



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



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

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

Committee Members Absent: Karla Herrmann, Supervisor.

Staff Present: Kate Luster, Director; Tera O'Connor, Deputy Director; Sara Mooren, Administrative Services Manager; and Jordyn Jenkins, Communications Specialist attended in person.

Others Present: Alexis Stedman and Aaron Stroede, Legal Action. Brittney Prince, Community member.

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

Approval of Minutes of Human Services Board Meeting on February 22, 2023: Supervisor Woodman moved the minutes to the floor, second by Supervisor Schulz. The minutes were unanimously approved. Approved.

Public Comment: None.

Communications and Announcements from Staff and Board Members: None.

Approval of Contracts: Citizen Representative Weaver-Landers moved six contracts to the floor, second by Citizen Representative Reyes. Ms. Mooren presented the contracts. The contracts were unanimously approved. Approved.

Review Bills Paid – Ms. Mooren and Ms. Luster responded to questions regarding the Lannon Stone entry, voucher process, rates, and the Tammy Johnson-King entry.

Reports and Update:

Legal Action Update - Ms. Luster introduced Alexis Stedman and Aaron Stroede, Legal Action. Ms. Luster explained that last year a resolution was passed to give Legal Action designated ARPA funds to address housing instability, and the contract would be overseen by Human Services.

Ms. Stedman shared the goals which included: Secure safe and affordable housing; prevent homelessness & evictions; and secure and protect tenants' rights to public and subsidized house.

She provided information regarding current case volume and geographic makeup and types of calls and cases. Ms. Stedman and Mr. Stroebe responded to questions.

Director's Report: WCHSA Budget Priorities for State Biennial Budget – Ms. Luster advised she had sent an email to the Board members prior to the meeting with links to information regarding the Governor's State Budget.

She reminded Wisconsin County Human Service Association (WCHSA) is the group of Human Services Directors across the state who professionally collaborate and work with the Wisconsin Counties Association (WCA) to lobby for important issues on the biennial budget. This year the two priorities are: *Keep Kids at Home* and *Helping People When They Need Help*.

Ms. Luster explained in detail the funding requests for *Keep Kids at Home* which included – Birth to 3 Program, Child Welfare Preventions Services, Children and Families Allocation, CLTS Program MOE, Community Based Youth Justice Services, Flexibility in Foster Care Licensing, Human Services Workforce, and Intensive Residential Care.

The second priority *Helping People When They Need Help*, Ms. Luster explained in detail the funding requests related to: Adult Protective Services, Aging & Disability Resource Center (ADRC), Crisis Intervention Services, Community Support Program, Human Service Workforce, and IM Administration.

Ms. Luster responded to questions.

Ms. Luster reminded that Human Services Day at the Capital Day is April 12, 2023 and asked to be contacted if anyone was interested in attending.

Committee Requests: Citizen Representative Reyes requested to revisit Supervisor Knudson's suggestion that County Board members be encouraged to volunteer in the community to learn firsthand about the challenges that many residents face.

Chair Knudson advised there was going to be a Rock County Civics Academy's forum on homelessness at the Italian House. Ms. Luster will find the details and email the details to the Human Services Board members.

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

Adjournment: Supervisor Schulz motioned to adjourn, second by Supervisor Podzilni with unanimous approval at 5:29 p.m.

Jodi Parson, Secretary

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