



ROCK COUNTY HUMAN SERVICES BOARD MEETING
Wednesday, December 8, 2021 – 4:30 P.M.

Call to Order: Vice Chair Weaver-Landers called the hybrid meeting to order at 4:32 p.m. on Wednesday, December 8, 2021, in the Boardroom, at the Dr. Daniel Hale Williams Rock County Resource Center, Janesville, WI.

Committee Members Present: Sally Jean Weaver-Landers, Citizen Representative; Kathy Schulz, Supervisor; Russell Podzilni, Supervisor attended in-person. Shirley Williams, Supervisor; Stephanie Aegerter, Supervisor and Pam Bostwick, Supervisor attended virtually.

Committee Members Absent: Brian Knudson, Supervisor. Angelina Reyes, Citizen Representative. Ashley Hoffman, Citizen Representative.

Staff Present: Katherine Luster, Director; Tera O'Connor, Deputy Director; Greg Winkler, Deputy Director; Sara Mooren, Administrative Services Manager; Greg Winkler, Deputy Director; Mark Stevens, Business Services Manager; Christy Thorman McCarville, CPS Access Worker; Merebeth Rye, CPS Access Supervisor; Hannah Corrigan, CPS Lead Worker; Bette Trimble, Crisis, Intake & Outpatient Services Program Manager; Linda Scott-Hoag, Court Services Worker; Heather Helgestad, Institutional Liaison Worker; Melissa Lutz, Institutional Liaison Worker; and Danielle Milligan, Crisis Supervisor.

Others Present: Josh Smith, County Administrator. Terri Carlson, Rock County Risk Manager. Eric, Skye, and Sage McCarville. Denny Luster, RVCP. Jack Hoag.

Approval of Agenda: Supervisor Podzilni moved the agenda to the floor, seconded by Supervisor Schulz. The agenda was unanimously approved. APPROVED.

Approval of Minutes of Human Services Board Meeting on November 10, 2021: Supervisor Schulz moved the minutes to the floor, seconded by Supervisor Podzilni. The minutes were unanimously approved. APPROVED.

Public Comment: None.

Communications and Announcements from Staff and Board Members: Supervisor Williams announced there will be a resolution at the next Rock County Board meeting to honor the life and service of Anna Marie Johnson. Ms. Anna Marie Johnson served on the Rock County Board of Supervisors for ten years. She was the first black woman to serve on the Rock County Board of Supervisors. She also led the effort and was instrumental in the renaming of a portion of County Hwy. G between Beloit and Janesville, the Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Highway. This is in her memory as she passed last month. The resolution will go to the County Board at the December 16, 2021 meeting.

Approval of Contracts and Transfers: Supervisor Podzilni moved the twenty-one contracts to the floor, seconded by Supervisor Schulz. Ms. Mooren provided information about the contracts. The contracts were unanimously approved. Approved.

Review of Bills: Mr. Stevens responded to questions regarding the Orion Services entry and the United Cerebral Palsy (UCP) entry. Ms. Mooren will follow up and send out the UCP payment history to the Board as a follow up to Supervisor Bostwick's comment that the amount was higher than usual.

November Employee Impact Award Recipient: Ms. Luster introduced Christy Thorman-McCarville, CPS Access worker. Ms. Luster read the nomination which was submitted by Christy's Supervisor. Christy regularly demonstrates empathy and compassion while serving the families of Rock County. Earlier in the spring a CPS report came in that was screened out and a services report was created regarding a child's diabetic needs. Christy contacted the mother regarding any potential service needs and made referrals as appropriate. Recently the mother contacted the department to give an update on the child's condition. She spoke to another worker stating that while speaking with Christy last spring, Christy was really understanding and how much she appreciated Christy reaching out to her. The mother stated that she really appreciated Christy and had nothing but good things to say about her. Ms. Thorman-McCarville responded with thanks.

Resolutions and Committee Action:

