



**ROCK COUNTY
HUMAN SERVICES BOARD MEETING
Wednesday, June 12, 2024 – 4:30 P.M.**



Call to Order:

Chair Knudson called the meeting to order at 4:30PM on Wednesday, June 12, 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 Sally Jean Weaver-Landers; Citizen Representative Phil Boutwell; Supervisor Kathy Schulz; Supervisor Ron Woodman (Vice Chair); Supervisor Genia Stevens; Supervisor April Whitledge; Supervisor Tillman attended in person.

Committee Members Absent: Citizen Representative Hoffman (Kleven)

Staff Present: Kate Luster, Director; Tera O'Connor, Deputy Director; Sara Mooren, Administrative Services Manager; Jennifer Thompson, ADRC Manager; Ryan Trautsch, Youth Justice Manager; Jordyn Jenkins, Communication Specialist; Maria Delgado, Economic Support Manager; Jennifer Booth, Lead Economic Support Supervisor; Rebecca Huber, HSD Supervisor; Jacqueline Revels, Homelessness Prevention; Amy Simons, Economic Support Specialist

Others Present: Marc Perry, Supervisor Bill Wilson, Supervisor Mike Schwarz

Virtual attendees: Nick Dybus, Supervisor Sue Ryan, Wendy Sanchez, Tammy Shaw, Sheila Williams, Haleigh Thomas, Chuck Flynn, Meghan Pulgarin, Mercedes Rodriguez

Approval of Agenda:

Citizen Representative Weaver-Landers moved the agenda to the floor, second by Citizen Representative Boutwell. The agenda was unanimously approved by voice vote. Approved.

Approval of Minutes of Human Services Board Meeting on May 22, 2024:

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

Public Comment: Supervisor Mike Schwartz spoke regarding agenda item 9C- Modifying the Purpose of ARPA Funds Provided for the Community Action Twin Oaks Shelter Project to Support the Community Action Fresh Start Program. Supervisor Schwartz shared that this resolution is difficult to support due to other programs that may need to use these funds and he recommends returning funds to the ARPA pool and allocating them based on need. Fresh Start could also apply for these funds as well.

Communications and Announcements from Staff and Board Members:

Chair Knudson welcomed Supervisor Stevens to the Human Services Board.

Ms. Thompson - World Elder Abuse Day this Saturday, June 15, 2024. Purple carnations were passed out at Blackhawk Credit Union along with information about Elder Abuse. Information was also put out on social media to help with awareness.

Ms. Luster gave a brief update on the upcoming Public Hearing and ways that we are working on getting the word out to the community. The Public Hearing is on July 10th please help spread the news.

Approval of Contracts: Vice Chair Woodman moved the contracts to the floor second by Citizen Rep. Boutwell. Ms. Mooren provided contract details and responded to questions. The contracts were unanimously approved by voice vote. Approved.

Review of Bills: Ms. Mooren provided detail and responded to questions.

Human Services IMPACT Award Recipient for April: Ms. Luster introduced Jordyn Jenkins as the April recipient of the Impact Award. She read the nomination written and submitted by Ms. Puppe. Jordyn Jenkins is the Communication Specialist here at HSD, but she does so much more including making the facility look and feel as a welcoming place for work and for those that receive services. She is always willing to help in a positive way and she is solution focused on her approach.

Review and Approval of Resolutions:

Recognizing Melissa Dybas – Supervisor Whitledge moved the resolution to the floor, second by Supervisor Woodman. Ms. Delgado and Ms. Booth recognized Ms. Dybas to the board and provided an overview of her service. Ms. Dybas passed away on May 20, 2024, after a 6-year battle with cancer. It was hard to put all that she did in words. She was a valued member and will be greatly missed. The resolution was unanimously approved by voice vote. Approved.

Amending the 2024 Human Services Department Budget to Accept Additional Funding for COVID Unwinding – Citizen Rep. Weavers-Landers moved the resolution to the floor, second by Supervisor Schulz. Ms. Mooren explained we received additional funding to help with the additional workload associated with COVID Unwinding. We operate as a consortium, and we have 6 other counties. We are accepting all of the funds and distribute out each county's portion. We are using it towards overtime related to the work tied to the COVID unwinding. The resolution was unanimously approved by voice vote. Approved.

