



ROCK COUNTY HUMAN SERVICES BOARD MEETING
Wednesday, February 9, 2022 – 4:30 P.M.

Call to Order: Chair Knudson called the hybrid meeting to order at 4:30 p.m. on Wednesday, February 9, 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 attended in-person. Shirley Williams, Supervisor; Stephanie Aegerter, Supervisor; Angelina Reyes, Citizen Representative; Ashley Hoffman, Citizen Representative; Kathy Schulz, Supervisor; and Sally Jean Weaver-Landers, Citizen Representative attended virtually.

Committee Members Absent: Pam Bostwick, Supervisor.

Staff Present: Katherine Luster, Director; Tera O'Connor, Deputy Director; Greg Winkler, Deputy Director; Sara Mooren, Administrative Services Manager; Tiffany Meredith, Project Director; LaMikka James, Community Cultivator; Katarina Ploch, Analyst; Kelly Frei, CPS Supervisor; Stefanie Getchell, CPS Trainer; Merebeth Rye, CPS Supervisor; Kayce Wilson, CPS Supervisor; Jamie Proctor, CPS Supervisor; Hannah Corrigan, CPS Lead Worker; Tana Adams, CPS Lead Worker; Shelby Puppe, CPS Supervisor; Christy Thorman McCarville, Access; Abigail Zinzow, Access; and Becky Huber, Prevention and Community Engagement Coordinator.

Others Present: Terri Carlson, County Risk Manager. Jim Farrell.

Approve Agenda: Supervisor Podzilni moved the agenda to the floor, second by Citizen Representative Weaver-Landers. The agenda was unanimously approved. APPROVED.

Approval of Minutes of Human Services Board Meeting on January 26, 2022: Citizen Representative Weaver-Landers moved the minutes to the floor, second by Supervisor Podzilni. The minutes were unanimously approved. APPROVED.

Public Comment: None.

Communications and Announcements from Staff and Board Members: None.

Approval of Contracts and Transfers: Citizen Representative Weaver-Landers moved the sixteen contracts to the floor, second by Supervisor Williams. Ms. Mooren provided information about the contracts, highlighting that some of the contracts were renewal contracts for the Aging Unit. The contracts were unanimously approved. Approved.

Review Bills Paid: Ms. Mooren explained there are two batches of invoices one for December 2021 and the other are invoices from January 2022. The next meeting will also have two batches. Ms. Mooren responded to questions.

Resolutions and Committee Action:

- A. **Recognizing Myrna Rudolph** – Citizen Representative Weaver-Landers moved the resolution to the floor, second by Citizen Representative Hoffman. Ms. O'Connor presented the resolution recognizing Myrna Rudolph, who was not in attendance. Ms. Rudolph has served the citizens of Rock County over the past 45 years and 5 months as a dedicated and valued employee of Rock County. Ms. Rudolph began her career with Rock County Human Services Department in 1976, as a Clerk/Receptionist - HCC switchboard operator. In 1983, she transitioned to Clerk Typist II, which was then the Juvenile Probation Department. Her position was reclassified to Administrative Assistant in 1992. In 1996 she became a Legal Stenographer for what is now Youth Justice, where she remained until her retirement. Ms. Rudolph's proficient multi-tasking and keen attention to detail has been an excellent example to her colleagues of how important support staff can be. She will be missed.

Reports and Update:

- A. **Child Welfare System Update: Workforce Update, Access Unit Overview, Rock Solid Community Equity Project Update** – Ms. Luster provided the CPS workforce updates. There are 70 full-time employees (FTE) in Child Protective Services (CPS) and 15 vacancies. She provided details of the vacancies for each unit in CPS. She responded to questions regarding challenges regarding the number of candidates and number of qualified applicants. There is a global shortage of applicants throughout the State, and it is a very competitive market right now. She explained HSD's bachelor level social workers' wages may not be as competitive as other metropolis areas, but moving to more flexible work schedules, and working remote has helped. It is not all about pay and the Hue Life study was completed to help with other elements. Ms. Luster responded to questions regarding staff being able to move up. Compared to the previous years, HSD is allowing more transfers, more internships, and more staff are advancing within.

Ms. Luster introduced Tiffany Meredith, Project Manager and LaMikka James, Community Cultivator who were hired by Alia for the Rock Solid Community Equity Project. This project is to address racial disparities and allow parents' influence on the design of the system. Ms. James provided details on her background and explained she will be reaching out into the community to get parents involved. Ms. Meredith provided her background and explained in the last six months they have been meeting with people and connecting people to the right teams. This preparation will be very beneficial and worth the time spent.

Ms. Rye, Ms. Corrigan, Ms. Thorman McCarville, and Ms. Zinzow all provided personal experience of the work they do each day. Ms. Luster advised Rock County HSD's cases that are screened-in and screened-out are consistent with the rates of other counties in Wisconsin. The group of CPS supervisors responded to questions regarding crossover cases, screening, and reports of neglect.

- B. **Report on Suicide Prevention Strategies** – Ms. Huber and Mr. Winkler provided a power point presentation. Ms. Huber explained suicide prevention includes a collection of activities that reduce the risk and occurrence of suicide. She explained in detail the three types of suicide prevention primary, secondary, and tertiary. Ms. Huber provided information regarding all the different suicide prevention going on in the community; Question, Persuade, Refer (QPR) training; Crisis Intervention Training/Partners (CIT/CIP) for Professionals; Youth Outreach/Education with NAMI; Health Equity Alliance of Rock County (HEAR); reducing mental health stigma through prevention agencies; neighborhood social workers through HSD; Fresh Start; mental health care in schools;

Defy – teen violence group; and Law enforcement – internal peer support, mental health programs.

Mr. Winkler explained the different aspects of suicide prevention for HSD clients; screening, assessment, safety planning, suicide specific treatment, acute placement; responses to client suicides; and death reviews.

C. Update on Community Initiative Regarding Transitional Housing – Ms. Luster advised there is an initiative with community stakeholders to develop transitional housing and an interest in accessing ARPA funding. She will have more information in the future.

Committee Requests: Chair Knudson asked if any agenda items on the list could be answered by an email from Ms. Luster to the group. Ms. Luster will follow up with Board members who have requested items.

Next Meeting: **February 26, 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: Chair Knudson motioned to adjourn, second by Supervisor Schulz with unanimous approval at 5:44 p.m.

Jodi Parson, Secretary

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