

**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, July 23, 2026 in open session at the Manitowoc County Human Services Department, 801 Jay Street, Manitowoc, WI.

Board Members Present: Agnew, Bruns, Erdmann, Klein, McDonell, Ruggirello, Schiesl

Board Members Excused: Grambow, Murack

Board Members Absent:

County Board Members Present:

County Staff Present: Ader, Fure, Johnson, Kubec, Ledvina, Martell, Whitney

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

None.

APPROVAL OF THE JUNE 25, 2026 MINUTES:

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

EDUCATION TOPIC – YOUTH JUSTICE – Stacy Ledvina

Stacy Ledvina provided an overview of the Youth Justice Program, which operates under Wisconsin Chapter 938 and focuses on the principles of community safety, accountability, and competency development. Workers have 40 days to complete an assessment of each referred youth and submit a recommendation to the court, with the court making the final determination regarding placement and other actions.

Although the overall number of referrals has continued to decline over the years, the cases being referred are increasingly complex, involving more serious felony offenses and significant mental health concerns. The department currently has two youth placed in out-of-state secure facilities and one youth in a correctional placement. These placements are extremely costly and are having a significant impact on the department's budget.

FINANCIAL REPORT – Daniel Whitney

Daniel Whitney, Deputy Director of Business Operations, spoke about the status of Human Services. Human Services is currently looking at a deficit for 2026; this is due to high-placement costs in the Children and Families department. Daniel suggested we not take advances on the WIMCR in the future and work on maximizing billing and cutting as much cost as possible for 2026.

DISCUSSION OF POSITION REQUESTS – Doug Klein

Chairman Klein had an initial list of position requests for 2027. Lori would currently like to focus on the Psychiatrist going from a .75 FTE to a full-time position. He has been working full-time since our Advanced Practice Nurse Prescriber resigned in February. He is a great doctor and works really well with our chronically mentally ill clients. There are 10 other positions currently open.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT ON AGENCY OPERATIONS - Lori Fure

The after-hours adult crisis calls have decreased about 34%, but the after-hours children crisis calls have increased 105%.

Betsy Johnson has continued to work on expanding supported apartments, which has reduced the numbers of adults in group homes. Since supported apartments cost less, there is a savings, but that savings comes with risks.

We currently have 4 -5 people committed to IMD's (Institutes for Mental Disease). These are adults with severe mental health diagnoses that present a danger to themselves or others. We are working to reduce the number of people in IMD's.

Regarding the high-cost youth placements we are still below the state average in terms of percentage of youth in out-of-home care who are in group homes, residential care centers or corrections placements. Many other counties are also dealing with these issues.

We have had some turnover since our last meeting. A casual CCS/CLTS worker resigned, one of the CPS Intake workers will be moving to a CLTS position and Dan Whitney resigned. Dan has agreed to stay on through the budget process. The ES Quality Control position did have candidates they should be making an offer next week and will back-fill that position.

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 August 27, 2026 at 4:05 p.m., or immediately following the public hearing which will begin at 4:00 p.m. The meeting will be held at the Manitowoc County Human Services, 801 Jay Street, Manitowoc, WI

ADJOURNMENT:

A MOTION WAS MADE BY BRUNS, SECONDED BY SCHIESL TO ADJOURN THE MEETING OF THE HUMAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT BOARD AT 6:16 P.M., MOTION CARRIED.