



ROCK COUNTY HUMAN SERVICES BOARD MEETING
Wednesday, May 12, 2021 – 4:30 P.M.

Call to Order: Vice Chair Weaver-Landers called the virtual meeting to order at 4:32 p.m. on Wednesday, May 12, 2021.

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

Committee Members Absent: Brian Knudson, Supervisor.

Staff Present: Katherine Luster, Director; Tera O'Connor, Deputy Director; Sara Mooren, Administrative Services Manager; Jennifer Thompson, ADRC and APS Division Manager; Mark Stevens, Business Manager; and Nancy Koene, CPS Division Manager.

Others Present: Sue Rusch.

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

Approval of Minutes of Human Services Board Meeting of April 28, 2021: Supervisor Bostwick moved the minutes to the floor, seconded by Citizen Representative Reyes. The minutes were unanimously approved. APPROVED.

Citizen Participation, Communications and Announcements: None.

Approval of Contracts and Transfers: Citizen Representative Hoffman moved fourteen contracts to the floor, seconded by Supervisor Williams. Ms. Mooren highlighted two contracts which were sent to the Board members separate from the packet. The contracts were unanimously approved. APPROVED.

Review of Bills: Mr. Stevens advised there was nothing to highlight. He responded to questions about the payment to United Cerebral Palsy and will look into it further to provide a more detailed response.

Resolution Amending the 2021 Human Services Department Budget To Accept Additional ADRC Funding: Supervisor Bostwick moved the resolution to the floor, seconded by Supervisor Podzilni. Ms. Thompson presented the resolution and explained that the funds will be used to support homebound individuals to get vaccinated. The ADRC will partner with the Health Department and variety of community partners such as Rock County Transit and RSVP to fund transportation and mileage costs. The resolution was unanimously approved. APPROVED.

Resolution Foster Parent Recognition: Supervisor Lokrantz moved the resolution to the floor, seconded by Citizen Representative Hoffman. Ms. Koene presented the resolution and explained there are 153 children and youth in foster care and 87 licensed foster homes. Foster families provide highly needed services. The resolution was unanimously approved. APPROVED.

Director's Report:

- **Update: COVID Related Departmental and Community Needs:** Ms. Luster advised there have been no changes in the HSD work environment. Staff are still working in a hybrid fashion between remote and in office. There has been increased planning for in-person client meetings.

Ms. Luster advised Rock County has been awarded significant American Rescue Act funding and the parameters have been released this week regarding guidance for use of funds. There will be an allowance for Department Heads to submit ideas to recommend how to utilize funding. We are looking for ideas that do not require sustained funding after the money has been spent. One time investments with longer payoffs are ideal. Target vulnerable populations and invest in a way that can provide the most support. Ms. Luster asked for Board members to share their ideas. She shared thoughts of some funds being utilized for consultant work and training the trainer opportunities.

M She noted that the County Board ultimately will make the decision of how the funds will be utilized.

Mr. Stevens provided details regarding the UCP entry and sundry account to clarify his response from earlier in the meeting under agenda item #5 Review of the Bill.

- **Update: Dr. Daniel Hale Williams Rock County Resource Center:** Mr. Stevens advised the building is 85% complete and on target for the July 4, 2021 deadline. He provided the rate of completion for multiple items. The outside of the building is 94% complete. Landscaping will be started in June.
- **Alia Innovations Child Welfare Grant** – Alia will be interviewing for two positions that will be financed with the grant. Candidates will be interviewed by parents, peers, community partners, and some HSD staff to help make the selection. There will be core committee group to provide oversight and tracking of the work. Ms. Luster shared a power point highlighting key facts and emphasized messaging to clear up some misconceptions:
 - The “why” of this work – shared Alia inspiring summary statement
 - Why this work is essential
 - Racial disparities – working to eliminate race as a predictor of child welfare systems involvement.
 - Dispelling misconception that there won’t be a need for Foster Parents – we need foster parents and will work toward a shift - foster parents needed as a support for families, not a replacement
 - Safety is the #1 priority – children who cannot be kept safe in their homes will be removed
 - 65% of the cases, the majority, are neglect cases often driven by issues related to poverty, not intentional abuse.

Submission of Committee Requests: Supervisor Bostwick asked about mandated reporting related to being a HSD Board member. Ms. Luster responded that being a member of the HSD

Board does not require members to be mandated reporters under the statute. She will clarify her response and follow up with an email to the Board members.

Next Meeting: Wednesday, **May 26, 2021** at 4:30 p.m. – via Zoom.

Adjournment: Citizen Representative Reyes motioned to adjourn, seconded by Supervisor Bostwick with unanimous approval at 5:15 p.m.

Jodi Parson, Secretary

NOT OFFICIAL UNTIL APPROVED BY THE BOARD