



**ROCK COUNTY
HUMAN SERVICES BOARD MEETING
Wednesday, May 24, 2023 – 4:30 P.M.**



Call to Order: Chair Knudson called the meeting to order at 4:30 p.m. on Wednesday, May 24, 2023, at the Care House, Janesville, WI.

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

Committee Members Absent:

Staff Present: Tera O'Connor, Deputy Director; Greg Winkler, Deputy Director; Jennifer Thompson, ADRC Manager; Maria Delgado, ES Manager; Kami Williams, CPS Manager; Kelly Frei, CPS Supervisor; Tana Adams, CPS Supervisor; Kelly Ganzow, CPS Supervisor; Merebeth Rye, CPS Supervisor; and Michelle Stowe, CPS.

Others Present: Jamie Dieckhoff, Care House. Charles Flynn. Brittney Prince. Kelly Frei's guests, her husband Dan, and Sister Stacey Hillary.

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 May 10, 2023: Citizen Representative Weaver-Landers moved the minutes to the floor, second by Supervisor Woodman. The minutes were unanimously approved. Approved.

Public Comment: None.

Communications and Announcements from Staff and Board Members: Supervisor Podzilni announced Brent Fox, County Board Supervisor has resigned.

Per request by Supervisor Podzilni Board members proceeded with introductions.

Rock County HSD May Employee Impact Recognition Award: Ms. O'Connor introduced Michelle Stowe, CPS Case Manager, the May Employee Impact Recognition award recipient. She read the nomination which highlighted just one recent example of how Ms. Stowe helped a family in crisis during an afterhours shift. She dug into understanding the situation and fiercely advocated for the family. This involved her staying late at the DWRC into the early morning. Because of her, three children were able to stay safe in their family. Michelle's family centered approach, passion for keeping families safely together, and willingness to always go the extra mile to do the right thing make her an incredible asset to CPS.

Approval of Contracts: Citizen Representative Weaver-Landers moved three contracts to the floor, second by Supervisor Woodman. Ms. O'Connor presented the contracts and responded to questions. The contracts were unanimously approved. Approved.

Review and Approval of Resolutions: Resolutions Amending the 2023 Human Services Budget to Accept Funding for Residential Room and Board Costs – Supervisor Woodman moved the resolution to the floor, second by Supervisor Podzilni. Mr. Winkler presented the resolution and responded to questions. The resolution was unanimously approved. Approved.

Resolution to Recognize Kelly Frei: Supervisor Schulz moved the resolution to the floor, second by Citizen Representative Weaver-Landers. Ms. Williams introduced Kelly Frei, CPS Supervisor and presented the resolution. Ms. Frei has served the children and families of Rock County for over thirty-two years as a dedicated, committed, and valued employee of Rock County. She began her career with Rock County in 1990 as an Initial Assessment Social Worker in the Child Protective Services Department in HSD. Due to her continued diligence and hard work, she was promoted to an Initial Assessment Supervisor in 1994. She has been an invaluable member of the CPS leadership team. She earned the admiration and respect of colleagues and distinguished herself with deep knowledge and abilities related to the work in child welfare. Her contributions as an intelligent, thoughtful, hard-working, kind, detail oriented, dedicated, and generous person will be greatly missed by many. The resolution was unanimously approved. Approved.

Amending the 2023 Human Services Department Budget to Accept Adult Protective Services ARPA Funding: Supervisor Davis moved the resolution to the floor, second by Supervisor Schulz. Ms. Thompson presented the resolution and responded to questions. She detailed the types of purchases that would be made with the funding. The resolution was unanimously approved. Approved.

Reports and Update: Report on Temporary Policy for ES Supervisors Related to the Unwinding – Ms. Delgado explained that unwinding is coming which means the switch from healthcare policies that were on hold during the pandemic, will now be back in place. This will mean a large workload increase for ES workers and there are vacancies in ES at this time. Ms. Delgado has proposed to allow supervisors to work on cases and to have their category changed to allow overtime. This would incentivize supervisors to put in extra hours, which will help. This is only related to supervisors. She is asking for volunteers from staff at this point, but it may become mandatory. There is unwinding funding and ARPA funds to pay for this, and it will not be paid out of the HSD budget. Ms. Delgado responded to questions.

Report on YWCA Care House Services – Ms. Dieckhoff provided an overview of the Care House. The Rock County Care House was the only Child Advocacy Center in Wisconsin when it opened in 1993. Now there are fourteen in Wisconsin. She explained situations of why a child would come to the Care House and the interview process. She responded to questions.

Committee Requests: None.

Next Meeting: Wednesday, June 14, 2023, at 4:30 p.m. – will be in-person at the Dr. Daniel Hale Williams Resource Center, 1717 Center Avenue, Janesville, WI.

Adjournment: Supervisor Schulz motioned to adjourn, second by Supervisor Woodman with unanimous approval at 5:13 p.m.

Jodi Parson, Secretary

NOT OFFICIAL UNTIL APPROVED BY THE BOARD