

**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 23, 2025 in open session at the Manitowoc County Human Services Department, 801 Jay Street, Manitowoc, WI.

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

Board Members Excused: Muench

Board Members Absent:

County Board Members Present: Grambow, Martell

County Staff Present: Ader, Fure, Huss, Joas, Johnson, Kapla, Kubec, Mutchie, Schmidt-Sadowski, Ziegelbauer

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

Carrie Redo spoke regarding concerns over decreased grant funding for sober living and the successful outcomes for people who use sober living.

Judge Rohrer expressed concerns about cutting any recovery services.

Judge Dewane spoke in opposition to forming an opioid task force.

Jonathan Neeb, Executive Director of Lotus Recovery Home, spoke in opposition to an opioid task force and advocated for funding of sober living.

APPROVAL OF THE DECEMBER 5, 2024 MINUTES:

A MOTION WAS MADE BY BRUNS, SECONDED BY SHIMULUNAS TO APPROVE THE MINUTES FROM THE DECEMBER 5TH MEETING. MOTION WAS CARRIED.

EDUCATION TOPIC – SUBSTANCE USE DISORDER (SUD) SUCCESS STORIES –

Jerry Mutchie, SUD supervisor introduced himself, his role and two former service participants who told their stories.

FINANCIAL PROJECTIONS FOR NOVEMBER, 2024 – Jessica Huss

Deputy Director Jessica Huss provided a brief overview of the department’s financial performance. In April we had been projecting nearly a \$7 million deficit. But have been working very hard, cutting anywhere we can to reduce that amount. We are still gathering information, but now have a projected \$4.2 million deficit for year end.

DIRECTOR’S REPORT ON AGENCY OPERATIONS - Lori Fure

Director Fure explained opposition to an opioid task force. The Human Services Department has been responding to the opioid crisis for many years. The department has experienced the problem from many angles and all programs or services here have been impacted. HSD has built a continuum of care that provides evidence-based practices, everything from crisis stabilization options to

intensive outpatient, case management, coordination of residential treatment and use of Comprehensive Community Services.

Director Fure provided update on grants. In late December HSD received notice that the State Opioid Response (SOR) grant award is 40% less than the previous 3 years. This is due to the total funds available and ranking of counties by need. In 2017, the year of our first SOR grant, Manitowoc was ranked 8th most in need relative to the opioid crisis. In 2024 Manitowoc County fell to number 22. State grant coordinators acknowledged that they can see that what Manitowoc County is doing, is working, but they have to prioritize counties based on need. With counties and tribes requesting just under \$16 million and the state having only \$8 million to distribute, priority goes to the neediest counties. Opioid settlement funds can fill in gaps left by reduced grant funds.

Director Fure highlighted three service areas with significant increases this past year: Children's Long Term Support waiver program (CLTS), Adult Protective Services (APS) and Crisis. The CLTS program served 100 more children in 2024 than in 2023. APS had 121 more referrals in 2024 than in 2023. Working hour crisis had 222 more crisis contacts in 2024 than in 2023. After-hours crisis had 459 more contacts in 2024 than in 2023. That number does not include after-hours youth justice or child protective services responses, which are also provided by after-hours crisis workers. All of those numbers represent a significant amount of work to absorb.

QUESTIONS FROM BOARD MEMBERS ON THE STATUS OF THE HUMAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT

It sounds like you are being punished for doing a good job, what has changed? We built something that works. The SOR grant coordinators from the state told us we are a victim of our own success. The state ranks high need areas based on number overdose deaths, opioid or stimulant-related hospitalizations and new cases of hepatitis C. Other counties have consulted with us to see how we developed our service continuum.

DISCUSSION ON THE 2024 - 2025 HUMAN SERVICES BUDGET – Chairman Jim Brey

One of the board members received a phone call about the Parent Café's ending. These are so helpful for parents with disabled children. With increased workloads in CLTS this is not something staff can continue to facilitate. There is a plan for Human Services staff to ease out of facilitating them.

County Executive Ziegelbauer said we'll have more budget information in the next two meetings. Right now, the 2025 budget is pretty stable. We will have more details in the coming weeks.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING:

The next regular meeting of the Human Services Department Board will be held on February 27, 2025 at 4:15 p.m. The meeting will be held at the Manitowoc County Office Complex, 4319 Expo Drive, Room 300, Manitowoc, WI.

ADJOURNMENT:

A MOTION WAS MADE BY SHIMULUNAS, SECONDED BY AGNEW TO ADJOURN THE MEETING OF THE HUMAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT BOARD AT 5:21 P.M., MOTION CARRIED.