



**ROCK COUNTY
HUMAN SERVICES BOARD MEETING
Wednesday, June 26, 2024 – 4:30 P.M.**



Call to Order:

Chair Knudson called the meeting to order at 4:30 p.m. on Wednesday, June 26, 2024, in the Boardroom, at the Dr. Daniel Hale Williams Rock County Resource Center, Janesville, WI.

Committee Members

Present:

Supervisor Brian Knudson (Chair)
Citizen Representative Phil Boutwell
Supervisor Kathy Schulz
Supervisor Genia Stevens
Supervisor Barb Tillman
Supervisor April Whitledge
Supervisor Ron Woodman (Vice Chair)

Attended Virtually

Citizen Representative Sally Jean Weaver-Landers

Committee Members

Absent:

Supervisor Ashley Hoffman

Staff Present:

Kate Luster, Director
Greg Winkler, Deputy Director
Sara Mooren, Administrative Services Manager
Barb Bleiler, DSMS Program Manager
Merebeth Rye, CPS Supervisor
Ryan Trautsch, YJ Program Manager
Melissa Suter, CCS Service Facilitator

Attended Virtually

None

Others Present:

Chuck Flynn
Rebecca Veium, CEO, Boys & Girls Club of Janesville
Sheila Williams

Approval of Agenda:

Supervisor Tillman moved the agenda to the floor, second by Supervisor Whitledge. The agenda was unanimously approved by voice vote. Approved.

Approval of Minutes of Human Services Board Meeting on June 12, 2024:

Supervisor Whitledge moved the minutes to the floor, second by Supervisor Tillman. The minutes were unanimously approved by voice vote. Approved.

Public Comment: Rebecca Veium, CEO of the Boys & Girls Club of Janesville introduced herself and spoke in support of the resolution on this Board's agenda to utilize ARPA funding towards the building of a new facility.

Sheila Williams (virtual) shared concerns for Human Services staff regarding potential position reductions for the 2025 budget. She also referred to Human Services' semiannual report that was included in this meeting's Agenda Packet and hopes steps are in place to monitor funds used for conferences/travel. She acknowledged that grant funds were used for some of the entries on the report.

Communications and Announcements from Staff and Board Members: Ms. Luster reminded board members of the Public Hearing scheduled for July 10 beginning at 5pm or immediately following the Board meeting that day.

Approval of Contracts: Supervisor Schulz moved the contracts to the floor, second by Supervisor Woodman. Ms. Mooren noted that a revised contract summary was provided to the Board to add one additional contract to the document. She provided details regarding the contract summary including the contract with Marathon County which is new and is necessary because of staffing shortages at YSC which require us to transfer several youth to the Marathon County facility. Contracts were unanimously approved by voice vote. Approved.

Human Services IMPACT Award Recipient for May: Ms. Luster invited Melissa Suter to the table. Ms. Suter is a service facilitator in the Comprehensive Community Services program. The nomination summarized Ms. Suter's contributions to the program. The Board acknowledged Ms. Suter's contributions and thanked her.

Review and Approval of Resolutions:

Authorizing American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Funds for Janesville Boys & Girls Club Capital Campaign and Amending 2024 Budget

Supervisor Schulz moved the resolution to the floor, second by Citizen Representative Boutwell. Ms. Veium was invited to the table. Board members engaged Ms. Veium with questions and discussion ensued on the following:

- The Janesville Boys & Girls Club runs a state-licensed childcare facility and does receive state reimbursement (no federal reimbursement); they are requesting use of ARPA funds to apply to the building of a new facility.
- Said facility would accommodate 180 elementary school aged children and over 80 teens.
- Location of the new facility is near Monterey Stadium (City of Janesville donated land to the Boys & Girls Club).
- Hoping to break ground on the new facility next spring.
- Families can qualify for the Wisconsin Shares program.
- Childcare rates: \$20/week during the school year or \$70/week during the summer months (regardless of income).
- Next lowest childcare rate in Rock County is \$180/week (does not include meals or field trips).
- There is a need for additional and affordable childcare services in Rock County.
- ARPA funds need to be expended by 2026.
- This Board was directed by the County Board Chair to add this resolution to their agenda. This would be a one-time distribution of funds and Human Services would not oversee this program.

- Amount of ARPA funding yet available is believed to be just under one million – the Board would like confirmation of this amount.
- There are other resolutions requesting use of ARPA funds (particularly for tornado relief). The Board would like to identify these other resolution requests in order to make an informed decision on the Boys & Girls Club resolution.

There is a desire by this Board to make an informed decision on this resolution. Two areas to clarify are:

- The amount of remaining ARPA funds available
- Other pending resolutions that request ARPA funding

Supervisor Stevens made a motion to postpone this resolution to the August 14, 2024, Human Services Board meeting, second by Supervisor Whitledge. The Board's motion to postpone this resolution was unanimously approved by voice vote.

Reports and Update:

Semi-Annual Report - Ms. Luster explained that twice a year Human Services brings this Board information about trainings that exceed \$1,000 per employee. This report represents January-June of this year. She summarized the report and fielded questions.

Review of 2025 HSD Pre-Budget Presentation - Ms. Luster shared a slide presentation and provided verbal content on same. Highlights included:

- Use of levy dollars have decreased each year since 2022.
- Human Services scrutinizes vacancies as a natural opportunity to reduce expenditures. This requires detailed justification from managers requesting to fill vacancies.
- Human Services has reduced FTE already in 2023-2024, eliminating several positions by reorganizing vacancies.
- Non-Mandated services do not always become the first source of reducing FTE as they can affect other program areas and how they produce cost savings.
- Human Services was under budget for 2023 due to a variety of factors, including vacancies.
- Projecting Human Services track for 2024 YTD is difficult due to:
 - At the end of June, we have not yet closed out May
 - Some program areas are over budget, while others are under budget
 - High cost areas are feeling on target
- There are several areas identified for potential cost reductions across the department, including personnel reductions.

Ms. Luster also shared that each year, she provides her budget presentation to all staff via email and hosts Budget & Bagels sessions to be as transparent as possible. She feels it is important that staff hear from her how she made decisions.

Committee Requests: Chair Knudson stated he would like this Board to meet at YSC and proposed the second meeting in July. Ms. Luster will coordinate live streaming from the facility.

Next Meeting: Chair Knudson advised that this committee will meet again on Wednesday, July 10, 2024, at 4:30 p.m. This will be a hybrid meeting via Zoom and in-person at the DWRC, in the **Boardroom**, 1717 Center Avenue, Janesville, WI. If you are unable to attend this meeting, please email Chrissy Arambula (Christine.Arambula@co.rock.wi.us) to ensure a quorum is present.

Adjournment: Supervisor Woodman motioned to adjourn, second by Supervisor Schulz with unanimous approval at 6:15 p.m.

Kathleen Wellnitz, Administrative Professional III

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