



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

Call to Order: Chair Knudson called the hybrid meeting to order at 4:30 p.m. on Wednesday, January 26, 2022, in the Boardroom, at the Dr. Daniel Hale Williams Rock County Resource Center, Janesville, WI.

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

Committee Members Absent: Angelina Reyes, Citizen Representative. Pam Bostwick, Supervisor.

Staff Present: Katherine Luster, Director; Tera O'Connor, Deputy Director; Greg Winkler, Deputy Director; Sara Mooren, Administrative Services Manager; Jennifer Thompson, ADRC/APS/Aging Division Manager; Tiffany Meredith, Project Director; Kelly Frei, CPS Supervisor; Stefanie Getchell, CPS Trainer; Merebeth Rye, CPS Supervisor; Jamie Proctor, CPS Supervisor; Tana Adams, CPS worker; Ryan Trautsch, YJ Program Manager; Shelby Puppe, CPS Supervisor; Nichole Amettis, Behavioral Health (BH) Nursing Supervisor; Kendra Schiffman, Analyst; Lanatasha Bell, Equity Manager; and Jennifer Varela, CPS worker.

Others Present: Josh Smith, County Administrator. Rich Bostwick, County Board Chair. Erick Williams, Derrick's House. Terri Carlson, County Risk Manager. Pam Belanger. Kelly Berg. Peg Cadd.

Approval of Agenda: Supervisor Podzilni moved the agenda to the floor, seconded by Citizen Representative Hoffman. Supervisor Podzilni requested an amendment to move agenda item #9 to after #7, seconded by Supervisor Schulz. The agenda with amendment was unanimously approved. APPROVED.

Approval of Minutes of Human Services Board Meeting on January 12, 2022: Supervisor Schulz moved the minutes to the floor, seconded by Citizen Representative Hoffman. Citizen Representative Weaver-Landers requested changing Supervisor to Citizen Representative after her name under Committee Members present. The minutes with the change were unanimously approved. APPROVED.

Public Comment: Ms. Cadd spoke regarding the proposal to contract with the Butler Institute for Families to conduct the Child Welfare Systems Assessment. She expressed concerns regarding the case review process involving a Rock County worker. She had concerns about how the stakeholder committee would pick members, and how staff input will be kept confidential so staff will speak freely.

Communications and Announcements from Staff and Board Members: Supervisor Schulz announced the services from Legal Action for tenants will be coming soon.

Approval of Contracts and Transfers: Supervisor Williams moved the forty-seven contracts to the floor, seconded by Supervisor Schulz. Ms. Mooren provided information about the contracts and responded to questions. The contracts were unanimously approved. Approved.

January HSD Employee Impact Recipient Recognition: Ms. Luster introduced Nichole Amettis, BH Nursing Supervisor, as the January HSD Employee Impact Recipient. She explained that this position was created a few years ago as there was a need for leadership. HSD is grateful to have her in this role. Ms. Amettis is the Nursing Supervisor for all BH and Substance Abuse programs. During a recent outbreak of Covid among the nursing staff, she was able to avoid the virus, and managed to cover her own job PLUS three fulltime RN positions. She came in early, worked late and kept the operations running single handedly. This shows her incredibly impressive dedication to our patients and organization.

Reports and Update:

- A. Report from Diversity and Inclusion Committee (CORE) and Equity Manager –** Ms. Luster introduced Lanatasha Bell, Jennifer Varela, and Kendra Schiffman. Ms. Bell started the power point presentation with a quote from Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. She explained in detail the Equity Manager and HSD Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (EDI) Committee's current priorities and activities. Ms. Bell reviewed in detail the HSD Equity Manager initiatives and provided information regarding the EDI Committee work.

Ms. Varela explained the EDI Committee continues to engage in activities and monitors department progress in four main prioritized areas; acknowledgement of systemic racism; ongoing training for supervisors to create a welcoming, equitable workplace; ongoing training and professional development; and intentional and prioritized efforts to hire and retain staff. She provided details of the EDI Committee Strategic planning process and the action areas of which they are focusing their efforts. Ms. Varela explained the EDI Committee structure and the development of three subgroups; Communications; Training and Resources; and Policy.

- B. Update on Derrick's House –** Mr. Trautsch and Mr. Williams provided information regarding Derrick's House. Currently there are six residents, and over all the youth seem happy, even with the challenges of Covid. One more staff person has been added to both first and second shifts. Mr. Williams explained more about the challenges of Covid with staff being out and handling school for the youth. Mr. Trautsch and Mr. Williams responded to questions regarding length of stay for youth and separating female and male residents.
- C. Update on Warming Shelters –** Mr. Winkler explained the function of Emergency Management warming shelters is to provide shelter when the temperature (windchill) is zero or below. HSD receives calls that come into Crisis for people needing hotel stays. Last year HSD served 67 people with 19 nights of activation. This year HSD is exceeding those numbers already with 18 nights and having served 110 people so far. Supervisor Aegerter responded to questions regarding the Homeless Count outreach which was taking place later at midnight.
- D. Semi-Annual Report –** Ms. Luster reported in the last six-month time-period there were a total of six individuals who attended trainings over \$1,000 and provided the details.

Resolutions and Committee Action:

- A. **2022 Specialized transportation Grant (85.21) Application Approval** – Citizen Representative Weaver-Landers moved the approval of the grant application to the floor, seconded by Supervisor Schulz. Ms. Thompson requested approval of the grant application for funding. She explained previously this would have gone to the Council on Aging Committee to approve. Now, Council on Aging is under the Aging, Disability Resource Center (ADRC) as the Aging unit and approvals such as this will be coming to the HSD Board to approve. Funding will be used to purchase a new bus and items for bus maintenance. The grant application was unanimously approved. Approved.
- B. **Resolution Authorizing Contract with Butler Institute for Families to Conduct Child Welfare Assessment** – Supervisor Podzilni moved the resolution to the floor, seconded by Citizen Representative Weaver-Landers. County Administrator Smith reminded the HSD Board members that he previously emailed all the information to them last week and he then provided an overview of his recommendation to contract with the Butler Institute for Families. He discussed that key priorities from the original concerns raised included the need for case reviews as well as broad stakeholder feedback and he assessed the Butler Institute Proposal to best meet a balance of those needs. He stated that he talked to references of all three potential consultants. He referred to the memo which outlined a detail about his rationale for recommending the County contract with the Butler Institute for Families to conduct the assessment of the County's child welfare system. County Administrator Smith responded to questions from Ms. Berg and Ms. Cadd regarding the ability to modify the proposal if needed, making sure all stakeholders are part of focus groups, and concerns regarding Rock County staff members as part of the case review process. County Administrator Smith responded to questions from HSD Board members regarding stakeholders and who will be involved, the nationwide shortage of staff, system improvement, foster parent and FCAC involvement, regular updates to the HSD Board, and adding an "out" clause to the contract. The resolution was unanimously approved. Approved.

Committee Requests:

Supervisor Schulz explained that she and Supervisor Williams met with the head of Family Services about an initiative regarding transitional housing. Supervisor Schulz requested an agenda item for Family Services to speak about transitional housing.

Supervisor Schulz requested an agenda item regarding flex funding for families and how are options being utilized.

Supervisor Podzilni requested an agenda item regarding Homeless Count outreach from Supervisor Aegerter and Supervisor Schulz.

Next Meeting: February 9, 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 Schulz motioned to adjourn, seconded by Citizen Representative Weaver-Landers with unanimous approval at 6:03 p.m.

NOT OFFICIAL UNTIL APPROVED BY THE BOARD