



ROCK COUNTY HUMAN SERVICES BOARD MEETING
Wednesday, December 22, 2021 – 4:30 P.M.

Call to Order: Chair Knudson called the hybrid meeting to order at 4:33 p.m. on Wednesday, December 22, 2021, in the Boardroom, at the Dr. Daniel Hale Williams Rock County Resource Center, Janesville, WI.

Committee Members Present: Brian Knudson, Supervisor; Pam Bostwick, Supervisor; Kathy Schulz, Supervisor; Russell Podzilni, Supervisor attended in-person. Shirley Williams, Supervisor; Stephanie Aegerter, Supervisor; Sally Jean Weaver-Landers, Supervisor and Angelina Reyes, Citizen Representative attended virtually.

Committee Members Absent: Ashley Hoffman, Citizen Representative.

Staff Present: Katherine Luster, Director; Greg Winkler, Deputy Director; Sara Mooren, Administrative Services Manager.

Others Present: Josh Smith, County Administrator. Kelly Berg.

Approval of Agenda: Supervisor Podzilni moved the agenda to the floor, seconded by Supervisor Bostwick. Supervisor Knudson asked to remove item number 7. The agenda with change was unanimously approved. APPROVED.

Approval of Minutes of Human Services Board Meeting on December 8, 2021: Supervisor Bostwick moved the minutes to the floor, seconded by Supervisor Schulz. The minutes were unanimously approved. APPROVED.

Public Comment: Kelly Berg asked questions regarding the suspension of the Foster Care Advisory Committee (FCAC). She asked if recordings of the HSD Board meetings are posted, and they are not.

Communications and Announcements from Staff and Board Members: Ms. Luster announced Mark Stevens, HSD Business Manager has resigned as of January 8, 2022, to start a position closer to home. She highlighted how much he is appreciated for all he has done.

Approval of Contracts and Transfers: Supervisor Podzilni moved the fifty-three contracts to the floor, seconded by Citizen Representative Reyes. Ms. Mooren provided information about the contracts highlighting the United Cerebral Palsy (UCP) of Dane County, Guardian Friends, and Alia entries. The contracts were unanimously approved. Approved.

Reports and Update:

- **Report on Rapid Response Initiative** – Mr. Winkler explained there is a new Rapid Response team who will outreach and engage with people who have recently survived an opiate overdose. EMT personnel and other staff will go back to meet with individuals as a follow up after an ambulance call to provide support to the individual.

They will provide harm reduction to keep the individual safe and help to connect with recovery services. The main objectives are to engage, create relationships, and provide access to resources to help people stay alive. The partnership consists of the Fire Department, Wishope and HSD. HSD will provide funding oversight. This initiative started because the State reached out to Rock County to provide funding for this. Milwaukee and Sauk Counties have started this initiative already and we are learning from them. Mr. Winkler responded to questions.

- **Update on Partnership with Community Health System (BACHC)** – Ms. Luster explained in 2017 HSD entered in a partnership with BACHC. BACHC needed assistance in the Behavioral Health area to reopen. HSD shifted staff to BACHC to increase access in the Beloit community. Mr. Winkler explained BACHC needs HSD less and less and our administrative partnership is no longer needed. He explained the transition plan which involves each prescriber looking at every client individually.
- **Child Welfare Systems Change Update** – Ms. Luster advised she emailed three attachments to the Board members prior to the meeting which included; Rock Solid Community Equity Project, Workforce Wellbeing Project 2021 Year End Summary, and the CPS Monthly Newsletter. Ms. Luster advised that the three-year Rock Solid Community Equity Project is launching. HSD is partnering with Alia and the Community Cultivator to keep families safe together. This Alia grant project is focused on reducing both racial disparities and overall separations of children from their families in Rock County. There is concrete evidence that supports helping families to meet basic needs is a proven strategy to benefit families.

Ms. Luster reviewed the Workforce Wellbeing Project 2021 and the trajectory across the past year. This relates to the Alia contract for wellbeing support and leadership coaching for CPS staff. Ms. Luster explained that the third attachment, the CPS Newsletter, was a means for improving communication and cohesion within CPS. The monthly newsletter started a few months ago and the December edition was attached.

Ms. Luster asked the HSD Board members for feedback on what they would like regarding the third-party assessment. She suggested a regular structured way of reporting to the Board and keeping an item on the agenda for every HSD Board meeting. The first meeting of the month CPS data points could be reported, such as vacancies, new hires, caseloads, workforce challenges, and benchmark updates. The second meeting of the month CPS program reports could be provided from supervisors in Foster Care, Initial Assessment, and Ongoing. Ms. Luster and Chair Knudson responded to questions regarding reports from other areas of Human Services which they want to provide to the Board as well.

- **Report on Community Interest in Transitional Housing Initiative** – Ms. Luster advised she has been approached as a stakeholder to engage in an effort that would establish transitional housing for small families with elementary age children in Rock County. She explained she is providing support to connect with the State and the group is looking at fundraising. Discussion took place regarding the need of housing for more than 30 days and to look at what has occurred in the prior years in Beloit which was government funded instead of trying to start from scratch. There is a housing crisis and we need to look at the funding that is available.

Committee Requests:

- **Requests for Future Agenda Items or Information:** Supervisor Bostwick requested receiving the copies of contracts on Mondays instead of later because she has computer issues. Supervisor Williams commented that she wants to understand follow up on the issues. She would like more clarity on all the divisions to focus on what we are trying to accomplish. An organizational chart will be emailed to the Board members.

Next Meeting: **January 12, 2022** at 4:30 p.m. – will be a hybrid meeting via zoom and in-person at the DWRC, Boardroom, 1717 Center Avenue, Janesville, WI.

Adjournment: Supervisor Podzilni motioned to adjourn, seconded by Supervisor Schulz with unanimous approval at 5:49 p.m.

Jodi Parson, Secretary

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