

**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 24, 2025 in open session at the Manitowoc County Human Services Department, 801 Jay Street, Manitowoc, WI.

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

Board Members Excused: Agnew

Board Members Absent:

County Board Members Present:

County Staff Present: Ader, Fure, Huss, Joas, Johnson, Ziegelbauer

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

None

APPROVAL OF THE MARCH 27, 2025 MINUTES:

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

EDUCATION TOPIC – SUPPORTED APARTMENTS – Betsy Johnson

Deputy Director Johnson provided an overview on supported apartments for eligible chronically mentally ill residents, which started in 2010, and has been growing ever since. The successful partnership saves Manitowoc County \$779,085 on group home placements every year. More importantly, it provides the residents with the support needed to enable them to live their best lives.

FINANCIAL PROJECTIONS FOR MARCH, 2025 – Jessica Huss

Deputy Director Huss provided a brief overview of the department's financial performance so far in 2025. Deputy Director Huss also provided comments on the status of the 2024 deficit, sharing that the financial statements are currently being audited, and the audited totals should be ready to be shared with the board in May.

County Executive Ziegelbauer shared some points on the origination of the 2024 budget deficit, the root causes, what the deficit was projected to be, what it actually was, and how the remaining budget gap is being funded. The County Executive provided a comparison of Manitowoc County to surrounding counties, primarily focusing on their total expenditures and local dollars invested in Human Services programs. In comparison Manitowoc County does align with other counties in both categories.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT ON AGENCY OPERATIONS - Lori Fure

Director Fure pointed out the recent updates to the conference room the board was meeting in, and extended her gratitude to the Department of Public Works for their hard work in completing the updates, and for providing the funding for the project.

There have been a number of safety upgrades in the downtown building this year beginning with the addition of the elevator FOB system. Recently, the door leading from the lobby to the stairwell was modified and now requires a FOB to open. Finally, new security cameras were installed in the lobby and outside this past weekend. The security cameras and monitors were graciously funded with Information Technology's operating budget.

There have been more threats than normal lately against Human Services staff. Some of the staff are afraid, and we've even had clients leave the lobby area and exit the building because of unsettling situations that were occurring. Our safety consultant has suggested that we lock the vestibule door so clients have to be buzzed in when they have an appointment. We are awaiting a quote on this improvement, and we expect it to be costly. We plan to build this safety improvement into the 2026 budget.

The 2025 finances are looking promising at this time, however we had eight Youth Justice referrals in the last week which could result in some costly placements. Adult Protective Services' (APS) cases have been rising, and are expected to continue due to our aging population. We are watching these areas closely. On a positive note, Children's Protective Services (CPS) has reported 51% of our current placements are currently with family members which generally leads to a better outcome for the child. The state average is 40.83%.

Economic Support week is May 12th. Economic Support recently underwent a review which went well. The official results will be shared tomorrow, 4/25/25.

Manitowoc has its first Narcan vending machine located outside of the Northeastern Wisconsin Area Health Education Center. The initial Narcan for the machine was provided by the Public Health Department, and it will continue to be replenished using Human Services Narcan supply.

Director Fure gave a shout out to the Foster Care team for coordinating and hosting two successful, grant funded events recently. The first was an easter egg hunt for the foster kids to enjoy, and the second was a bowling event for all of the foster families. Both events were well attended, and received many compliments from the families.

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

The board asked a number of questions related to juvenile placements, safety improvements, and the budget.

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

None.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING:

The next regular meeting of the Human Services Department Board will be held on May 22, 2025 at 4:15 p.m. The meeting will be held at the Manitowoc County Human Services, 801 Jay Street, Manitowoc, WI.

ADJOURNMENT:

A MOTION WAS MADE BY BRUNS, SECONDED BY SCHIESL TO ADJOURN THE MEETING OF THE HUMAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT BOARD AT 5:27 P.M., MOTION CARRIED.