Modifying the Purpose of ARPA Funds Provided for the Community Action Twin Oaks Shelter Project to Support the Community Action Fresh Start Program – Supervisor Schulz moved the resolution to the floor, second by Supervisor Stevens. Marc Perry, CEO of Community Action, and Supervisor Bill Wilson were present to explain the resolution. The Fresh Start Program has been around since 2006 helping direct at-risk youth with marketable skills in becoming independent contributing to the community. They collaborate with the Beloit School District and participants earn their HS Diplomas. Youth must go through a screening process over the summer months to qualify for the program. Funds were previously allocated to the Twin Oaks shelter, but Community Action lost grant funding for Fresh Start so they are requesting to use the funds for this program instead.

Community Action states that the loss of the funds has happened in the past as the state looked at funding new pilot projects. This year the state only funded one program. It was noted that while Twin Oaks is an old building, it can still do its job. Community Action can reapply in November for grant funds for Fresh Start. Discussions continued about the tremendous impact this program

has in the community and how it may affect the youth and community without. Further questions and concerns were discussed and addressed. The resolution was approved with a 6/2 voice vote. Supervisors Tillman, Schulz, Stevens, Knudson, and Citizen Reps Boutwell and Weaver-Landers voted yes. Supervisors Woodman and Whitledge voted no. Approved.

Reports and Update:

Program Report: Youth Justice – Mr. Trautsch – Reviewed the array of programs in Youth Justice including mandated vs. non mandated programs as well as funding for the different programs. Ages 11-16 are in this program, 17-year-olds are served in the adult system. Staffing issues at the Youth Services Center have been very challenging recently. Operating the youth Services Center has allowed us to avoid sending youth to the state corrections facilities, which cost over \$1200 per day. Mr. Trautsch responded to questions.

Quarterly Report on ARPA Matching Grant for Homelessness Prevention – Ms. Revels – Ms. Revels shared the report for the first quarter of this year with us and explained what these grants have done for the community. including service expansion in 2 homeless shelters, adult life skills, sober living housing and support for those in recovery, and youth life skills. This matching grant program ends at the end of 2024.

Director's Report: Update on Holiday and Family Needs Committee; Update on HSD clients impacted by prior eviction orders; 2025 Budget Update – Ms. Luster

Holiday & Family Needs Committee – Ms. Luster reported that due to the growth of the client numbers in HSD, we are unable to manage this program moving forward. There are specific obligations we must meet related to funds raised and donated items to comply with audit requirements and Finance Policy and we are unable to manage this. There have been many dedicated staff who have worked on this committee over the years, and we are grateful. We will partner with a community organization that already operates a Holiday Gift drive, to support referrals from our clients.

Clients Impacted by Eviction – Ms. Luster provided an update regarding the status of those HSD clients impacted by the mass vacate orders issues in Janesville earlier this year. Our clients that were impacted were able to find alternative solutions for housing. Emergency funding was supplied by the city as well as the school district for families impacted. Funding is still available until July 1st. While those impacted by that specific situation have been able to find housing, HSD does have many families facing homelessness daily.

2025 Budget update – Ms. Luster shared that the County Administrator gave direction to Department Heads, and this was summarized in an email he sent to all County Board Supervisors. Related to challenges around limited tax levy increase, Department Heads have been directed to reduce FTE in proposed budgets. Ms. Luster is working on developing criteria for how those decisions would be made and will share those when they are finalized. The HSD Pre-Budget presentation is June 20th at 6pm in the DWRC Boardroom and is an opportunity to get a preview of the 2025 Budget.

Committee Requests: Board meetings may be held at other locations in the upcoming months to see the facilities which would include Eclipse and Youth Services Center.

Next Meeting: Wednesday, June 26, at 4:30 p.m. – will be a hybrid meeting via Zoom and in-person at the DWRC, in the **Boardroom**, 1717 Center Avenue, Janesville, WI. If you cannot

make the meeting, please email Kathleen Wellnitz (Kathleen.Wellnitz@co.rock.wi.us) to ensure a quorum is present.

Adjournment: Supervisor Woodman motioned to adjourn, second by Supervisor Whitledge with unanimous approval at 6:06PM.

Chrissy Arambula, Administrative Professional III

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