

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

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

Board Members Excused: Naidl

Board Members Absent:

County Board Members Present: Martell, Phipps

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

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

None

APPROVAL OF THE SEPTEMBER 25, 2025 MINTUES:

A MOTION WAS MADE BY SCHIESL, SECONDED BY MUENCH TO APPROVE THE MINUTES FROM THE SEPTEMBER 25TH MEETING. MOTION WAS CARRIED.

EDUCATION TOPIC – OPIOID SETTLEMENT FUNDED SERVICES – JERRY MUTCHIE

Clinical and SUD Supervisor, Jerry Mutchie provided an overview of opioid settlement funded services. Mr. Mutchie reviewed some of the projects worked on in 2025; we added two respite beds, an additional intensive outpatient group and continued sober living and recovery coaching. We developed a library kiosk in the jail for inmates to find services, we are working with Healthiest Manitowoc and advising at the McKinley Recovery High School. Mr. Mutchie is on the Advisory Board for the DHC Regional Meeting. For 2026, we plan to develop an overdose fatality review board and an overdose response team, specialized training of opioid use disorder for staff, and will be adding two more respite beds. We will also be switching to a different lab that can detect 10 different types of fentanyl and has a faster turnaround than the current lab we use. We would also like to have two CPS Ongoing social workers and one APS social worker more involved and trained in recovery support so they can be more effective with more severe cases in their units. We would like to ensure everyone completes the community education series by the end of 2026.

FINANCIAL PROJECTIONS FOR SEPTEMBER, 2025 – Jessica Huss

Deputy Director Huss distributed a copy of the department's current financial results.

DISCUSSION ON THE 2026 HUMAN SERVICES BUDGET – Bob Ziegelbauer

County Executive Ziegelbauer said there will be 4 positions eliminated from HSD for 2026. There will be a 20% increase in the health insurance premiums and there will be no performance review increases. We will be using \$950,000 of opioid settlement money this year. He reviewed some line item expenses.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT ON AGENCY OPERATIONS - Lori Fure

Director Fure reviewed some budget items. The 20% insurance increase is \$457,000. We know the Hamilton lease is increasing \$8,000. We are asking for a replacement vehicle, 60 replacement cell phones, portable panic buttons, have eliminated 4 full time positions and a casual position and are asking for no further staff reductions.

Director Fure gave updates on some recent serious cases, and the difficulty finding placements for APS clients with addiction.

A consulting firm that provides free training for Comprehensive Community Services (CCS) providers will be closing. They have indicated this is due to the federal shutdown and their reliance on federal funding. Therefore, we will need to create about 70 hours of training the subject matter required for new CCS providers.

Lori received a letter of appreciation from one of the sober living facilities as one of our staff were there when a resident died of an overdose. They said our staff member was extremely helpful in the situation.

Foster Care received a \$5,000 donation from Meier Foods. We do not solicit donations, but can accept them. Foster Care staff will have their photo taken receiving the ceremonial check.

Jena Foster and Stacy Ledvina have been working with the DA and other community partners on a grant for a Safe Haven Baby Box. Everything is approved and the box will be installed at the southside fire station.

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

How is the government shut down going to affect HSD? A letter went out to Foodshare participants two days ago indicating benefits for November would be delayed. We will likely see a significant increase in calls after November 1st. In September there were 7,455 Foodshare recipients in Manitowoc County.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING:

The next regular meeting of the Human Services Department Board will be held on December 11, 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 AGNEW, SECONDED BY RUGGIRELLO TO ADJOURN THE MEETING OF THE HUMAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT BOARD AT 5:31 P.M., MOTION CARRIED.