

**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, May 25, 2023 in open session at the Manitowoc County Human Services Department, 801 Jay Street, Manitowoc, WI.

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

Board Members Excused: Brey

Board Members Absent: Burke

County Board Members Present: None

County Staff Present: Ader, Fure, Gabriel, Huss, Joas, Johnson, Kubec, Ledvina, Rohrer, 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 AGNEW TO APPROVE THE MINUTES FROM THE APRIL 27TH MEETING. MOTION WAS CARRIED.

EDUCATION TOPIC: Youth Wellness Center – Stacy Ledvina, Tim Gabriel, Erica Rohrer:

The Youth Wellness Center was developed in 2011 as an alternative to secure detention. Youth were given days to serve in court, and workers just monitored the youth. The program has changed over the years and now offers a whole array of services. They are located at Clarkbridge Hall, which has some office space, a foosball table and recreation area, basketball hoop, workspace and area to make meals. Youth are either voluntarily attending or referred from court but workers come up with individualized plans for each child so they can provide them services at the level they are at. Youth are referred for 5, 10, or 15 sessions, based on the reason for the referral or the level of violation being addressed. They focus on skill development, independent living skills and community engagement.

The Youth Tracking Program is usually court ordered to address community safety and may include GPS monitoring.

Restorative Justice assists youth in complying with restitution and community service obligations and to increase skill development. Some youth that are too young or with mental health issues are able to get a small wage from working in our community garden that can be used for restitution payments.

Intensive Case Management is for high needs kids. Staff can meet with them 2 – 5 times a week. They focus on accountability, community safety and skill development. They include independent living skills, community engagement, educational support, crisis intervention and focus on family engagement.

Take in the Good is a mindfulness program that gives them empowerment to handle stress throughout their everyday lives, in any environment. The goal is not only to give the opportunity to change their prospective on how they can experience stress but to also encourage self-care. We have staff trained in mindfulness. We did a survey a while back and roughly 80% of youth justice kids had Child Protection referral when they were young. So, they work with youth on planning a future, doing regular things in the community they never experienced, teaching them practical things.

We have about 110 kids in the programming now, normally about 80 but received 14 new cases this month. Almost all the kids have been meeting their goals. The Kids at Hope philosophy of believing, connecting and time-traveling with youth is utilized in all programming at the YWC. Youth Justice staff believe that all youth are capable of success, no exceptions, and we are lucky to have great workers with lots of different experience working with them.

STATISTICAL REPORTS FOR APRIL, 2023: Lori Fure

The service numbers in all areas have been pretty steady. With having a dedicated crisis worker during the day in Clinical they have been able to do more safety planning keeping people out of placements. We normally had been rotating 20 different workers handling crisis calls so they were all a little different in how they handled the calls. Now it is more consistent.

The CLTS numbers are up so they are asking for a couple positions next year.

FINANCIAL PROJECTIONS FOR APRIL, 2023 – Jessica Huss

The 2022-year end deficit was \$1,609,049 but with the planned fund balance of \$925,546 the actual year end deficit was \$683,503. Kudos to the fiscal team for collecting additional WIMCR and CLTS Admin costs and an unexpected grant to bring the 2022 Deficit down to \$118,282.93.

For 2023, we currently have a deficit of \$784,059.

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

There was a question on if you are getting a receptionist at the office complex. The CLTS workers spend time driving around to give out gas cards because parents can't come to the building. Yes, that is something we are looking at for 2024.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT ON AGENCY OPERATIONS: Lori Fure

The State made changes to the Administrative Code last year merging Mental Health and AODA under DHS 75. New under this code is a requirement for Intensive Outpatient (IOP) to become certified. We applied for this certification in October of 2022. Finally, on May 17th the State completed the survey and said we were the only county that sent in the correct policies on the first try. They thought we had the perfect space for a self-contained IOP, with a restroom, Narcan and direct access to outside. The June education topic will be Narcan training.

We have also been working on employee safety. As situations we work with are becoming increasingly complex, reports of mass shootings this year being higher than ever, everyone is concerned about staff safety in and out of this building. We have had Ted Hayes come in for two trainings on home visit safety and personal safety. He will be doing a final training on June 14th at the office complex. That day he will also do a walk through of the Hamilton Street building to assess for safety and will make recommendations. We will continue efforts in this area.

Yesterday our department held a Poverty Simulation at the Office Complex. This was facilitated by UW Brown County extension. It is a role-playing simulation where some staff volunteered as local agencies or businesses while the majority of staff were given scenarios and resources than had to figure out how to make it until the end of the month. It was well attended and helps sensitize workers to the challenges people living in poverty face on a daily basis.

We have been filling positions but are still looking for two CCS Facilitators, a CSP Case Manager, a Staff Accountant, two Transportation Specialists and a CPS Social Worker.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING:

The next regular meeting of the Human Services Department Board will be held on Thursday, June 22, 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 KLEIN TO ADJOURN THE MEETING OF THE HUMAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT BOARD AT 5:20 P.M., MOTION CARRIED.