

**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 22, 2025 in open session at the Manitowoc County Human Services Department, 801 Jay Street, Manitowoc, WI.

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

Board Members Excused: Agnew, Bruns, Rugggiello

Board Members Absent:

County Board Members Present:

County Staff Present: Ader, Fure, Huss, Joas, Johnson, Kubec, Mutchie, Schmidt Sadowski, Torrison, Zahn, Ziegelbauer

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

Suzanne Zipperer from the League of Women's Voters said they will be having an Information Session on Medicaid Services next Thursday, May 29th at 6:00 p.m. at the Manitowoc Library. Speakers will discuss what Medicaid covers and fast-moving Congressional legislation. Two of the speakers are just back from Washington DC.

APPROVAL OF THE APRIL 24, 2025 MINUTES:

A MOTION WAS MADE BY MUENCH, SECONDED BY SCHIESL TO APPROVE THE MINUTES FROM THE APRIL 24TH MEETING. MOTION WAS CARRIED.

EDUCATION TOPIC – FOSTER CARE – Karen Zahn and Christy Torrison

Karen Zahn and Christy Torrison provided an overview of the foster care program. Manitowoc County currently has 50 foster homes, 12 licensed relative homes and 25 homes in the licensing process. The foster care team is dedicated to ensuring the well-being of children in care by recruiting, training and licensing compassionate and capable foster families. To support foster parents, they host family-friendly events throughout the year, hold training opportunities and offer respite care to prevent caregiver burnout. They apply for all available grant opportunities.

FINANCIAL PROJECTIONS FOR APRIL, 2025 – Jessica Huss

Deputy Director Huss provided a brief overview of the department's financial performance so far in 2025. Although we were projecting a surplus last month, we are now projecting a \$349,903 deficit for 2025. This is primarily due to costs of youth placements. A contract that was eliminated for an Adult Protective Services crisis bed will help offset some of the deficit.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT ON AGENCY OPERATIONS - Lori Fure

May is Mental Health Awareness Month and also Foster Care Month.

Lori Joas, Deputy Director of the Economic Support Division is retiring effective June 6th, after 30 years. Deb Williquette has been appointed as Deputy Director. We are recruiting to replace her supervisor position. Kewaunee County has recruited one of our long-time ES workers.

CLTS just completed a review. The state contracts with Metastar to ensure standards are met. They look at 4 categories: Enrollment, Service Plans, Health Safety & Welfare, and qualified Providers. Overall we scored nearly 3% points above the state average.

Sheboygan County CPS and Foster care teams came to tour our Visitation Center. They were impressed. Our center greatly increases our efficiency.

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

County Board Chair Martell had a question about the CCS WIMCR payment. in advance will have an affect on the budget later in the year. In the past, the CCS WIMCR payment was received 1.5 years after the service. The State recently implemented an option to receive an estimated advance, so that we would receive payments in the current year. Going forward we will opt for this estimated payment to be received in the current year.

DISCUSSION ON THE 2025 HUMAN SERVICES BUDGET – Chairman Jim Brey

County Board Vice-Chair Behnke thinks we should form a committee and be more vocal about how much counties have to pay for programs like B-3. The State and federal payments are not covering enough of the costs, which are then left to the counties. He suggested meeting with our legislators.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING:

The next regular meeting of the Human Services Department Board will be held on June 26, 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 MUENCH, SECONDED BY KLEIN TO ADJOURN THE MEETING OF THE HUMAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT BOARD AT 5:11 P.M., MOTION CARRIED.