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 22, 2026, in open session at the Manitowoc County Communications & Technology Building, 1024 S. 9th Street Room 111/112, Manitowoc, WI.

Board Members Present: Agnew, Bruns, Erdmann, Grambow, Klein, McDonell, Murack, Ruggirello, Schiesl
Board Members Excused:
Board Members Absent:
County Board Members' Present: Shimulunas
County Staff Present: Fure, Johnson, Kinzel, Kubec, Whitney, Wilhelm, Williquette, Martell

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

None.

APPROVAL OF THE SEPTEMBER 24, 2026, REGULAR MEETING MINUTES:

A MOTION WAS MADE BY ERDMANN, SECONDED BY MCDONELL TO APPROVE THE MINUTES FROM THE SEPTEMBER 24TH MEETING. MOTION WAS CARRIED.

EDUCATION TOPIC – ONGOING CHILD PROTECTIVE SERVICES – Lane Kinzel

Lane Kinzel gave an overview of the Ongoing Child Protective Service Unit. The Ongoing unit works with families where abuse or neglect has occurred. They are the day-to-day case managers who keep children safe, help families address problems and work toward a permanent, stable home for each child. They file court paperwork, make recommendations and testify in court, implement safety plans, set and review goals for permanency. They have regular contact with birth parents, kids, foster homes and anyone involved in the case. The number of kids placed out-of-home has gone down considerably in the last few years, we believe partially because of the services we provide and our recovery community doing a great job.

FINANCIAL REPORT – Daniel Whitney

Deputy Director Whitney shared the department's financials for 2026, right now we are projecting a deficit of $109,000. We have recouped money in the last few months to shave off the deficit. Placements are still a concern through the end of the year and for 2027.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT ON AGENCY OPERATIONS - Lori Fure

On 10/14, one of our after-hours crisis workers had a serious medical emergency while in the building. There was some difficulty for EMT's to get into the building. Public Works met with staff from the fire department at our building to go over changes in locks and they added a building FOB with the emergency key.

Stacy Ledvina held a Kids at Hope training on 10/21, and two board members attended.

On 10/28/26, at noon there will be a blessing of the new Safe Haven Baby Box, at the fire station on Dewey Street, if anyone would like to attend.

Our department participates in the Child Fatality Review Team. The team recently reviewed 3 deaths related to co-sleeping with infants. While this specific review did not yield actionable trends, the goal is that when a

preventable risk does emerge, this framework ensures we catch it and intervene much earlier than we ever could in the past.

Our department has been participating in the state's First Placement Project since the beginning of the year. The goal has been to develop strategies to increase first placement with family or like-kin. Due to our success, Sue Ader was asked to speak on a panel at the State Conference this week.

Last week was another rough week for youth justice staff. We had 6 youths taken into custody, which is a huge influx of work for this small unit.

In order to improve recruitment and relieve burden on existing staff, we dropped our requirement for social workers to obtain certification within 6 months of employment.

We are still recruiting for a CPS vacancy that occurred prior to the county executive's hiring freeze.

We have 166 positions in our budget for 2027.

We are still reviewing the after-hours crisis system to determine whether changes can be made to reduce costs.

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

What effect will not needing Social Work certification mean to Human Services. It will be easier to recruit for social work positions. Beyond that, we won't know of any negative impact until time has passed.

Are the people who were moved out of Trempealeau County Health Care Center now closer to home? Yes

NEXT MEETING:

The next regular meeting of the Human Services Department Board will be held on December 10, 2026, at 4:15 p.m. The meeting will be held at the Manitowoc County Communications & Technology Building, 1024 S. 9th Street, Room 111/112, Manitowoc, WI.

ADJOURNMENT:

A MOTION WAS MADE BY BRUNS, SECONDED BY SCHIESL TO ADJOURN THE MEETING OF THE HUMAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT BOARD AT 5:22 P.M., MOTION CARRIED.