



ROCK COUNTY HUMAN SERVICES BOARD MEETING
Wednesday, September 9, 2020 – 4:30 P.M.

Call to Order: Chair Knudson called the virtual meeting to order at 4:30 p.m. on Wednesday, September 9, 2020.

Committee Members Present: Brian Knudson, Supervisor; Sally Jean Weaver-Landers, Citizen Representative; Shirley Williams, Supervisor; Kathy Schulz, Supervisor; Pam Bostwick, Supervisor; Kaelyb Lokrantz, Supervisor; Angelina Reyes, Citizen Representative; Ashley Hoffman, Citizen Representative; and J. Russell Podzilni, Supervisor.

Committee Members Absent: None.

Staff Present: Katherine Luster, Director; Tera O'Connor, Deputy Director; Greg Winkler, Deputy Director; Sara Mooren, Administrative Services Manager; Mark Stevens, Business Services Manager; and Verence Sandoval, Administrative Intern.

Others Present: Terri Carlson, Risk Manager. Sue Rusch. Patrick Singer, Rock I.T. Tom Brien.

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

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

Citizen Participation, Communications and Announcements: Supervisor Podzilni requested a roll call. All HSD Board members acknowledge their presence.

Submission of Committee Requests: None.

Approval of Contracts and Transfers: Citizen Representative Weaver-Landers moved one contract to the floor, seconded by Supervisor Bostwick. Ms. Mooren provided information about the contract. The contract were unanimously approved. APPROVED.

Review of Bills: There were no highlights or questions regarding bills.

Resolution Amending the 2020 HSD Budget to Accept Parents Supporting Parents Grant Funds and Creating 2.0 FTE Family Well-Being Coordinator Positions: Citizen Representative Weaver-Landers moved the resolution to the floor, seconded by Citizen Representative Hoffman. Ms. O'Connor presented the resolution and provided some background about the grant and details about the research that has been conducted regarding the Parents

Supporting Parents model. The Parents Supporting Parents model utilizes parents with lived experience in child welfare but who are no longer receiving services to become mentors to support parents currently receiving CPS services. Research has shown higher reunifications and decreased removal of children with this model. The funding is approximately \$1 million and will run through December of calendar year 2022. Ms. O'Connor provided details about implementation of the model and hiring of staff. Ms. O'Connor and Ms. Luster responded to questions. The resolution was unanimously approved. APPROVED.

Resolution Creating 5.0 Full Time Employee (FTE) Positions to Support Project Implementation and Supportive Services to Enhance the Safety, Permanence, and Well-Being of the Children and Families Being Served in Child Protective Services (CPS): Citizen Representative Hoffman moved the resolution to the floor, seconded by Supervisor Williams. Ms. Luster detailed the history regarding the increase in State funding for the CPS area. HSD designated some of the additional funding to be used for incentive pay for CPS staff, utilizing Alia consultation, and hiring of an Analyst. Some funding was determined to be used to contract with an agency to provide family team meetings and support case aids. Due to Covid-19 that did not take place and HSD re-evaluated and determined to integrate both internally. CPS Supervisors are already stretched with their workloads and would not be able to take on implementation of this project. Therefore, HSD will utilize funding to hire staff to support project implementation and for supportive services. Ms. O'Connor provided details about the positions which will be created and advised the family meetings will be similar to the Coordinated Services Team (CST) model and Primary Care Team models and will involve Foster Parents, birth parents and staff. Ms. O'Connor responded to questions. The resolution was unanimously approved. APPROVED.

Update on Housing Needs Related to COVID-19: Ms. Luster advised that HSD was awarded grant funding for Safe and Stable Housing for Sober living. ECHO is one agency HSD will engage with to develop a process for people to access funding to support people at risk of eviction and homelessness. There are guidelines around who is eligible for the funding and HSD will need to balance outreach and access. Ms. Luster responded to questions about outreach to outlying areas. She provided some details about another model which would help tackle homelessness called Built for Zero that was implemented in Rockford. The Janesville City Manager has started conversations with many different stakeholders to explore bringing this model to Rock County as a whole.

Director's Report:

- **Department Operations and Return to Work Planning:** Ms. Luster advised nothing has changed and most staff are continuing to work remotely, but are seeing clients face to face when necessary.
- **HSD 2021 Proposed Budget Updates:** Ms. Luster advised that HSD Management met with County Administrator Smith today and will meet on Friday as well. They were able to get through the budget summary today. At this time HSD does not have all the information needed to finalize, for example, the potential staff cost of living increases have not been included. County Administrator Smith will give HSD direction and any modifications after Friday. Once the modifications are completed, Ms. Luster will share the updated Budget Summary with the HSD Board to review before the Board votes on the budget in October.
- **Response to Covid-19 Related Community Needs:** Ms. Luster already provided information about this under agenda item #10. She advised there will be an agenda

item to provide information regarding suicide information at the next HSD Board meeting.

Next Meeting: Wednesday, **September 23, 2020** at 4:30 p.m. – Virtual Meeting.

Adjournment: Supervisor Williams motioned to adjourn, seconded by Citizen Representative Reyes with unanimous approval at 5:23 p.m.

Jodi Parson, Secretary

NOT OFFICIAL UNTIL APPROVED BY THE BOARD