

**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, June 26, 2025 in open session at the Manitowoc County Human Services Department, 801 Jay Street, Manitowoc, WI.

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

Board Members Excused: Ruggirello

Board Members Absent:

County Board Members Present: Chairman Tyler Martell

County Staff Present: Fure, Huss, Johnson, Keagle, Mutchie, Williquette, Ziegelbauer

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

None

**APPROVAL OF THE MAY 22, 2025 MINUTES:**

A MOTION WAS MADE BY MUENCH, SECONDED BY SCHIESL TO APPROVE THE MINUTES FROM THE MAY 22<sup>nd</sup> MEETING. MOTION WAS CARRIED.

**EDUCATION TOPIC – DRUG COURT – Jerry Mutchie**

Clinical and SUD Supervisor, Jerry Mutchie provided a thorough overview on Manitowoc County's Drug Court Program. Mr. Mutchie reviewed the eligibility requirements, disqualifying charges, the services and training available for the participants, an overview of the program phases, criteria for graduation, and program incentives. Mr. Mutchie also shared the unintended benefits of the program such as reduced costs in other programs.

Mr. Mutchie introduced the new Drug Court Coordinator, Mandy Keagle who shared her experience, and goals with the Drug Court Program. Mr. Mutchie and Ms. Keagle answered questions from the board members.

**FINANCIAL PROJECTIONS FOR MAY, 2025 – Jessica Huss**

Deputy Director Jessica Huss shared the department's financial results for May, 2025. Deputy Director Huss shared that while the possibility of a deficit was suggested during the May board meeting, as of the end of May, Human Services is again projecting to have a surplus. The improvement is due to two corrections that were made to the excel spreadsheet that is used to monitor the budget, and a change in the long-term outlook for the three youth who moved into costly placements in April. Deputy Director Huss shared that the department continues to grapple with repairs on their aging vehicle fleet, and as of the end of May, 62% of their 2025 budget has been expended.

Deputy Director Huss reminded the board that we are still very early in the year and it's difficult at this time to accurately predict how the year will end.

**DIRECTOR'S REPORT ON AGENCY OPERATIONS - Lori Fure**

Director Fure welcomed Deb Williquette, the new Deputy Director of Economic Support to the leadership team.

She reminded the board that June is elder abuse month, and shared that the Adult Protective Services (APS) staff have been involved in a number of initiatives to raise awareness, such as a podcast earlier this week. Director Fure said that the number of APS clients is elevated, and continues to rise. She shared this has been anticipated with the Baby Boomer generation beginning to age. She complimented the seasoned staff in APS who have handled the increase without issue due to their experience and dedication to their work.

Director Fure informed the board that in the last few days she's received word that there could be three high-cost placements for youth and that involuntary mental health hospitalizations have been on the rise this year.

On June 11, 2025, Child Protective Services (CPS) Supervisor, Sean Michaels attended the children's legislative caucus to advocate for funding for child advocacy centers. Mr. Michaels represented the county and the agency well.

Last week the Youth and Family Services (YFS) Supervisor, Stacy Ledvina and former Deflection and Diversion Coordinator Emma Eisenschink traveled to San Diego, CA to share the results of the county's Deflection and Diversion grant at a conference.

Recently, Clinical and SUD Supervisor Jerry Mutchie was invited to participate as part of a panel for Healthiest Manitowoc. It was a great experience and Mr. Mutchie represented Manitowoc County well.

Economic Support is currently navigating a policy change related to the Foodshare program call the Unclear Rule.

Director Fure concluded by sharing that the agency currently has six vacant positions.

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

The board asked questions related to youth placements, and elder abuse.

#### **DISCUSSION ON THE 2025 HUMAN SERVICES BUDGET – Chairman Jim Brey**

Deputy Director Huss shared that the 2026 budget process is underway, and she expects to finish meeting with all of the unit supervisors next week.

#### **DATE OF NEXT MEETING:**

There will be no meeting in July. The next regular meeting of the Human Services Department Board will be held on August 28, 2025 at 4:05 p.m, or immediately following the public hearing which will begin at 4:00 PM. 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 AGNEW TO ADJOURN THE MEETING OF THE HUMAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT BOARD AT 5:13 P.M., MOTION CARRIED.