

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

CALL TO ORDER:

The Manitowoc County Human Services Department Board met at 4:49 p.m. on Thursday, April 22, 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, Agnew, Burke, Cavanaugh, Shimulunas

Board Members Attending by Zoom: Ruggirello

Board Members Attending by Phone: Baumann

Board Members Excused: Nasep, Williams

Board Members Absent: None

County Board Members Present: None

County Staff Present: Stephan, L. Fure, Randolph, Joas, Kubec, Ziegelbauer

PUBLIC COMMENT:

No public comment.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

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

EDUCATION TOPIC: Children's Long Term Support Waiver Program Updates – Lisa Stephan

Lisa Stephan is the supervisor of the Birth – 3 and CLTS programs. She mentioned that the Birth-3 program switched contracted providers last year to Rehab Resources out of Sheboygan and the transition has gone very smoothly, we are very happy with their services.

The CLTS Waiver Program is a Home and Community-Based Service Waiver that funds community supports and services for children who have substantial limitations in their daily activities and need support to remain in their home or community. Eligible children include those with developmental disabilities, severe emotional disturbances, and physical disabilities. Funding can be used to support a range of different services based on an assessment of the needs of the child and family.

As of January 1st Wisconsin went to a statewide budget and enrollment, we are obligated to continue to serve every child that is eligible. The Governor's current budget includes language to make CLTS an entitlement program ensuring funding for all eligible children and eliminating wait-lists. We do not have a wait-list in Manitowoc.

In 2017, we had 96 kids in the program and in 2020 we had 217 kids enrolled in the program. In 2020, we had added an additional worker, since that time, we have added 51 more kids to the program, and have 26 providers. Our caseloads average between 25 – 35 cases. We are requesting an additional staff member to handle the increase in numbers. We currently have 11 new families getting set up for services. The cost of an additional worker would be covered by the state.

Once we receive a referral we have 10 days to contact the family, 45 days to complete the screening and 60 days to get up and running with the providers set up.

The guidelines are not as strict as they once were so more children are eligible for services. Families used to have to be on waitlists for years before they were eligible. We continue to add providers to our pool of resources for families to explore. We work with each family individually to meet their unique needs. We have had many success stories. We are currently in need of respite providers if you would know of anyone interested. The state sets the rates, we are working with Respite Care Association of Wisconsin to get providers.

AUTHORIZATION FOR AN ADDITIONAL CHILDREN’S WAIVER PROGRAM SUPPORT AND SERVICE COORDINATOR

A MOTION WAS MADE BY BURKE, SECONDED BY RUGGIRELLO TO SUBMIT A RESOLUTION TO ADD THE REQUEST TO THE ROSTER OF THE PERSONNEL COMMITTEE AND COUNTY BOARD. MOTION CARRIED.

AUTHORIZATION FOR AN ADDITIONAL ADULT PROTECTIVE SERVICES WORKER

A MOTION WAS MADE BY BURKE, SECONDED BY RUGGIRELLO TO SUBMIT A RESOLUTION TO ADD THE REQUEST TO THE ROSTER OF THE PERSONNEL COMMITTEE AND COUNTY BOARD. MOTION CARRIED.

FINANCIAL AND STATISTICAL REPORTS THROUGH MARCH, 2021:

Members can look at the handouts for current numbers through March.

The moratorium for utility shut offs ended April 15, so people can be disconnected if not paying bills. There is additional crisis funding available. WPS has been working with customers and Economic Support has been working with the smaller utility companies.

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

There was a question on if our foster care system is being affected by the influx of children coming into the country. We have a severe shortage of foster homes in Manitowoc County, we have 45 licensed homes and currently have 157 kids in placements. Not all placements are in foster homes some are in Kinship placements, etc. The number of kids in placements are as high as it has ever been, but ¾ of our placements are related to drug abuse. We are currently recruiting for foster parents, if anyone would like to take a lawn sign home we have some available, if you know anyone interested in being a foster parent have them contact us.

There was also a question on with more people with addiction issues are property owners ignoring mandates and kicking people out of apartments. We have not seen a significant issue with people losing apartments. Lakeshore CAP handles the rental assistance program and has additional funding available. A lot of the landlords in the area don’t seem to have issues when they know the person is working with our department. Also now with the sober living apartments available in Manitowoc we work with CORE to help people in our programs. The people with the biggest issues are people just getting out of prison or people with mental health issues.

DIRECTOR’S REPORT OF AGENCY OPERATIONS: We did not have a report this month.

Date of next meeting:

The next regular meeting of the Human Services Department Board will be held on Thursday, May 27, 2021 at 4:45 p.m. The meeting will be held in the 8th Street building at 801 Jay Street. Access will also be available remotely by Zoom.

ADJOURNMENT:

A MOTION WAS MADE BY CAVANAUGH, SECONDED BY RUGGIRELLO TO ADJOURN THE MEETING OF THE HUMAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT BOARD AT 5:21 P.M. MOTION CARRIED.