



**ROCK COUNTY
HUMAN SERVICES BOARD MEETING
Wednesday, February 22, 2023 – 4:30 P.M.**



Call to Order: Chair Knudson called the hybrid meeting to order at 4:30 p.m. on Wednesday, February 22, 2023, in the Boardroom, at the Dr. Daniel Hale Williams Rock County Resource Center, Janesville, WI.

Committee Members Present: Brian Knudson, Supervisor; and Ron Woodman, Supervisor attended in person.

Sally Jean Weaver-Landers, Citizen Representative; Kathy Schulz, Supervisor; Jim Farrell, Supervisor; Russell Podzilni, Supervisor; Karla Herrmann, Supervisor; and Angelina Reyes, Citizen Representative attended virtually.

Committee Members Absent: Ashley Hoffman, Citizen Representative.

Staff Present: Kate Luster, Director attended in person. Tera O'Connor, Deputy Director; Sara Mooren, Administrative Services Manager; Jordyn Miller, Communications Specialist; Cori Marsh, Aging Supervisor; Brenda Endthoff, AODA Coordinator; Becky Huber, Prevention Specialist; Meghan Pulgarin, Administrative Services Supervisor attended virtually.

Others Present: Katrina Harwood, Public Health attended in person. Rich Greenlee, Corp Counsel. Debi Towns, County Supervisor and Connie Winters, County Supervisor. Patrick Singer, I.T. Shari Faber, Public Health attended virtually.

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 February 8, 2023: Supervisor Woodman moved the minutes to the floor, second by Citizen Representative Weaver-Landers. The minutes were unanimously approved. Approved.

Public Comment: None.

Communications and Announcements from Staff and Board Members: Ms. Luster recognized and thanked the staff who were working in the building through the inclement weather.

Supervisor Herrmann would like to present a slide show of her missionary trip she has recently returned from.

Rock County HSD February Employee Impact Recognition Award: Ms. Luster advised that Tammy Ricke, Beloit Community Support Program (CSP), was the recipient of the February Employee Impact Recognition award. Ms. Ricke was unable to attend. Ms. Luster read the nomination which involved Ms. Ricke going above and beyond her job duties, to make it possible for a client to see her father one last time before he passed.

Approval of Contracts: Citizen Representative Weaver-Landers moved four contracts to the floor, second by Supervisor Herrmann. Ms. Mooren presented the contracts and stated there was nothing to highlight. The contracts were unanimously approved. Approved.

Review and Approval of Resolutions: Authorizing Purchase of Specialized Transit Vehicle – Citizen Representative Reyes moved the resolution to the floor, second by Supervisor Herrmann. Ms. Mooren provided background information and advised this was the last of three vehicles purchased as part of the 2022 budget. The resolution was unanimously approved. Approved.

Setting Forth Reporting Requirements for Homelessness Prevention Grant Program – Supervisor Schulz moved the resolution to the floor, second by Supervisor Herrmann. County Supervisor Towns explained the resolution was follow up from the resolution granting ARPA funds to community organizations to combat homelessness. She wants to assure accountability in the use of the funds. This resolution defines some clear reporting requirements for the Homelessness Prevention Coordinator to provide to the full County Board on a quarterly basis. County Supervisor Winters agreed and added that this provides transparency and accountability of where the funds will be used. Supervisor Farrell and Herrmann agreed that accountability is needed and not meant to be intrusive but to be transparent. Chair Knudson moved an amendment to the resolution as follows (proposed amendment in italics):

WHEREAS, the definition of homelessness in Rock County is not clear, for instance, many Rock County school systems have a valid assessment of homeless children attending their schools which may differ from the definition that is used to measure homelessness in the adult population, therefore making it unclear how results from the use of these grant funds will be measured in the application of these grant funds; and,

