



**ROCK COUNTY  
HUMAN SERVICES BOARD MEETING  
Wednesday, December 11, 2024 – 4:30 P.M.**



**Call to Order:** Vice Chair Woodman called the meeting to order at 4:30 p.m. on Wednesday, December 11, 2024, in the Boardroom, at the Dr. Daniel Hale Williams Rock County Resource Center, Janesville, WI.

**Committee Members Present:** Supervisor Ron Woodman (Vice Chair); Supervisor Kathy Schulz; Supervisor April Whitley; Citizen Representative Sally Jean Weaver-Landers; Citizen Representative Phil Boutwell

**Virtual Committee Members:** Supervisor Barb Tillman and Citizen Representative Ashley Hoffman

**Committee Members Absent:** Supervisor Brian Knudson, (Chair) and Supervisor Genia Stevens

**Staff Present:** Kate Luster, Director; Tera O'Connor, Deputy Director; Sara Mooren, Administrative Services Manager; Jillian Bauer, Business Supervisor; Kami Williams, CPS Program Manager; Shelby Puppe, CPS Lead Supervisor

**Virtual attendees:** Bette Trimble, Crisis & Outpatient Manager; Haleigh Thomas; Morgan Williams, and Katarina Ploch

**Others Present:** Chuck Flynn, Alexander Rouguie, Carter Fallin, Christopher Merino Dominguez, Marlene Aceves, and Dulce Figueroa

**Approval of Agenda:** Supervisor Schulz moved the agenda to the floor, second by Supervisor Boutwell. Two changes to the agenda were proposed: removal of 7. A. and 10. C., which will be postponed until the 1/8/25 meeting. The agenda was unanimously approved with the changes noted by voice vote. Approved.

**Approval of Minutes of Human Services Board Meeting November 25, 2024:**

Citizen Representative Weaver-Landers moved the minutes to the floor, second by Supervisor Schulz. The minutes were unanimously approved by voice vote. Approved.

**Public Comment:** None

**Communication and Announcements from Staff and Board Members:** BMHS students present to observe and take notes. Ms. Luster reviewed some upcoming events.

**Approval of Contracts:** Citizen Representative Weaver-Landers moved the contracts to the floor, second by Supervisor Schulz. Ms. Mooren provided contract details and responded to questions. The contracts were unanimously approved by voice vote. Approved.

**Review of Bills:** Postponed

**Human Services IMPACT Award Recipient – November:** Ms. Luster announced the recipient for November, Brittney Theus who works in Crisis and is a relatively new staff member with two nominations. Ms. Theus' nominations highlighted her passion for working with people mental illness and substance use disorders. She was excited to start her role and very comfortable with challenging calls. She holds her co-workers accountable at staying professional and positive. Ms. Theus was also recognized for quickly stepping in and helping a co-worker fell and was injured in the parking lot.

### **Review and Approval of Resolutions:**

**Recognizing Laura Krause-** Citizen Representative Weavers-Landers moved the resolution to the floor, seconded by Supervisor Schulz. Ms. Bauer spoke of Ms. Krause's 30 years of service with Rock County. She was instrumental with smooth operation of services as the evolved over the years which significantly benefited the HSD. Resolution was unanimously approved by voice vote. Approved.

### **Reports and Update:**

**2024 Human Services Budget to Actual Report-** Ms. Mooren presented the report to the board. This is through October 31, 2024. Ms. Mooren reminded the committee that Federal and State revenue is a few months behind. Ms. Mooren reviewed some of the changes from our last budget to actual report. Ms. Mooren responded to questions. Supervisor Tillman commented that this format was very helpful and easy to interpret.

**Update on Out of Home Placements and Resources-** Ms. Luster mentioned that this was report is a response to the request by Supervisor Schulz regarding an update on foster parent resources. Ms. Williams and Ms. Puppe are present to speak. Rock County currently has 54 licensed foster homes. Thirty-two of those homes are child specific placements licensures. Those child specific placements are typically a relative or kin. We also have 22 traditional foster homes that would take in any of our youth that need placement. We are currently in the process of licensing seven more homes. The youth we have in care from 2022-2024 has averaged between 100-130 per year. Before 2022 the number of youth in care was much higher, dating back to 2018 it was in the 200's.

Yard signs that we seen throughout the community were part of a targeted recruitment effort which helped bring awareness and bring about potential foster families in the community. The decline in need for foster care over time has been influenced by improved engagement with families, more community supports, access to services, exploring informal supports that the families might need, and in-home safety plans to help keep kids remain in home rather than removing them.

The generalized average time a youth is in care is 15 months. Our re-entry rate has decreased as we are working with families within the home which gives us a true picture. The transition from foster home to their home really depends on each situation. There is a high expectation of the foster parents to support the entire family and nurture those relationships. Correlation with the work with Alia and the beehive has been an integral part utilizing their lived experiences and putting that into practice.

2025 state legislation is changing on the definition on relative. It will be including people that are "like-kin" which could include, a coach, a neighbor, a teacher, etc. This will provide increased access to funding and supports to increase the chances that children can remain with someone they know and trust.

## **CORE Wellbeing Action Team Update- Postponed**

**Committee Requests:** Update by Ms. Luster – Family Services is coming January 8<sup>th</sup>.

**Next Meeting:** Wednesday, January 8, 2025, at 4:30 p.m. This will be both 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 Chrissy Arambula ([Christina.Arambula@co.rock.wi.us](mailto:Christina.Arambula@co.rock.wi.us)) to ensure a quorum is present.

**Adjournment:** Supervisor Schulz motioned to adjourn, second by Citizen Representative Boutwell with unanimous approval at 5:10 PM.

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Chrissy Arambula, Administrative Professional III

**NOT OFFICIAL UNTIL APPROVED BY THE BOARD**