

**ROCK COUNTY HUMAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT
PUBLIC HEARING MINUTES
Wednesday, August 10, 2016 - 6:00 p.m.
Room K
Rock County Job Center, Janesville**

Call to Order: Chair Knudson called the Public Hearing to order at 6:00 p.m. on August 10, 2016, in Room K at the Rock County Job Center.

Present: Board members present: Chair Brian Knudson; Sally Jean Weaver-Landers, Citizen Representative; Kathy Schulz, Supervisor; Linda Garrett, Supervisor; Terry Fell, Supervisor; and Terry Thomas, Supervisor; Staff present: Kate Luster, Director; Sara Mooren, Administrative Services Division Manager; Jennifer Thompson, ADRC/Long Term Support Division Manager; April Heim, Economic Support Division Manager; Greg Winkler, Behavioral Health Division Manager; Lance Horozewski, Children, Youth, and Families Division Manager; County Chair Podzilni; and Jodi Parson, Administrative Secretary.

Chair Knudson welcomed everyone to the annual Public Hearing for the Rock County Human Services Department 2017 Budget. Chair Knudson introduced the Human Services Director, Kate Luster. Board members and HSD Division Managers introduced themselves. Chair Knudson stated that the Board and staff are here to listen to concerns as we plan for the fiscal year 2017.

Chair Knudson introduced the speakers in the order they signed in:

Speaker #1 – Ian Hedges, HealthNet – Mr. Hedges, is the Executive Director for HealthNet of Rock County. Mr. Hedges thanked the Board for the previous and current funding given to HealthNet. HealthNet is the only safety net for residents of Rock County who fall at or below 200% poverty level. HealthNet provides general primary health care including labs, x-rays and specialty consulting. HealthNet served 950 individuals last year which equaled about 4,000 visits. Vision care is also provided. Many of the people HealthNet served have jobs but low wages.

Many people who are served have pain disorders. We do not provide controlled substances but assess and manage pain by providing chiropractic care, physical therapy and cortisone shots. We have greatly expanded our mental health services and integrated screening for depression, and provide some mental health services and refer people to ongoing services.

We receive 10 to 12 calls a day from BadgerCare recipients and have expanded oral health services to BadgerCare recipients. We hired another dentist and dental hygienist. The state only reimburses 29 cents for every dollar for dental care, which means our net loss will be approximately of \$63,000. Please consider adding \$25,000 to what you are already giving to HealthNet. HealthNet and Mercy examined together how many people would not have had to receive care at

Mercy if they would have seen a dentist previously. Over the 5 year period examined Mercy would have had about a 40% drop in patients. HealthNet does not receive any Federal dollars, and relies on the funds received from other agencies. We need your dedication and support.

Speaker #2 – Lyndsay Stevens, Board President, NAMI Rock County – Ms. Stevens introduced Ms. Slatter, Vice President, NAMI Rock County. Our main mission is to help individuals with mental health challenges and their family members. We have expanded our free support groups to meet three times a month. We have a meeting in Beloit, two in Janesville, and one Spanish speaking group. We are implementing a group for youth 8 to 12 years of age. A SOSL (Survivor Of Suicide Loss) support group moved to Janesville. We have accomplished obtaining our own office which has allowed us to increase our services. Ms. Stevens and Ms. Slatter are going to attend a CIT training to be trained to provide CIT training to others. We have increased community outreach and offer a twelve week program for family members to learn to cope with a loved one with mental health issues. We are working with the County on suicide awareness and are part of the Zero Suicide initiative. Ms. Stevens asked the Board to consider contributing some funds to NAMI.

Speaker #3 – Mary Burke, Janesville School District - Ms. Burke explained Janesville School District is in partnership with the County to help families build strong collaborative connections to combine resources. It is crucial and vital to continue programs working within the schools. We urge you as a Board to make sure Rock County HSD staffing levels are adequate for providing services.

Speaker #4 – Terri Wixom, Birth to 3 Program Coordinator CESA 2 – Ms. Wixom explained the Birth to 3 program has been under the DD area in the County for over 30 years. Birth to 3 is a mandated program for every county. The program serves children who have been diagnosed with a disability and need for services. Services are provided in their own environment, through teaming with a coaching type style. We have screened 800 children throughout the year and are serving 170-180 who have an active plan. Of the children screened about 25% are diagnosed with Down Syndrome and 75% either transitioned out or are unlikely to need lifelong services. We have only 15 direct service staff providing care. We look forward to working with HSD, and would like to be considered for the full budget proposed.

Chair Knudson thanked the speakers for coming and sharing their comments. There were no further requests to speak.

Adjourn: The meeting adjourned at 6:27 p.m.

Jodi Parson, Administrative Secretary

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