

**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, September 25, 2025 in open session at the Manitowoc County Human Services Department, 801 Jay Street, Manitowoc, WI.

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

Board Members Excused: Agnew

Board Members Absent:

County Board Members Present: Martell

County Staff Present: Foster, Fure, Johnson, Kubec, Wagner, Wenzel, Williquette, Ziegelbauer

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

None

**APPROVAL OF THE AUGUST 28, 2025 REGULAR MEETING MINUTES AND PUBLIC HEARING MINUTES:**

A MOTION WAS MADE BY FALKOWSKI, SECONDED BY RUGGIRELLO TO APPROVE THE MINUTES FROM THE AUGUST 28<sup>TH</sup> MEETING. MOTION WAS CARRIED.

**EDUCATION TOPIC – PARENT COACHES – JENA FOSTER**

CPS Supervisor Jena Foster gave an overview of our parent coach program. When children are placed out of their homes, we are mandated to provide visitation. The parent coaches not only organize and supervise visits, but they are also trained to provide a parent curriculum. As part of the process, parents complete a pre-test to identify the areas where they need the most support, and the curriculum is tailored to help them build skills in those areas. A post-test shows the court what skills they have learned, or if they are not cooperating. The visitation center has further increased the number of visits by allowing staff to rotate and supervise multiple sessions at the same time.

Parent Coaches Amanda Wenzel and Lynn Wagner gave a presentation on the visit center and of success stories of some of the families we work with.

**FINANCIAL PROJECTIONS FOR AUGUST, 2025 – Lori Fure**

Director Fure shared the department's financial results for August, 2025. Currently, we are projecting a \$214,791.42 deficit. Youth placements and mental health hospitalizations continue to be the main contributing factors, along with unplanned vehicle repairs and employee mileage reimbursements.

**DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE CONSIDERATION OF A RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF STATE FINANCIAL FUNDING OF THE SNAP FOODSHARE PROGRAM – LORI FURE.**

The federal budget reconciliation package enacted in July of 2025, makes changes to the SNAP (Food Share) program that reduces federal costs and significantly impacts county administered services. They reduced the federal match from 50% to 25%. State and local governments will have to cover 75% of costs.

There are also significant penalties added if the state error rate is higher than 6%. We would like to send a resolution requesting the state to provide funding to offset the county fiscal impact.

A MOTION WAS MADE BY BRUNS, SECONDED BY NAIDL TO FORWARD THE RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF STATE FINANCIAL FUNDING OF THE SNAP FOODSHARE PROGRAM TO THE CORPORATION COUNSEL TO REVIEW. MOTION WAS CARRIED

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

Director Fure provided updates on 7 youth currently in high-cost placements including expectations of those that will be long term and others that will be attempting lesser restrictive settings in the near future.

Director Fure discussed cost saving measures planned as a result of personnel changes. The Financial Services Supervisor has accepted the Assistant Finance Director position. The plan is to leave that position unfilled until January. As part of the budget process that position will be converted to a staff accountant position. Jessica Huss will assume the supervisory responsibilities for financial staff. We will have 4 fewer positions next year by not replacing workers that have left employment.

At the Wisconsin Juvenile Court Intake Conference social worker Julie Poff received the esteemed Frank J. Crisafi Award, a recognition award for her work in the youth justice field. A well-deserved honor.

A success story in our Community Support Program was shared.

A success story in Child Protective Services was shared.

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

There was a question on if we would consider re-opening the Juvenile Detention Center. County Executive Ziegelbauer said no, it was very expensive to run, we are spending considerably less using Sheboygan County Juvenile Detention.

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

The next regular meeting of the Human Services Department Board will be held on October 23, 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 RUGGIRELLO, SECONDED BY FALKOWSKI TO ADJOURN THE MEETING OF THE HUMAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT BOARD AT 5:31 P.M., MOTION CARRIED.