

**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, February 22, 2024 in open session at the Manitowoc County Human Services Department, 801 Jay Street, Manitowoc, WI.

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

Board Members Excused: Burke

Board Members Absent:

County Board Members Present: None

County Staff Present: Fure, Huss, Joas, Johnson, Kubec, Tisler, Yang, Ziegelbauer

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

None

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

A MOTION WAS MADE BY AGNEW, SECONDED BY BRUNS TO APPROVE THE MINUTES FROM THE JANUARY 25TH MEETING. MOTION WAS CARRIED.

EDUCATION TOPIC: Adult Protective Services (APS) – Dawn Tisler and Cristy Yang

Dawn and Cristy gave an overview of what the Adult Protective Services unit does. They serve elders 60 years or older and people over 18 with disabilities. They get referrals on neglect, emotional, financial, and sexual abuse, caregiver misconduct and self-neglect. They investigate any injuries or what the circumstances are and will contact the police department on cases where it is warranted. There are many cases of self-neglect through hoarding, AODA issues, or not getting medical attention where the person can make their own decisions so we have to convince them to get help.

We receive Elder Abuse Funds of \$35,300 a year we can use for dumpsters, cleaning, homecare, up to a month of placement if the person does not have funds to pay for it. If they are financially able they will be charged for items.

Many people do not have wills or power of attorneys set up, we will then have to do a guardianship, through a court proceeding. It has been getting increasingly hard to find people to act as guardians. If we would have to do a protective placement of someone yearly WATTS Reviews are required. We visit with the person, gather information from doctors, the facility, family members and guardians to see if the placement is still needed and if the person is agreeing to the placement.

The biggest challenges we are facing are finding placements for sex offenders, hazards in the homes, health issues, exposure to lice/fleas, lack of resources (there is a real shortage of caregivers) many facilities are short-staffed.

We currently have 6 APS workers. Just as a reference in 2009 there were 168 referrals in 2023 there were 458 referrals, over 50 new referrals a month. We currently have 37 out-of-county guardianships set up, so workers need to travel to complete the yearly WATTS Reviews.

FINANCIAL PROJECTIONS FOR DECEMBER, 2023 – Jessica Huss

We have about 80% of everything in thru year end. Currently, we have a deficit of \$403,624 but we are still hoping to receive more money to reduce that.

DIRECTOR’S REPORT ON AGENCY OPERATIONS: Lori Fure

Overall the Youth Justice numbers are up. The offenses have been more serious crimes and fewer repeats.

A bullet was found right outside the employee door of the Hamilton Street building. The police sent an officer who took the bullet, and recorded it as suspicious activity. The officer stated the markings on the bullet indicate there was an attempt to fire it. The officer took the bullet. We may adjust the camera angle so that it shows an area closer to that door.

In February, the Manitowoc SWAT team did a walk-through of the Hamilton building to familiarize themselves with the layout. They will be doing some training there on March 12 and May 14th after 6pm.

We continue to make safety a priority and have a safety committee working on different items. \$10,000 had been approved in 2024 for a elevator fob for the 8th street building, but it was decided to install of paging system at Hamilton first, as there is no way to contact people in the building if something is happening. We will also be looking at some type of door that prevents public access from our lobby into the employee stairwell of the downtown building. It is a fire door so it cannot just be a regular lock, but anyone from the lobby can access the stairs to anywhere in the building. So, Lori has been working with Public Works on different options.

Our provider contracts are going out late this year. After the auditors were here last year, they said the contracts needed to be updated. Corporation Counsel made some changes but it took a while so we didn’t start getting them until the end of January, they will be completed by March 1st. The goal for next year is to have them done by January 1st.

We only have 3 vacancies currently. We have filled the CPS Intake, APNP, Desktop Support, Daytime Crisis and the two after-hours crisis positions workers will be starting within the next few weeks. We have a CCS, a Staff Account position (that is being revised) and a Psychiatric RN position currently open.

Lori asked if there were any education topics the board would like scheduled for this year. Mental health was suggested. Maybe if they could get a chart of all services provided. If anyone thinks of anything else bring suggestions to next meeting.

QUESTIONS FROM BOARD MEMBERS ON THE STATUS OF THE HUMAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT: Lori Fure

None

DATE OF NEXT MEETING:

The next regular meeting of the Human Services Department Board will be held on March 28, 2024 at 4:15 p.m. The meeting will be held at Manitowoc County Human Services, 801 Jay Street.

ADJOURNMENT:

A MOTION WAS MADE BY BAUMANN, SECONDED BY RUGGIRELLO TO ADJOURN THE MEETING OF THE HUMAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT BOARD 5:45 P.M., MOTION CARRIED.