



**ROCK COUNTY
HUMAN SERVICES BOARD MEETING
Wednesday, October 22, 2025 – 4:30 P.M.**



Call to Order: Chair Knudson called the meeting to order at 4:30 p.m. on Wednesday, October 22, 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 April Whitledge; YIG Representative Emma Kinzelman

Virtual Committee Members: Citizen Representative Ashley Hoffman; Citizen Representative, Lori Stottler; Supervisor Genia Stevens; Supervisor Barb Tillman

Committee Members Absent: Citizen Representative Phil Boutwell

Staff Present: Kate Luster, Director; Greg Winkler, Deputy Director; Barb Blieler, DSMS Manager; Stephani Kuczynski, CSP Manager; Nicole Graves, CSP

Virtual attendees: Julie Zaukas; Chuck Flynn, Supervisor Fugelseth; Supervisor Boehlke

Others Present: Truvell Graves

Approval of Agenda: Supervisor Woodman moved the agenda to the floor, second by Supervisor Schulz. The agenda was unanimously approved by voice vote. Approved.

Approval of Minutes of Human Services Board Meeting October 8, 2025: Supervisor Schulz moved the minutes to the floor, second by Supervisor Whitledge. The minutes were unanimously approved by voice vote. Approved.

Public Comment: None

Communication and Announcements from Staff and Board Members: Ms. Luster announced that there is a confirmed timeline for the departure of Deputy Directors Winkler and O'Connor. Mr. Winkler's last day will be 11/14/2025 and Ms. O'Connor's will be at the end of December. There will be a joint open house on 11/13/2025 that board members are invited to. Ms. Luster reminded the HS Board members about the Rock Families First Conversation happening 10/24/2025 from 9-12 at the DWRC; there is still time to register for this. Supervisor Schulz met with Community Action, Inc. and spoke about the concerns in the community about the current shutdown. Supervisor Schulz wants to ensure that the effect of the shutdown is shared to help those that are affected by it.

Approval of Contracts: None

Human Services IMPACT Award Recipient for September: Ms. Luster announced that Nicole Graves, CSP Case Manager at the Eclipse Center, was the September IMPACT Award Recipient. Ms. Graves was present for recognition and Ms. Luster explained her role

within HS Department which includes medication delivery. While out making deliveries Ms. Graves quickly went into action upon witnessing a biker being struck by a vehicle and assisting the injured bicyclist until help arrived.

Review and Approval of Resolutions:

Recognizing Amanda Suarez - Supervisor Woodman moved the resolution to the floor, second by Schulz. Mr. Winkler was present to read the resolution recognizing Ms. Suarez for her 10 years of compassionate and dependable service. Ms. Suarez's work has been highly impactful to those that she has served as she assured that clients received the best possible care and service. The resolution was unanimously approved by voice vote. Approved.

Review, Discussion, and Possible Action:

Final Review and Discussion of the 2026 Proposed Human Services Department Budget – Supervisor Knudson asked if there were any last-minute questions or comments about the budget. The budget will continue as proposed.

Reports and Update:

Update Regarding the Impact of Federal Budget Changes (HR 1) – Ms. Luster gave a recap of a previous HS Board meeting in which Ms. Delgado, Economic Support Manager, spoke about the impact of the Federal Budget changes on the income maintenance programs and funding, specifically FoodShare/SNAP benefits. Ms. Luster shared information about the potential of reporting errors and how it could financially affect the consortium under the new policies. There is urging from WCA to advocate for increased funding for counties to help fill the gap as the tax levy will not be able to fill this gap.

Another impact of the federal budget is the uncertainty about certain federal grants. Some grants have received assurance; however, there are other grants, including TAP which funds treatment court services, we have not heard anything about. Ms. Luster responded to questions.

Report on the Impact of Federal Budget Shutdown – Ms. Luster explained about some additional information about the impact on FoodShare. November food benefits will be delayed until the shutdown ends. In the past there were some types of assurances with these types of shutdowns, and the funds would still rollover or people would have access to missed months; however, there are no assurances with this shutdown.

Rock County has about 12,700 families that rely on these benefits. For many people it is a primary source of funding for food. Ms. Luster spoke upon the ripple effect surrounding food insecurity and the effect on Rock County families. The HSD staff quickly pulled together resources on food banks and other resources for our consumers. There have also been discussions around a community emergency response if needed for organizations to come together and mobilize to help.

BadgerCare Plus, Medicaid and WIC will continue to be funded during the shutdown at this time. DHS has been working on keeping consumers and clients informed of all the changes that can come about very quickly due to the current shutdown. Ms. Luster responded to questions.

Committee Requests: Supervisor Whitledge requested information about Human Trafficking. Supervisor Schulz asked for ongoing updates on the situation with government shutdown. Supervisor Knudson advised that we are aiming for one Human Service Board meeting in November and one meeting in December.

Next Meeting: Wednesday, November 12, 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 Whitledge with unanimous approval at 5:06 PM.

Chrissy Arambula, Administrative Professional III

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