



**ROCK COUNTY
HUMAN SERVICES BOARD MEETING
Wednesday, February 8, 2023 – 4:30 P.M.**



Call to Order: Chair Knudson called the meeting to order at 4:30 p.m. on Wednesday, February 8, 2023, in the Boardroom, at the Dr. Daniel Hale Williams Rock County Resource Center, Janesville, WI.

Committee Members Present: Brian Knudson, Supervisor; Sally Jean Weaver-Landers, Citizen Representative; Ron Woodman, Supervisor; Kathy Schulz, Supervisor; Jim Farrell, Supervisor; Russell Podzilni, Supervisor; and Angelina Reyes, Citizen Representative.

Committee Members Absent: Karla Herrmann, Supervisor. Ashley Hoffman, Citizen Representative.

Staff Present: Kate Luster, Director; Tera O'Connor, Deputy Director; Sara Mooren, Administrative Services Manager; Jordyn Miller, Communications Specialist; Terrell Hanson, YSC Assistant Operations Manager; Maria Delgado, ES Division Manager; Shelby Puppe, CPS Supervisor; and Bette Trimble, Crisis & Outpatient Division Manager.

Others Present: Brittney Prince.

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

Approval of Minutes of Human Services Board Meeting on January 25, 2023: Supervisor Woodman 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: Ms. Luster announced there will be a Black History event at the DWRC, in the Beckman Mill conference room - February 15th - 12:00 - 1:00 p.m.

Supervisor Woodman addressed staff expressing that they are not taking the wage grid lightly and it is very complex, he thanked staff for their patience.

Approval of Contracts: Citizen Representative Weaver-Landers moved five contracts to the floor, second by Supervisor Woodman. Ms. Mooren presented the contracts and stated the contracts were renewals. The contracts were unanimously approved. Approved.

Review Bills Paid: Ms. Luster responded to questions regarding the Legal Action of Wisconsin entry and ARPA funding. Ms. Mooren responded to questions regarding the process and monitoring of the vouchers for hotels and motels.

Review and Approval of Resolutions:

To Recognize Rebecca Boys – Supervisor Woodman moved the resolution to the floor, second by Citizen Representative Reyes. Mr. Hanson presented the resolution and stated Ms. Boys was not able to attend. Ms. Boys has served the citizens of Rock County for over 15 years as a dedicated and valued employee. She began her career as a Relief Supervisor at the Rock County JDC now known as the Youth Services Center (YSC) where she remained until her resignation. He highlighted Ms. Boys’ attention to detail and exceptional organizational and supervisory skills. The resolution was unanimously approved. Approved.

Amending the 2023 Human Services Department Budget to Accept Relative Caregiver Support Grant Funds – Supervisor Podzilni moved the resolution to the floor, second by Supervisor Woodman. Ms. Puppe presented the resolution and explained the funding was specifically to reimburse relatives for items purchased for youth in their care. She advised most purchases are usually clothing. The resolution was unanimously approved. Approved.

Reports and Update: Wage Grid Discussion - Ms. Luster referred to the memo she sent to the Board members yesterday. She advised the memo shares employee general themes, feedback, and concerns. The memo also shares her perspective of why there is a need to get the grid passed sooner rather than later; significant recruitment issues, falling behind to counties nearby, shortage of social workers in the field; and Rock County is not competitive. She conveyed the sense of urgency and provided the number of vacancies in CPS, CLTS and ES. She explained the concerns from employees with longevity, and other options that are being discussed by Administration. Ms. Luster responded to questions.

Update on the “Unwinding” of Temporary IM Rules and Benefits – Ms. Delgado explained a Public Health Emergency (PHE) was declared in 2020 related to the Covid-19 pandemic. During the PHE temporary rules were put in place to allow for increased access to health insurance and FoodShare benefits. During the unwinding period these policies will change back to what they were before. She explained in detail the Consolidated Appropriations Act (CAA) passed that the Emergency Allotments FoodShare ends after the February 2023 issuance month. She provided information regarding the end of the Medicaid continuous enrollment requirement; steps taken during unwinding; IM preparedness and coordination; and the community outreach to notify members. Ms. Delgado responded to questions regarding staff vacancies and overtime.

Committee Requests: Supervisor Farrell requested information regarding the ARPA homelessness funding. Ms. Luster advised she will provide updates when quarterly reports are in. The contracts are just getting finished.

Supervisor Schulz has concerns regarding the Human Services Board being in person only. She would like an agenda item to discuss it.

Next Meeting: Wednesday, February 22, 2023, at 4:30 p.m. – will be in-person at the DWRC, in the **Boardroom**, 1717 Center Avenue, Janesville, WI.

Adjournment: Supervisor Woodman motioned to adjourn, second by Supervisor Podzilni with unanimous approval at 5:28 p.m.

Jodi Parson, Secretary

NOT OFFICIAL UNTIL APPROVED BY THE BOARD