

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

CALL TO ORDER:

The Manitowoc County Human Services Department Board met at 4:46 p.m. on Thursday, June 24, 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, Cavanaugh, Shimulunas, Ruggirello, Nasep

Board Members Attending by Zoom:

Board Members Attending by Phone:

Board Members Excused: Baumann, Burke, Williams

Board Members Absent: Agnew

County Board Members Present: None

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

PUBLIC COMMENT:

No public comment.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

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

EDUCATION TOPIC: Update on Energy Assistance Program – Deb Williquette

Deb Williquette, Economic Support Supervisor, provided information on the Energy Assistance Program. The program provides a one-time heating and electric benefit per season. This is the first year people can apply on-line and the State contracted with Energy Service, Inc. to handle all on-line applications. The County also receives crisis funds from the state and funds from Keep Wisconsin Warm. This is used for people with no heat or disconnect notices. 95% of these funds help veterans, elderly and disabled. We also have funds for Emergency Furnace Services which can be used to repair or replace furnaces.

Because of Covid the 2020 season extended through the 2021 heating season. The State did automatic payments to electric and home fuel customers. There is also a centralized crisis fund through the State we can use. The American Rescue Plan Act included additional energy assistance and rental assistance. Lakeshore CAP handles any rental assistance needs.

FINANCIAL AND STATISTICAL REPORTS THROUGH MAY, 2021:

In April we had 2,164 people receiving energy assistance and in May there were 2,200.

The CPS unit has really been scrambling to keep up with higher than normal numbers. We had an LTE employee that will be taking the open CPS position. There was a question on if the case is a screen-out, do we do any follow-up with the family – we do referrals for resources but no other follow-up after the case is screened-out.

Clinical Services – crisis calls have been increasing and calls are more intense. We are starting to look at creating a crisis center. Staff are spending many hours out of regular services to handle crisis calls. So staff are starting to look at what a crisis center could look like, being open 24/7 and taking walk-ins during the day, etc. (This will not be a quick process.)

We have hired two people to handle transportation for our CPS/CFS units. This is really working out great and saving so much of our parent aides work time, very successful so far. Right now we are looking at an \$87,000 deficit for the year. Mainly due to kids in residential homes or out-of-county group homes. It is very challenging to get local providers for services.

DETERMINE PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PROCESS AND DATE OF PUBLIC HEARING INTO THE 2022 BUDGET. – PATRICIA DODGE AND HSD BOARD

Every year we are required to allow public input on the budget. We can either do a public hearing or a county-wide survey. We would have to make it available then publish in the newspapers. We have tried that a few times but really hasn't worked out real well.

It was decided to have a hearing at 4:00 p.m. before the August 26th Human Services Board Meeting. Meeting notices will be put in the newspaper and on the website. There was a question on if someone has a question that can't attend the hearing due to work hours, etc., can they submit a question before the meeting. We will check with the Clerk's office to see if we can accept input before the meeting.

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

Are foster parents or foster children receiving any training on Critical Race Theory? No, that is not a part of the curriculum for foster parents. There is a state coalition that provides foster parent training. The training is updated and there is a lot more training on race and gender issues than there was in the past.

There was a question on why the secure detention days really went up. There were 2 people and more than our average number of days at the center. Will have to check with that unit on the increase.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT OF AGENCY OPERATIONS: PATRICIA DODGE

Have positive news, our CST unit received an additional \$25,000 grant besides the \$60,000 main grant. CST workers work with the family, school and child. They set goals with the child to determine what would help them the most. Most of this grant money will go towards supplies, Rec Programs, skill building, baseball, babysitting courses, music and other positive skill building programs.

We are working on the 2020 budget, the first step is working on staffing needs, programming needs and how to fill open positions. There is an increase in CPS and the ongoing unit for out-of-home placements. CCS programs have 59 kids on a waitlist. We have filled some of the current positions, but have 1 CFS, 1 CPS, 1 Kinship Care Coordinator open and found a CCS Supervisor but person then turned it down. We are also trying to get an LTE for the child welfare unit and one for the ongoing unit. Still searching for those.

Date of next meeting:

The next regular meeting of the Human Services Department Board will be held on Thursday, August 26, 2021 immediately following the Public Hearing for the 2021 budget which begins at 4:00 p.m. The meeting will be held in the 8th Street building at 801 Jay Street.

ADJOURNMENT:

A MOTION WAS MADE BY CAVANAUGH, SECONDED BY SHIMULUNAS TO ADJOURN THE MEETING OF THE HUMAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT BOARD AT 5:23 P.M. MOTION CARRIED.