

**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, April 27, 2023 in open session at the Manitowoc County Human Services Department, 801 Jay Street, Manitowoc, WI.

Board Members Present: Agnew, Baumann, Brey, Klein, Naidl, Ruggirello, Shimulunas

Board Members Excused:

Board Members Absent: Bruns, Burke

County Board Members Present: None

County Staff Present: Ader, Fure, Huss, Johnson, Kubec, Spyropoulos, Ziegelbauer

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

No public comment.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

A MOTION WAS MADE BY BAUMANN, SECONDED BY KLEIN TO APPROVE THE MINUTES FROM THE MARCH 23RD MEETING. MOTION WAS CARRIED.

EDUCATION TOPIC: Medication Assisted Recovery for Substance Use Disorders – Dr. Basil Spyropoulos.

Dr. Spyropoulos introduced himself. He has been working at Human Services for almost 15 years and through his tenure has been doing some form of medicated assisted recovery. Which means using medication to help promote recovery. In the past, clinicians had to have special training and mostly methadone was used. Treatment has evolved and we mostly use Vivitrol and Suboxone now. We use an injectable form of Vivitrol, patients come in once a month for an injection. They would need to be clean 10 – 14 days before we can begin the injections. The goal is to help with cravings. This has been working well for some patients. Suboxone stimulates opioid receptors to keep cravings at bay and makes it difficult for them to get high. These are better options because they are temporary treatments not lifetime. If you rely solely on medication to keep you clean, it is not effective. Almost all of our client's addictions were a result of horrible life experiences. All of our clients are in psychotherapy to help them solve life issues. Statistically addictions in general aren't really successful. Most of our clients have been addicts since 13–15 years old. We have about 30-40% doing pretty well. They are working, have a place to live can function rather normally. It is hard for most of our patients to stay motivated because they don't know what a stable life is, what goals are because they have never had a normal life.

The cost of Vivitrol is about \$1,700 a shot. It is covered by MA. Our nurses here work very hard to get coverage for people without MA. They work with drug companies, get vouchers or PAP programs to help with the cost. We have roughly 30 – 50 people in treatment at a time and receive a lot of new referrals.

STATISTICAL REPORTS FOR MARCH, 2023: Lori Fure

Business is booming. All areas are roughly the same as they have been, no big changes.

FINANCIAL PROJECTIONS FOR MARCH, 2023 – Jessica Huss

There was a revision to the projection form. There are columns with the year to date actual and it is a little early to project. There are several juveniles placed out of home so that total is higher than anticipated and is trending up.

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

A question on what's happening with the new facility. Lakeside is moved out and Public Works is ordering equipment and starting on changes. Would like to hold an HSD board meeting there eventually.

We haven't officially received the SOR grant yet, but looks like we will receive \$731,590. The highest amount next to Milwaukee. We have not yet received the contract from the state, but we are told contracts should be out within 2 weeks. Under the grant we are also doing HIV and communicable disease testing, and working on a means to ensure confirmatory testing via same day blood draw. This is due to the large numbers of people who inject opioids and meth.

Members did hear it on the radio and news that Manitowoc received a large SOR grant. SOR grant money is only for treatment of opioid use disorders and other stimulant use disorders (in our community this is primarily meth). The bulk of the money is to keep the programs running. Some of the money will be used for staff training. We are discussing options, potentially adding a wellness group. Manitowoc County has received one of the biggest grants in the State. There are a lot of conditions that need to be met to qualify.

There was a question on Fentanyl use problems in Manitowoc. Yes, it is in almost everything now, even mixed with most marijuana bought off the street. Fentanyl is very cheap. We understand it is now being mixed with xylazine, which is a veterinary tranquilizer. It makes the high last longer, but has side effects (open sores).

REQUEST TO RECLASSIFY/REALLOCATE A VACANT CCS FACILITATOR POSITION TO A NEWLY CREATED CCS ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT POSITION – LORI FURE

There are currently have two unfilled CCS facilitator positions and we would like to convert one to a CCS Administrative Support position. With the new building, we need someone to sit at the front desk. We currently have a part-time LTE in the financial area that is doing 100% CCS data entry. We would like to combine that with support functions. We also have one of the quality control workers going out on maternity leave, so would like to hire someone now and get them trained and ready to go before the move.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY RUGGIRELLO, SECONDED BY BAUMANN TO APPROVE THE REQUEST TO RECLASSIFY A VACANT CCS FACILITATOR POSITION TO A CCS ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT POSITION. MOTION WAS CARRIED.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT ON AGENCY OPERATIONS: Lori Fure

Lori introduced Betsy Johnson, the new Deputy Director of the Clinical Services Division. Betsy has been at Human Services for 18 years. She supervises crisis, adult protective services, outpatient and SUD and has been holding down the fort in Clinical since January.

We will be moving 24 CCS staff out to the new building at the end of July. We will also be creating a visitation center for families working toward reunification and in need of supervised visitation. We currently use some space in this building and we rent space from Lakeshore CAP for these supervised visits. Moving visitation to one building would eliminate the cost of rent to Lakeshore CAP and it would reduce travel time of parent support workers between visit locations. There is also more parking, which is a major advantage.

We recently held a staff appreciation lunch for our employees. The supervisors provide food and door prizes. Bob and Patricia attended and donated gift cards for door prizes. We had about \$750 in gift cards for drawings this year. It was very well attended and staff really appreciated it.

A group of the foster care workers went to the last County Board meeting and it was very positive, they did a good job.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING:

The next regular meeting of the Human Services Department Board will be held on Thursday, May 25, 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 AGNEW TO ADJOURN THE MEETING OF THE HUMAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT BOARD AT 5:03 P.M., MOTION CARRIED.