



Minutes - July 28, 2025

Call to Order:

Chair Bostwick called the hybrid County Board Staff Committee meeting to order at 5:00 PM in the Board Room at DWRC.

Committee Members Present: Supervisors Bostwick, Gorman, Towns, Peer, Tillman, Wilson, Mawhinney, Brien, and Leavy. Youth In Government representative Max Olson.

Committee Members Absent: None.

Staff Members Present: Amy Spoden, Human Resources Director; John Light, County Administrator; Kristin Vander Kooi, Finance Director; Christine Darr, Human Services Professional II; Tricia Stilen, Human Services Professional I; Sarah Nelson, Human Services Professional III; Tracey Bushaw, Human Services Professional I; Sandra Williams, Human Services Professional I.

Others Present: Supervisors Woodman, Schwarz, Whitledge, Sutterlin, Bobzien, Schulz and Fugelseth; James.

Approve Agenda: Supervisor Towns moved approval of the agenda as presented, second by Supervisor Tillman. ADOPTED.

Citizen Participation, Communications and Announcements: Three email submissions were read to the committee.

Approval of Minutes:

July 7, 2025 Minutes: Supervisor Mawhinney moved to approve July 7, 2025, minutes, second by Supervisor Peer.

Supervisor Mawhinney noted the spelling of Vander Kooi should be corrected.

ADOPTED.

Review, Discussion and Possible Action:

Community Initiatives Policy : Supervisor Gorman moved to approve the Community Initiatives Policy, second by Supervisor Mawhinney.

Supervisor Wilson submitted changes to the Community Initiatives Policy for the committee's review. The committee discussed the community initiatives policy, focusing on accountability and reporting, including the requirement for a formal memorandum of understanding or contract for awarded funds.

The committee discussed language around community initiatives funding, with Supervisor Towns

expressing concern about unintended consequences of previous edits and emphasizing the need for clear, thoughtful language. The committee agreed that the administrator should have the flexibility to decide whether to fund community initiatives based on budget availability, rather than being required to maintain a program regardless of financial constraints.

Supervisor Towns moved to approve adding "may choose to", second by Supervisor Peer. Both Supervisor Towns and Peer retracted the motion and second.

Supervisor Wilson moved to change the language from V-1 to "County Administrator announces whether funding will be available for community initiatives and the process to be followed" and change item V-3 to replace "will" with "may" second by Supervisor Towns. Adopted

ADOPTED as amended.

Health Insurance: Amy Spoden presented data showing an 8.6% increase for the current plan, and gave examples of potential savings if switching to an HMO with modified deductibles, coinsurance, copay and implementing a 6% premium share. The committee discussed that while the plan remains point-of-service, employees are using it like an HMO, with only 2-4% of claims being out-of-network, suggesting potential cost savings by switching to an HMO structure. Supervisor Towns requested Amy to remind the committee of how last year's increase was funded, combining employee premium shares and Health Trust Account funds, emphasizing that these two factors must be considered together when making decisions about plan changes and employee contributions. Supervisor Tillman suggested using potential savings to address wage-scale issues for employees who need benefits. The committee expressed support for these changes, which align with employee recommendations and preserve trust fund money for future unexpected cost increases. The committee decided to wait until Thursday to make a decision on plan changes and HMO options for 2026, with Amy tasked to provide renewal numbers and information on an HMO-only scenario without plan design changes.

Next meeting date and time: Thursday, July 31, 2025, at 5:00 PM

Adjournment: Supervisor Towns moved adjournment at 6:12 PM, second by Supervisor Gorman. ADOPTED.

Respectfully submitted,

Andrea Wolf
Administrative Professional III

NOT OFFICIAL UNTIL APPROVED BY COMMITTEE.