

**MANITOWOC COUNTY HUMAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT
BOARD MEETING MINUTES**

CALL TO ORDER:

The Manitowoc County Human Services Department Board met at 4:50 p.m. on Thursday, January 28, 2021 in open session at the Manitowoc County Human Services Department, 801 Jay Street, Manitowoc, WI. The meeting was also accessible electronically by Zoom.

Board Members Present: Henrickson, Baumann, Agnew, Shimulunas, Nasep

Board Members Attending by Zoom: Ruggirello, Williams

Board Members Excused: Cavanaugh

Board Members Absent: Burke

County Board Members Present: None

County Staff Present: Joas, Randolph, Kubec, Dodge, Ziegelbauer

PUBLIC COMMENT:

No public comment.

HSD Board member Mike Williams would like to thank the board for the sympathy card he received, it really meant a lot to him.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

A MOTION WAS MADE BY BAUMAN, SECONDED BY NASEP TO APPROVE THE MINUTES FROM THE PREVIOUS REGULAR MEETING. MOTION CARRIED.

EDUCATION TOPIC: Services Provided by CORE Treatment Services – Carmen Persaud and Chris Gilbert.

Carmen and Chris are Co-Directors of CORE Treatment Services. About 1½ years ago they started working together to provide services in Manitowoc. CORE had started a sober living facility in Manitowoc about 3 years ago. Chris had been working with Human Services workers Jason Latva, Jerry Mutchie and Don Sweet to help set up the program. It was determined many people needed a higher level of care than was available.

Carmen was setting up a treatment program with Holy Family Memorial Hospital and the West Foundation and they started working together. Carmen had worked at Human Services in the past and in private treatment so it was helpful to streamline the process. Now the full range of services are available in Manitowoc. There is Residential Treatment, clients live in the building and attend clinical group services/counseling/peer support groups, etc. There is Day Treatment where clients attend Monday thru Friday. They also have an outpatient clinic, trying to fill in gaps in services in the community.

They have provided services to 23-24 Human Service clients so far. They have gotten certified to complete CCS services through Human Services. They also have 2 sober living apartments available for Recovery clients. If someone isn't sure what level they are at, they can get an assessment that follows the American Society of Addiction criteria that will tell them what level of need they are at and what care their insurance will cover. They are very excited about the great success many of their clients have had so far and continue to have.

FINANCIAL AND STATISTICAL REPORTS THROUGH DECEMBER, 2020 – Patricia Dodge:

We are anticipating a surplus thru year end for 2020. We had applied for State funds and have received more than what had been budgeted. We expect to have the year-end totals complete by March.

Supervisor Henrickson thanked the staff for saving where possible.

Lori Joas gave an update on Economic Support activities. There are about 300 more energy assistant applications so far this year. The numbers are high due to a lot of people laid off and also because of some of the requirements being waived by the state so people are staying open for services longer. The President also opened up the open enrollment period for Medicaid from February 15 – May 15 so there may be more enrollments. Economic Support has also been contacting the utility companies to see if there are people with large bills to contact before utilities can be shut off.

Nancy gave an update on child welfare units. CPS had concerns that with Covid and kids not being in school referrals would be down but they are about the same. We have had a lot of turnover in CPS about ¾ of the staff are new but they are pretty much up to speed. CFS has been inundated with new placements, have about 147 kids in foster care. They have approval for an LTE position but have advertised twice and are not getting responses. YFS current referrals are down about 66% compared to 7 years ago so juvenile crime is way down. The childrens' waiver program is going strong and they are adding service providers. We have added a Program Assistant for CCS/CLTS programs. We are in need of foster parents that will take older kids, most want babies, so if you know of anyone let the Foster Care workers know.

QUESTIONS AND INPUT FROM BOARD MEMBERS ON THE STATUS OF THE HUMAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT:

A question on if you think budgets will increase if the country's borders are opened up and we have an influx of migrants. Will we need to budget money for that possibility?

Any veteran over age 65 can get a Covid shot at the Clement J. Zablocki Veterans Medical Center in Milwaukee. They should call in for an appointment.

DIRECTOR’S REPORT OF AGENCY OPERATIONS – Patricia Dodge:

Covid update – Some of our staff were included in the Category 1A group for vaccines and have been vaccinated. Patricia has been forwarding information to staff as she receives it. If there are cancellations or no-shows the Health Department calls us to let us know if some employees can go in. Staff have continually been exposed to Covid, if they are not ill they can work from home.

The 2021 contracts are complete. We have about eight million dollars in contracts with about 80 providers. If the contracted services are over \$10,000 we complete a contract and if under \$10,000 we sign an agreement. We do amendments during the year as needed.

Staffing: We have had 1 retirement and 2 CCS workers leave since last month. We are currently recruiting for 1 CCS therapist, 2 CCS facilitators, 1 Clinical Case Manager, 2 new AODA Case Managers for the SOR grant, 1 Medical Billing/Coding Specialist, and an LTE for CFS. Have been getting very poor responses to ads placed.

We have been having to get creative with figuring out work spaces for new staff positions. There are no offices available in the 8th Street building.

Date of next meeting:

The next regular meeting of the Human Services Department Board will be held on Thursday, February 25, 2021 at 4:45 p.m. The meeting will be held in the 8th Street building at 801 Jay Street.

ADJOURNMENT:

A MOTION WAS MADE BY BAUMAN, SECONDED BY AGNEW TO ADJOURN THE MEETING OF THE HUMAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT BOARD AT 5:28 P.M. MOTION CARRIED.