

# ROCK COUNTY LONG TERM SUPPORT COMMITTEE

January 6, 2015

**Call to Order and Introductions:** Chairperson Fell called the meeting of the Rock County Long Term Support Committee to order at 1:00 p.m. Tuesday, January 6, 2015 at the Rock County Job Center.

**Committee Members Present:** Terry Fell, Terry Thomas, John Hanewall, Pat Hubbard, Mary Jane Patch, Linda Sanders, and Jennifer Thompson

**Committee Members Absent:** Julie Butz, Donna Cavey, Ann Henning, and Anne Weirich

**Staff Members Present:** Melissa Kooiman, Vera Polglaze, and Gay McRoberts.

**Others Present:** Jodi Millis, Purchasing Manager of Rock County Financial Services, Ellen Wiegand, Executive Director of Beloit Meals on Wheels, and Whitney Helm, staff writer for Beloit Daily News

**Approval of Agenda:** Mr. Thomas moved to approve the agenda, seconded by Mr. Hanewall.  
APPROVED

**Approval of Minutes:** Ms. Patch moved to approve minutes, seconded by Ms. Sanders. APPROVED.

## **Citizen Participation**

Ms. Wiegand reports their program had a 28% increase in patrons served in the fiscal year 2013-2014. Plans are in the works for their annual March for Meals fundraiser.

## **Financial/Statistical Information:**

### **Human Services**

#### **• LTS Budget Updates:**

Ms. Thompson reviewed figures and explained that the 90 people on the waiting list includes 27 needing funding for a group home or CBRF, and 11 people are currently in the Waiver program but need more or more costly services. Efforts to keep moving toward serving more are reflected by the additional 20 cases being screened for eligibility for services and the 9 applications submitted and awaiting State approval.

#### **• LTS Budget Review under the Summary page:**

The budget summary does not reflect December services paid for. A full 2014 report may not appear as final for this committee until May.

#### **• CLTS Waiver Program Updates:**

• Ms. Butz was not available to present a CLTS Waiver Program update.

### **Developmental Disabilities**

Mr. Hanewall shared from the DDB report prepared by Ms. Foss. The waiting list of 156 is a decrease of one due to a client passing away.

• The CIP 1A amount spent through October was \$82,113 (3 consumers served, unchanged from August).

• The CIP 1B amount spent was \$584,674 (40 consumers served, unchanged from the August report).

## **Old Business:**

### **Elder Abuse / Adults At Risk - Update**

• Ms. Kooiman gave a brief update in absence of Ms. Muth, stating there were 19 abuse investigations in December, six financial abuse, five self-neglect reports, four neglect by others, and three physical abuse.

• The person who was assisting Ms. Muth with investigations, Ms. Pech, has accepted another position.

### **Home Modification Projects Process**

• Ms. Millis began with praise for the improvement seen by having Walt Bancroft on board to write specifications according to code, something he is knowledgeable of, as he assists the City of Janesville too. Previously Rock County Planning Department was used, but their workload was heavy. Over the year since starting, he moved past a bumpy process reviewing unfinished projects to the current projects in process, keeping family and workers informed on the status.

- Case managers meet with Mr. Bancroft and the family, and he reviews electrical, plumbing and other construction needs with them. Projects over \$5000 require submitting a public notice of requests for bids. Ms. Millis converts the information from Mr. Bancroft into the request. Contractors must be bonded and aware that it is for a private home. Following the State's approval process, Mr. Bancroft gets lien waivers and checks that contracted work was done per submitted specifications and anticipated time frames, and submits a report. Typically only 3 - 4 contractors submit for these small jobs. Some have, by caring for the client, gone above and beyond to meet client's wishes at their own expense.
- Most clients are appreciative of Mr. Bancroft's work, and at times he goes overboard in his efforts to meet their wishes until given the okay to move on if it looks like it won't work out. If a family chooses a different direction on a project from what Mr. Bancroft specified, they may pay contractors privately, but Mr. Bancroft is paid a minimum dollar amount for his work, and for completed projects he is paid 15% of the total cost through the waiver program.

### **Family Care**

•Ms. Thompson included this item to keep the committee aware that the State Budget due in the next few weeks may or may not show Rock County on it for beginning Family Care. She cautioned that no one should promise a time frame for service to persons or family members calling about their status on a waiting list, as other variables come into play determining where they stand in moving up on it.

### **New Business**

#### **Wait List**

Ms. Thompson explained that the wait list is growing partly due to money not being available, but partly due to staffing changes. With departure of some staff, caseloads are over forty, making it hard to open new people from scratch. It may be one to two months more before more can come off the list.

#### **Staffing**

Interviews are taking place on the 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> to hire 3 new case workers in addition to 2 now hired. Anyone interested in participating in the upcoming interviews is invited, if able to commit to both days, due to the scoring process. Lou Cheplak, who retired 9 years ago as a LTS supervisor, returns Monday as a limited term employee; as an experienced worker he can take cases of a staff person who recently retired immediately. Ms. Polglaze shared a bit of her background, having worked 13 years with Edgerton Care Center and 9 years with St. Elizabeth Manor. After some training, she'll take on her own case load.

### **Committee Member Comments**

•Ms. Hubbard asked if there are others who have negative experiences with the MTM Medical Assistance transportation provider. Members were directed to share complaints to the State. (Jennifer T. will check on the number to call.) The COA transportation director left, but interviews are set up to find a successor.

### **Future Meeting Dates:**

The next meeting set for March 3. At that meeting the committee needs to elect a vice chair. The County Board should approve a new member before then. Ms. Sanders announced that the March meeting would be her last, as she retires, but she'll introduce her successor, and Ms. Thompson can submit a request for County Board to approve this person before the May 5<sup>th</sup> meeting. Other 2015 dates are July 7, Sept. 1 and Nov. 3. Call Ms. Thompson at 741-3684 if unable to attend a meeting, to ensure we have a quorum. Ms. Thompson is open to any agenda topic ideas. Chairman Fell requests success stories and a paragraph in the County Board Supervisors' green sheet. Ms. Patch commented on a consumers' survey done years ago. Ms. Thompson stated responses from the questions proved unbeneficial to what the department is able to do. However, she offered to share the results of the TMG satisfaction survey at the next meeting.

### **Adjourn:**

Meeting adjourned at 1:50 p.m., on a motion by Mr. Thomas, seconded by Ms. Hubbard. APPROVED.

Respectfully submitted,  
Gay McRoberts, Administrative Assistant

NOT OFFICIAL UNTIL APPROVED BY COMMITTEE