

**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 25, 2026 in open session at the Manitowoc County Human Services Department, 801 Jay Street, Manitowoc, WI.

Board Members Present: Agnew, Bruns, Grambow, Klein, McDonell, Murack, Ruggirello, Schiesl

Board Members Excused: Erdmann

Board Members Absent:

County Board Members Present:

County Staff Present: Ader, Fure, Johnson, Kortens, Martell, Whitney, Williquette, Zahn

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

None

APPROVAL OF THE MAY 28, 2026 MINTUES:

A MOTION WAS MADE BY SCHIESL, SECONDED BY AGNEW TO APPROVE THE MINUTES FROM THE MAY 28TH MEETING. MOTION WAS CARRIED.

EDUCATION TOPIC – FOSTER CARE – Karen Zahn and Emily Kortens

Karen Zahn and Emily Kortens provided an overview of the foster care program, information on The First Placement Project and voluntary kinship care. They also described recent changes to DCF 56 that allows agencies to adopt separate licensing or approval standards for relative kinship foster family homes.

FINANCIAL REPORT – Daniel Whitney

Daniel Whitney, the new Deputy Director of Business Operations, spoke about the status of Human Services. The 2025 financial results remain unchanged. Human Services is currently looking at a deficit for 2026; this is due to high-placement costs in the Children and Families department. Daniel spoke about working on maximizing billing and cutting as much cost as possible for 2026.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT ON AGENCY OPERATIONS - Lori Fure

In recent years the percentage of felony referrals from law enforcement to youth justice has been trending upward from 15-20% to closer to 30% over the past few years and this year we are 34%. We will have youth justice supervisor, Stacy Ledvina, to provide more detailed education about this in an upcoming meeting.

Last month we transferred one youth to Lincoln Hills. We have another youth currently in secure detention needing placement out of state. This will be the second out-of-state placement this year.

We currently have 8 positions being help open. We are in dire need of filing two of them, but have been holding off due to budgetary concerns.

Director Fure reviewed budget priorities for 2027.

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

None

DATE OF NEXT MEETING:

The next regular meeting of the Human Services Department Board will be held on July 23, 2026 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 SCHIESL TO ADJOURN THE MEETING OF THE HUMAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT BOARD AT 6:00 P.M., MOTION CARRIED.