

**ROCK COUNTY HUMAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT
PUBLIC HEARING MINUTES
Wednesday, August 9, 2017 - 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 9, 2017, 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; Shirley Williams, Citizen Representative; Karl Dommershausen, Supervisor; and Terry Thomas, Supervisor; Staff present: Kate Luster, Director; Phil Boutwell, Deputy Director; Sara Mooren, Administrative Services Division Manager; Jennifer Thompson, ADRC/Adult Protective Services Division Manager; April Heim, Economic Support Division Manager; Greg Winkler, Behavioral Health Division Manager; Lance Horozewski, Children, Youth, and Families Division Manager; County Board Chair Podzilni; and Jodi Parson, Administrative Secretary.

Chair Knudson welcomed everyone to the annual Public Hearing for the Rock County Human Services Department 2018 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 2018, and he read the Open Records Meeting law statute. Ms. Luster welcomed anyone with specific questions to touch base with the Division Managers after the meeting.

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 the HSD current donation of \$57,000 to HealthNet. Contributions from Rock County date back to 1995 which was \$50,000 at that time. To determine eligibility for HealthNet services there are strict requirements such as proof of residency, proof of identity, and check stubs. In 2015, HealthNet integrated a mental health program screening for depression and anxiety. There have been 113 cases screened who have been diagnosed and of those 59% have improved. In 2016, HealthNet expanded the dental care program to accept Badger Care clients, 75% of the 27,500 people in Rock County on Badger Care cannot get access to a dentist. HealthNet applied for an oral health grant and is one of ten who have received the grant.

Mr. Hedges explained HealthNet does not treat pain with opiates. For chronic joint pain cortisone shots, physical therapy and chiropractic services are offered. This supports drug abuse prevention efforts.

The cost of insurance can be very high for individuals and 10% still remain uninsured. With the market instability and Federal changes that could come Healthnet expects to see even more clients.

HealthNet served 1,445 clients last year with over 5,000 patient visits and we project that will increase to 6,000 visits next year. Without HealthNet about \$2.4 million of services would not be met.

HealthNet is working on a project with HSD to explore expansion of Sober Living options in Rock County.

Speaker #2 – Mark Fuller, League of Women Voters – Mr. Fuller thanked the Board for their service. Mr. Fuller addressed the issue of the public hearing structure and process. He would like the Board members to be able to respond and discuss issues. He suggested public workshops to understand the budget process so the budget is not such a mystery for the public. He suggested listening sessions at different locations in the county such as Beloit or downtown Janesville. He has concerns that the County is hiring part time staff that do not have benefits.

Speaker #3 – Gayle Hotchkiss, Beloit League of Women Voters - Ms. Hotchkiss thanked the Board and HSD Staff for their service. Ms. Hotchkiss urged the Board to support all citizens in need of services. She asked the Board to use their power as public leaders to provide sufficient funding for evidence based services and to recognize preventive measures save money in the long run.

Speaker #4 – Neil Deupree, Janesville League of Women Voters – Mr. Deupree identified the two attendees representing the Beloit League of Women Voters and the three attendees representing the Janesville League of Women Voters. He advised the League of Women Voters was there to claim their interest with their physical presence. He already spoke at the HSD Board meeting but wanted the League of Women Voters views on the official record at the Public Hearing. The League of Women Voters talked to Ms. Luster and others in the Behavioral Health field to learn the behavioral health needs in the community. The League of Women Voters also had public forums to encourage evidence based policy. He asked the County to continue to be proactive in providing a welcoming atmosphere. As part of the Behavioral Redesign Steering Committee he asked that the HSD work to build relationships with family and individuals, work better with co-occurring diagnosed individuals, coordinate treatment, and connect individuals with treatment/housing.

The League is advocating for and encouraging all agencies to become more mental health friendly. Some law enforcement attended the C.I.T presentations through NAMI to learn to de-escalate situations whenever possible, and we encourage to continue offering this training. We would like Law Enforcement and Behavioral Health to work together in a respectful and private way to give law enforcement the information they need to work effectively with people.

We know there is a struggle with funding but preventive measures does save money in the long run. Please provide sufficient funding for staff to connect inpatient care for clients.

On a personal note, Mr. Deupree advocated for expanding the CCS program. CCS is an effective way to help people with behavioral health issues. Also, he advocated for the Cultural Competency Initiative and other trainings for staff.

Chair Knudson thanked the speakers for coming and sharing their comments. He thanked the League of Women Voters for taking an interest in the HSD budget. He welcomed everyone to call Ms. Luster or Division Managers with any questions. There were no further requests to speak.

Chair Knudson thanked County Chair Russell J. Podzilni for attending the meeting.

Adjourn: The meeting adjourned at 6:30 p.m.

Jodi Parson, Administrative Secretary

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