

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

CALL TO ORDER:

The Manitowoc County Human Services Department Board met at 4:15 p.m. on Thursday, January 26, 2023 in open session at the Manitowoc County Human Services Department, 801 Jay Street, Manitowoc, WI.

Board Members Present: Agnew, Baumann, Bruns, Burke, Brey, Klein, Naidl, Shimulunas

Board Members Excused: Ruggirello

Board Members Absent:

County Board Members Present: None

County Staff Present: Foster, Fure, Huss, Joas, Kubec, Michels, Salinas, Ziegelbauer

PUBLIC COMMENT ON ANY MATTER PERTAINING TO THE HUMAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT:

No public comment.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

A MOTION WAS MADE BY SHIMULUNAS, SECONDED BY AGNEW TO APPROVE THE MINUTES FROM THE OCTOBER 27TH MEETING. MOTION CARRIED.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY SHIMULUNAS, SECONDED BY AGNEW TO APPROVE THE MINUTES FROM THE DECEMBER 8TH MEETING. MOTION WAS CARRIED.

EDUCATION TOPIC: Parent Coaching – Jena Foster and Tina Salinas

Child protection is mandated to do supervised visitation for families with children placed out of their care. We currently have 5 full-time and 1 part-time Parent Coaches who provide approximately 40-50 supervised visits per week, each about 2 hours long. When a family is closer to reunification they will have more visits and extended visit times. Supervised visitation occurs in the home, the respite house, we rent space at Lakeshore CAP and also public places like the library. The Parent Coaches also provide parenting education and are trained in Nurturing Parenting curriculum from the state. The education hours are separate from the visitation hours. When they meet with a family they have them take a pre-test which determines which areas they will work on. When completed, they give parents a post-test to be sure they understand and the social worker can see if any changes were made.

The Parent Coaches try to be a bridge between the social worker and the parents, they try and build a relationship with the family and build trust so the families see this as a positive thing. They set goals and try to build a plan together. They mirror positive behaviors and connect families to resources that can help them.

In 2021, we decided to allow some families to voluntarily meet with a parent coach when the assessment showed the case did not have to formally open but there were areas the family could work on. We have had 29 families voluntarily meet with parent coaches since 2021 and only 3 of them came back with a new referral

STATISTICAL REPORTS FOR NOVEMBER AND DECEMBER, 2022:

The workload statistics were reviewed. There was a 34% increase in substance use referrals, but the involuntary hospitalizations went down. There was a question on if the 988 Call Center has made a difference. Any 988 after hours calls from someone in Manitowoc County are funneled down to us so we still receive them.

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

NAMI has received a grant to start a Mental Health Court in Manitowoc County, will Human Services be working with them. Bob mentioned we already have a lot of demands on our staff, and don't know if our community can support a mental health court. We hope they do good work. Lori will be having a meeting with Donna in February to see what they are planning. It will also take a while for NAMI to make plans and set up how the court would work.

There was a question on how the hiring is going. We've hired workers in the substance use area so by May will be full. One of the workers that left the substance abuse area went to two other counties but is now coming back. The 5% increase in December might be helping. We are also trying to be more flexible with schedules and with our work from home policy.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT OF AGENCY OPERATIONS:

Our Clinical Services Manager resigned his last day was January 26th, so we will be trying to replace him. We are also currently looking for a CPS Initial Assessment Social Worker, a CPS Ongoing Social Worker, a Daytime Crisis worker and a Treatment Alt/Diversion Counselor. Some of the newer people we've hired don't have the experience and need more supervision.

The county approved the purchase of the Lakeside corporate office building. Lori and a few staff will be meeting with Public Works next week to start working on plans. We plan for the CCS unit to move into the new space, in approximately August. Lori would like to put together a two-year plan on office space needs for the Human Services building before any other moves take place.

Lori said they are also working on mental health crisis beds. Last year we had 6 beds in 3 different homes. The plan was to move them all to one provider by January 1, but the provider was only able to provide 2 beds for AODA clients. In early January we had 3 – 4 people in crisis, 3 were then hospitalized and 1 was safety planned home. We found a new provider for two additional crisis beds and have contracted with a former provider for 1 additional crisis. This issue will continue to be worked on.

Jessica has been working with the safety committee on safety in the building, home visits, etc. They are working with a consultant to come up with plans and training. We also have a lot of new staff that need training.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING:

The next regular meeting of the Human Services Department Board will be held on Thursday, February 23, 2023 at 4:15. The meeting will be held in the 8th Street building at the 801 Jay Street entrance.

ADJOURNMENT:

A MOTION WAS MADE BY BAUMANN, SECONDED BY BURKE TO ADJOURN THE MEETING OF THE HUMAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT BOARD AT 5:25 P.M., MOTION CARRIED.