- **Resolution to Recognize Linda Scott-Hoag** – Supervisor Schulz moved the resolution to the floor, seconded by Supervisor Bostwick. Ms. Scott-Hoag served the citizens of Rock County for thirty-nine years as a dedicated and valued employee for Rock County. She began her career in 1982 with Rock County as an AODA Counselor with the first Rock County Residential AODA program. She moved into the role of Chapter 20 Coordinator/IDP Assessor in 1983. In 1984 she moved into the role of the Community Education Admission Officer in the Rock County Psychiatric Unit. This position was retitled to Court Services Office in 1990. She represented Rock County in Chapter 51 legal proceedings, as well as at collaboration meetings throughout the community. In collaboration with crisis services staff, she monitored compliance with Chapter 51 legal orders. She exemplified the core values of community service, respect and hope outlined in the HSD mission statement. She has consistently worked to assure that the residents of Rock County received the best possible care and service. She is highly regarded by her coworkers and community partners and she will be greatly missed. Ms. Scott-Hoag responded with thanks and provided insight on how much the services to clients has expanded and improved. The resolution was unanimously approved. Approved.
- **Resolution Amending the 2021 HSD Budget to Accept Promoting Safe and Stable Families COVID-19 Supplemental Funds** - Supervisor Schulz moved the resolution to the floor, seconded by Citizen Representative Weaver-Landers. Ms. O'Connor presented the resolution and advised that the Rock County received Promoting Safe and Stable Families funds from the Department of Children and Families (DCF) for calendar year 2021. DCF has made additional funds available. Rock County received an additional \$20,523. The additional funds will be used for prevention, family supports, housing and gas cards depending on needs. The resolution was unanimously approved. Approved.

- **Resolution Allocating American Rescue Plan Act Funding to Provide for Tenant Legal Aid** – Ms. Luster presented the resolution and advised Supervisor Schulz was a leader advocating for this effort. This resolution will authorize Rock County HSD to contract with Legal Action to hire legal support advocacy for those individuals who are at risk of facing eviction. The resolution was unanimously approved. Approved.

Reports and Update:

- **Update on CPS Third Party Assessment** – County Administrator Smith provided a overview of the timeline regarding the resolution to contract with a third party to assess the CPS system. The County Board passed a resolution on October 14, 2021 which directed him to contract with a third-party organization to assess five specific focus points in the CPS Division. He has had discussions with staff, interested parties, state agencies, and stakeholders. He has contacted three organizations to conduct the assessment the Butler Institute, ICF and the Child Welfare Policy and Practice Group. He has not received all three proposals yet. There is an urgency to move forward but he has not set a deadline and hopes to receive a proposal from all three. He would like to bring something to the County Board in January for approval. All three organizations have said for a comprehensive assessment it will take many months to complete and there will be a significant cost. He would like interim reporting throughout the process and a final report, as the time to complete could be lengthy. He asked the Board for any further input other than what is outlined in the resolution. He responded to questions. Mr. Smith advised that for this to be successful, when Board members have or are asked questions, they should contact him directly to get the response. Mr. Smith advised that back-channel type conversations are adding to chaos and indicated that this needs to stop. He stated again to please contact him directly with questions or concerns. He will provide more information as it comes in.
- **Report on Suicide Trends in Rock County** - Mr. Winkler presented a power point and shared the following data points – Rock County Deaths Due to Suicide 2000-August 31, 2021; Rock County clients deaths due to suicide; Rock County 911 calls coded as suicide or attempted suicide; suicide rate per year per 100,000 for Wisconsin, Rock County and US through 2020; Demographic Data related to suicide, Suicides by Race, Ethnicity Hispanic or non- Hispanic, and Suicides by age 2012-2020; and previous 3 years regarding cause of death and city of residence. Mr. Winkler responded to questions.

Mr. Winkler explained that 988 will be the new National Suicide Prevention number. There has been an 800 number and there will still be that number to call for support across the country. Last year the FCC determined that 988 would be the new number for the National Suicide Prevention line. For family or friends or people themselves to call for support. On July 16, 2023 when 988 is dialed it will connect to the national suicide line. This will be beneficial as it is easier to remember and quick to dial. He explained there are four call centers in Wisconsin, the flow of the calls and how Rock County crisis would become involved.

- **Update Regarding HSD Staff Affected by Rock Haven COVID-19 Vaccine Mandate** – Ms. Luster wanted to inform the Board that the vaccine mandate that was going into effect for Rock Haven would affect HSD staff who would enter the nursing home. Now the vaccine mandate is on hold. If it does come back, it would affect about five HSD staff.

Committee Requests:

- **Requests for Future Agenda Items or Information:** Supervisor Schulz requested a report on suicide prevention strategies. Citizen Representative Weaver-Landers requested an update on Derrick's House. Supervisor Schulz requested a follow up report on Community Action regarding how much funding is left. Ms. Luster advised that she is aware that funding is available but available housing is not.

Next Meeting: **December 22, 2021** at 4:30 p.m. – will be a hybrid meeting via zoom and in-person at the DWRC, Boardroom, 1717 Center Avenue, Janesville, WI.

Adjournment: Supervisor Podzilni motioned to adjourn, seconded by Supervisor Schulz with unanimous approval at 5:44 p.m.

Jodi Parson, Secretary

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