-Landers moved the resolution to the floor, second by Supervisor Herrmann. Ms. O'Connor presented the resolution. She explained Alia will award \$85,000 of grant funding to the Rock County HSD to provide real-time support for families to prevent out-of-home placement and preserve family connections. She responded to questions regarding the type of requests to use the funds and the approval process of the requests. The resolution was unanimously approved. Approved.
- B. **Creating an Ad Hoc Child Care Committee** – Supervisor Woodman moved the resolution to the floor, second by Supervisor Herrmann. Supervisor Zoril presented the resolution and explained that this resolution will allow a committee to be created to study childcare issues and make recommendations to the County Board based on the results. Discussion regarding families who are struggling with childcare and use providers who do not require a license; simple majority versus 2/3 of the votes; reimbursement ~~for~~ [for](#) of the ad hoc committee members; timeframe of the study; passing both - this resolution and the one already passed; and addressing concerns and suggesting modification to the resolution already passed.

Supervisor Woodman called the question which failed as follows: Supervisors Herrmann, Woodman voted yes. Supervisors Knudson, Podzilni, Farrell, Schulz and Citizen Representative Weaver-Landers and Hoffman voted no. Citizen Representative Reyes was absent. Vote: Yes – 2, No – 6, Absent – 1. Calling the question failed.

Open discussion continued – concerns are that the other resolution is not addressing childcare needs in all the county and countered concerns are the studies have shown Beloit has the largest childcare desert and the need to keep moving forward is important.

The resolution to create the Ad Hoc Committee failed as follows: Supervisors Herrmann, Woodman, and Citizen Representative Hoffman voted yes. Supervisors Knudson, Farrell, Podzilni, and Schulz and Citizen Representative Weaver-Landers voted no. Citizen Representative Reyes was absent. Vote: No – 3, Yes – 4, Absent – 1. Resolution failed.

Review, Discussion and Possible Action:

- A. **Review of 2023 Recommended Budget** - Ms. Luster invited County Administrator Smith to respond to questions if needed. She advised there were two positions, the Safety and Support Coordinator and the Crisis Peer Specialist that were not included in the County Administrator's recommended HSD budget. She explained the artwork for DWRC was not included, and there are current funds that can be used for a portion of what is needed. County Administrator Smith explained he understands the importance of the positions requested, but

he is trying to keep funds available for the salary study recommendations. Discussion regarding adding the Peer Specialist position back in included why the position was requested in the first place and potential sources of funds for the position where in the budget funds could be taken from to fund this position.

Supervisor Herrmann moved to add the Peer Support Specialist back into the HSD Budget, second by Supervisor Schulz. More discussion regarding which budget line item the funds should be taken from to fund the position. Ms. Luster explained Human Services is taking more of a risk in this area already, but the line item that would make sense to fund the position would be the State Institutes budget. She cautioned that this position could possibly reduce hospital stays but the risk of going over budget increases. Questions were asked about the cost-of-living adjustment (COLA) across the Department, but that is uncertain at this time, as the salary study recommendations are not known yet. County Administrator Smith provided an example of another Committee that did add a position back in the budget using their own funding.

Supervisor Herrmann restated the motion to amend the budget to add the Peer Support Specialist back into the HS 2023 budget and fund it with State Institutes out-of-home line item, second by Supervisor Schulz.

Supervisor Farrell started discussion regarding the Safety & Support Coordinator position being added back in, but after discussion regarding the funding source he withdrew the motion.

Citizen Representative Weaver-Landers moved the amended 2023 HS budget to the floor, second by Supervisor Woodman. The 2023 Human Services Department budget was unanimously approved. Approved.

Reports and Update: None

Committee Requests: Discussion regarding the upcoming HS Board meetings included changing the location for the next meeting on November 9, 2022, to the Rock County Courthouse due to the Rock County Public Hearing. Also, moving the second meeting in November to Monday, November 28, 2022, due to Thanksgiving holiday. The decision to have one meeting in December, held on December 14, 2022, no second meeting was also made.

Next Meeting: Wednesday, **November 9, 2022**, at 4:30 p.m. – will be a hybrid meeting via zoom and in-person at the Rock County Courthouse, in rooms N1-N2 on 5th floor, 51 S. Main St., Janesville, WI.

Adjournment: Supervisor Knudson motioned to adjourn, second by Supervisor Herrmann with unanimous approval at 6:19 p.m.

Jodi Parson, Secretary

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