“WHEREAS, it is extremely important for all Rock County Board Supervisors to understand the homelessness crisis in Rock County. In order to gain an in-depth understanding of the causes of homelessness and the ramifications to numerous charitable organizations, non-profits, and government agencies, it is recommended that each Rock County Board Supervisor volunteer at least two hours each quarter to an organization in Rock County which assists in combating homelessness. Volunteer activities can include job shadowing, working side by side with community partners in program delivery, or working "boots on the ground" with organizations in their daily activities. Volunteering in the community will enable all Rock County Board Supervisors to see firsthand the impacts of homelessness on programs and budgets affecting organizations across Rock County and will further assist in understanding quarterly reports provided by grant recipients.”

WHEREAS, the executive summary of the granting resolution inferred a quarterly reporting requirement on the part of each grant recipient and the Homeless Prevention Coordinator is charged with monitoring this.

Discussion leaned toward approving the original resolution without the amendment. Suggestions were given to possibly use the proposed amendment language for a separate resolution or adding the language to a guide for new Board members. Chair Knudson conformed that there was not a second to the amendment, so it did not advance to a vote. Supervisor Podzilni called the question, second by Supervisor Herrmann. The unamended resolution was unanimously approved. Approved.

Review, Discussion and Possible Action: Opioid Settlement Workgroup Recommendations – Ms. Luster introduced Katrina Harwood and Sheri Faber, Public Health and Rich Greenlee, Corporation Counsel. Ms. Harwood provided a summary and explained the opioid settlement

funding is coming and a committee came together to develop recommendations, but a detailed work plan is still needed. She advised they were asking for feedback, questions, and endorsement from the Human Services Board to continue forward with the identified priorities. This will also be on upcoming agendas for the Public Safety and Justice Committee and the Board of Health.

Ms. Faber provided detail about the efforts of the workgroup and the process that was followed to elicit community feedback and to identify priorities. She shared the specific recommendations which include: create the equivalent of 1 FTE to oversee the proposed strategies; increase access to sober living; increase access to higher level treatment options located in Rock County (including inpatient, residential, and/or day treatment); provide evidence-based, youth substance use prevention and/or intervention; provide substance use disorder (SUD) and mental health assessment with rapid access to treatment in the criminal justice system; increased Case Managers/Navigators with access to flex funds; increased Certified Peer Support Specialists; and other interventions as funds allow.

Ms. Harwood noted that they want the funding to go to areas of need and not to personnel, but it would help to have a position to oversee this to assure a coordinated and efficient approach. Ms. Faber and Ms. Harwood responded to questions.

Mr. Greenlee presented an overview of the relevant legal issues and the current state of litigation and possible additional settlements with retail pharmacies. Mr. Greenlee responded to questions.

Chair Knudson motioned to endorse the strategic priority areas outlined in the Rock County Opioid Settlement Funds Report of Recommendations and support the further refinement and subsequent implementation of activities that pertain to the stated priority areas, second by Supervisor Herrmann. The motion passed unanimously. Approved.

Reports and Update: **Director's Report: WCHSA Priorities for the State Budget and Human Services Day at the Capital** - Ms. Luster advised she would share more information and send emails regarding the upcoming Human Services Day at the Capital. The Human Services Day at the Capital is a day to meet with legislators and lobby at the State level. She explained WCHSA is a group of Human Services Directors across the State who collaborate to advance issues. WCHSA has prioritized two themes to focus on: *Helping People when they Need it* and *Keeping Kids at Home*. She will share more details as she receives it and the date of the Day at the Capital. She asked Board members to contact her if interested in attending.

Committee Requests: None.

Next Meeting: Wednesday, **March 8, 2023**, at 4:30 p.m. – will be in-person at the DWRC, in the Boardroom, 1717 Center Avenue, Janesville, WI.

Adjournment: Citizen Representative Weaver-Landers motioned to adjourn, second by Supervisor Herrmann with unanimous approval at 5:55 p.m.

Jodi Parson, Secretary

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