



ROCK COUNTY HUMAN SERVICES BOARD MEETING
Wednesday, February 26, 2020 – 4:30 P.M.

Call to Order: Chair Knudson called the meeting to order at 4:30 p.m. on Wednesday, February 26, 2020, in Room 300 of the Health Care Center, Janesville, Wisconsin.

Committee Members Present: Brian Knudson, Supervisor; Sally Jean Weaver-Landers, Citizen Representative; Terry Thomas, Supervisor; Kathy Schulz, Supervisor; Stephanie Aegerter, Supervisor; Shirley Williams, Citizen Representative; Ashley Kleven, Citizen Representative, Dave Homan, Supervisor; and Terry Fell, Supervisor.

Committee Members Absent: None.

Staff Present: Kate Luster, Director; Tera O'Connor, Deputy Director; Greg Winkler, Deputy Director; Sara Mooren, Administrative Services Division Manager; Ryan Trautsch, Program Manager; and, Julie Butz, Program Manager.

Others Present: Sue Rusch, Community Member/Advocate; Terri Wixom, Community; and, Pam Bostwick, Citizen.

Approval of Agenda: Citizen Representative Weaver-Landers moved the agenda to the floor, seconded by Citizen Representative Williams. The Agenda was unanimously approved. APPROVED.

Approval of Minutes of Human Services Board Meeting of February 26, 2020: Citizen Representative Homan moved the minutes to the floor, seconded by Citizen Representative Weaver-Landers. The minutes were unanimously approved. APPROVED.

Citizen Participation, Communications and Announcements:

Submission of Committee Requests: Supervisor Schulz requested Ms. Luster provide a summary of overall Department training needs focusing on what we are doing now and what we would likely do differently if we had a bigger budget; what areas would it be most helpful?

Approval of Contracts and Transfers: Supervisor Thomas moved thirty contracts to the floor, seconded by Citizen Representative Klevens. Ms. Mooren acknowledged the incorrect contract period in #4, which should read 1/1/2020 – 12/31/2020. She also pointed out that for #6-30 that the State sets the rates (#6 and #13 are Illinois). The contracts were unanimously approved. APPROVED.

February Employee Impact Award: Ms. Luster advised that Shannon Dewey is the recipient of the February IMPACT award and will attend the next board meeting. Her nomination described her as a "powerhouse of energy" and emphasized her dedicated service to the Critical Incident Response Team and her voluntary giving of hours to help the Holiday and Family Needs Committee, though she is not a committee member.

Child Protective Services (CPS) Out of State Placement Overview: Ms. Luster prefaced this topic by stressing that HSD takes very seriously the decision to place clients outside their homes, and even more so out of state. She explained that situations such as youth with a high risk of suicide, self-harm, running, and aggression are examples of a need to place youth outside the home/out of state. In Wisconsin, these treatment facilities are not locked and cannot provide services for this need. Many counties are experiencing this same issue, as well, and send youth out of state.

Mr. Trautsch began by stating that we currently use two out of state facilities: Youth Villages in Tennessee and Georgia, and Millcreek in Arkansas.

Youth Villages provides secure residential, regular residential, and group home levels of care. Based on need, youth can move between these three types of care facilities. Youth Villages accepts youth between the ages of 8 and 17, with the average age of youth placed being 15.

Millcreek provides a secure psychiatric residential treatment facility for children and adolescents, accepting youth between the ages of 6 and 17, separating youth by gender and age.

We currently have one youth at Youth Villages in Tennessee and one at Millcreek in Arkansas. Two youth justice workers visit these youth face-to-face quarterly to ensure they are safe and needs are met and other workers have more frequent contact with the youth, social workers and therapists in these facilities via phone. Since 2015, we have had a total of 16 youth placed out of state – 13 from our Youth Justice program and three from our CPS program. Out of those 16, 15 have been placed at Youth Villages (9 male, 5 female). Mr. Trautsch then summarized rate information which was reflected on the handout provided to board members.

Both Ms. Mooren and Mr. Trautsch answered questions before Ms. Luster closed by sharing that there is a lot of discussion at the State level about the need for youth treatment facilities in Wisconsin as no one wants to be sending kids out of state. The preference would be to have kids with these special needs served in a family setting with the right kind of services, supports and safety in place. This combination is really challenging. Also, the Family First Prevention Act, which is coming soon, sets a higher threshold for residential facilities and federal money cannot be used, except for very short term stays. Facilities would need to meet a quality standard in terms of treatment staff, nursing staff, doctor staff, and would be more robust in terms of treatment services. The federal government is requiring those pieces out of recognition of the needs of youth.

Director's Report:

- **Update: Foster Parent Engagement Efforts:** The second Foster Parent Forum was held last week. Supervisor Thomas was in attendance. There was continued discussion about forming a foster parent advisory committee. Decisions were made on the following:
 - The committee will meet during the first week of April
 - There will be an equal representation of foster parents and staff (6 each)

- There will be a process to select foster parents who represent various levels (and kinds) of experience as foster parents so we have as diverse a representation as possible
- An initial email from the department to foster parents will go out in the next couple of days to solicit interest in being a part of the advisory committee and indicate what attributes one could bring to the committee
- A Survey Monkey will be sent out in the next week so foster parents can nominate people

We will also be forming a workgroup for information sharing as this was a concern conveyed by foster parents. There is a need for clarity on what can be shared/should be shared/cannot be shared and why. Lisa Line from Corporation Counsel and Lisa Moore-Kelty from Medical Records have agreed to be part of this workgroup, along with other staff. Interest from foster parents in regard to participating on this workgroup will be requested when the advisory committee email is sent out. The Advisory Committee will take the preliminary action plan and make it more measurable and prioritize what that committee decides should come first, as well as report back to the Board regularly.

- **Update: 1717 Center Avenue:** Renderings of the building from different visual perspectives were shared and Ms. Luster described the various areas (both interior and exterior). A press release has been published requesting input into the naming of the building – the Board has a voice in the naming. Ms. Luster responded to questions.

Next Meeting: Wednesday, **March 11, 2020** at 4:30 p.m. at the Rock County Health Care Center, in the 3rd Floor Conference Room, Janesville, WI.

Adjournment: Citizen Representative Klevens motioned to adjourn, seconded by Supervisor Schultz with unanimous approval at 5:13 p.m.

Kathleen Wellnitz, Secretary

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