



**ROCK COUNTY
HUMAN SERVICES BOARD MEETING
Wednesday, May 28, 2025 – 4:30 P.M.**



Call to Order: Chair Knudson called the meeting to order at 4:30 p.m. on Wednesday, May 28, 2025, in the Boardroom, at the Dr. Daniel Hale Williams Rock County Resource Center, Janesville, WI.

Committee Members Present: Supervisor Brian Knudson, (Chair); Supervisor Ron Woodman (Vice Chair); Supervisor Kathy Schulz; Supervisor Genia Stevens; Supervisor Barb Tillman; Supervisor April Whitley; Citizen Representative Lori Stottler; YIG Representative Emma Kinzelman.

Virtual Committee Members: Citizen Representative Phil Boutwell

Committee Members Absent: Citizen Rep. Ashley Hoffman

Staff Present: Kate Luster, Director; Sara Mooren, Administrative Services Manager; Bette Trimble, Crisis Program Manager; Cori Marsh, ADRC Supervisor.

Virtual attendees: Jennifer Thompson, ADRC Manager; Julie Zaukas, Admin. Professional II; Iridian Rangel; Jonathan

Approval of Agenda: Supervisor Tillman moved the agenda to the floor, second by Supervisor Woodman. The agenda was unanimously approved by voice vote. Citizen Rep. Hoffman was absent. Approved.

Approval of Minutes of Human Services Board Meeting May 14, 2025:

Supervisor Woodman moved the minutes to the floor, second by Supervisor Whitley. The minutes were unanimously approved by voice vote. Citizen Rep. Hoffman was absent. Approved.

Public Comment: None

Communication and Announcements from Staff and Board Members: Chair Knudson welcomed HSD newly appointed Citizen Representative Stottler shared a little of her background and that she currently works as the clerk treasurer of Janesville. Ms. Luster introduced Nicole Larson, Administrative Professional III. Ms. Larson will help fill in for future HS Board meetings.

Approval of Contracts: Supervisor Schulz moved the contracts to the floor, second by Supervisor Tillman. Ms. Mooren provided contract details and responded to questions. The contracts were unanimously approved by voice vote. Citizen Rep. Hoffman was absent. Approved.

Human Services IMPACT Award Recipient for April: Ms. Luster shared that Brandy Gaches was selected as the IMPACT Award Recipient for April. Ms. Luster shared that she was nominated by her supervisor, Lisa Peterson, per a client request. The client wanted to be sure that Ms. Gaches was recognized for all she has helped her with over the years and the push that she gives her to keep moving.

Review and Approval of Resolutions:

Recognizing Marc Donalson- Supervisor Woodman moved the resolution to the floor, second by Supervisor Schulz. Ms. Trimble was present to recognize Mr. Donalson for his years of service with the Human Services Department. Mr. Donalson was unable to attend. Ms. Trimble noted that

over his years of service, he has helped many residents in obtaining support services including those with complex needs. The resolution was unanimously approved by voice vote. Citizen Rep. Hoffman was absent. Approved.

Reports and Update:

Update on Federal Funding Cuts – Ms. Luster spoke regarding the uncertainties at the Federal level. It is noted that whatever happens at the federal level will likely have a big impact on what the state receives. We do not know how any of this will specifically affect the county level. Ms. Luster reviewed issue papers from WCHSA. These issue papers were shared with the HS Board members earlier via email regarding Medicaid and Food Share. Ms. Luster spoke on the impact funding changes could have for those in Rock County. Medicaid and Food Share are a safety net for many of our vulnerable residents; the ripple effect of funding changes can cause more stresses which could potentially increase the need of mandatory services which would then lead into additional staff resources and County funds to provide these services. Ms. Luster spoke about how these changes can affect our residents and responded to questions.

Transit Program Updates- Ms. Thompson joined via Zoom and referenced the Issue Brief that was shared with the HS Board members. Ms. Marsh was present for questions as well. Ms. Thompson spoke about a change coming in 2026 regarding Rock County Transit's provision of Paratransit services for the City of Janesville. Rock County Transit (RCT) provides general specialized transit services which is different from the Paratransit program with the City of Janesville. Ms. Thompson stated that, while Rock County has been the contracted provider for Janesville Paratransit services for many years, we are choosing not to respond to the recently issued Janesville RFP for services in 2026. It has been challenging to meet the needs of our core general transit rides due to the Paratransit contractual obligations, and a cost analysis shows that the County's full costs of delivering the service are not fully covered by the contract revenue. Ms. Thompson spoke about the cost of the program including the impact of late cancellations and no shows and we are not reimbursed for those. Staffing issues were also recognized as a determining factor. Ms. Thompson and Ms. Marsh responded to questions.

2026 Budget Timeline: Ms. Luster gave an update on what the timeline for the 2026 budget looks like. Ms. Luster will be sending an email out with the timeline dates. July 9th is the HS Pre-Budget presentation at 6pm here at the DWRC. Ms. Luster will give the HS Board an update on the budget presentation at the 2nd HS Board meeting in July. The budget is due August 1st and the County Administrator's HS budget will be shared with the board in October. Ms. Luster responded to questions. Ms. Mooren shared what the budget process looks like from her end to get everything done by August 1st.

Committee Requests: Supervisor Schulz requested that Ms. Luster keeps the HS Board updated on what is happening at the Federal level and how it will impact the budget and programs.

Next Meeting: Wednesday, June 11, 2025, 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 Chrissy Arambula (Christina.Arambula@co.rock.wi.us) to ensure a quorum is present.

Adjournment: Supervisor Schulz motioned to adjourn, second by Supervisor Woodman with unanimous approval at 5:42 p.m.

Chrissy Arambula, Administrative Professional III

NOT OFFICIAL UNTIL APPROVED BY THE BOARD