



**ROCK COUNTY HUMAN SERVICES BOARD MEETING**  
**Wednesday, August 24, 2016 – 4:30 P.M.**

**Call to Order:** Chair Knudson called the meeting to order at 4:30 p.m. on Wednesday, August 24, 2016, in the 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor Conference room at the Rock County Health Care Center, Janesville, Wisconsin.

**Committee Members Present:** Chair Brian Knudson, Supervisor; Sally Jean Weaver-Landers, Citizen Representative; Linda Garrett, Supervisor; Terry Fell, Supervisor; Kathy Schulz, Supervisor; Shirley Williams, Citizen Representative (in at 4:50 p.m.); Karl Dommershausen, Supervisor; and Terry Thomas, Supervisor.

**Committee Members Absent:** Ashley Kleven, Citizen Representative.

**Staff Present:** Kate Luster, Director; Tim Zuehlke, Controller; Lance Horozewski, CYF Division Manager; Stacey Speich, Access & IA Program Manager; Cheri Salava, Foster Care Supervisor; Heather Krueger, Sub Care Social Worker.

**Others Present:** None.

**Approval of Agenda:** Citizen Representative Weaver-Landers moved the agenda to the floor, seconded by Supervisor Dommershausen. The agenda was unanimously approved. APPROVED.

**Approval of Minutes of Human Services Board Meeting of August 10, 2016:** Supervisor Fell moved the minutes to the floor, seconded by Supervisor Thomas. The minutes were unanimously approved. APPROVED.

**Citizen Participation:** None.

**Submission of Committee Requests:** Supervisor Schulz asked when Ian Hedges, the Director of Health Net would return to the HSD Board. Ms. Luster advised Mr. Hedges will be returning to speak to the Board on September 14, 2016.

Ms. Luster advised we have an RFP out for the YSC Shelter Care services and when we have the full financial information to present we will bring the information to the Board.

**Approval of Contracts and Transfers:** Citizen Representative Weaver-Landers moved one contract to the floor, seconded by Supervisor Thomas. Mr. Zuehlke responded to questions. The contract was unanimously approved. APPROVED.

**Review of Budget to Actual Report:** Ms. Luster advised we are half way through the year and State Institutes are at 81% of what we budgeted. We have two more in our daily census than what we budgeted, sometimes we get reimbursed at the end of the year for some costs but the amount is hard to predict. We are trying to reach out to more hospitals for placements to reduce costs. We are trending high in Sub Care at this point as well. Interpreter services in the CYF Division are trending high and we are looking at ways to reduce costs there. Supervisor Dommershausen asked if there was a better way to report expenditures. Mr. Zuehlke explained some items are posted annually versus monthly. Supervisor Schulz asked about the Public Liability entry. Mr. Zuehlke advised the Finance Director gives us the amount which is the HSD portion of all the County claims.

**Resolution Amending the 2016 HSD Budget to Accept Funding for Juvenile Early Intervention**

**Services:** Citizen Representative Weaver-Landers moved the resolution to the floor, seconded by Supervisor Fell. Mr. Horozewski explained the amount of Early Intervention funds varies from year to year, and must be used specifically to divert youth from the Juvenile Justice system. Historically we use the funds to support agencies who work with redirecting youth. We give money to the Community Action mentoring program. Mentorships provide tutoring and curriculum based groups specifically to divert youth from the Juvenile Justice system. Supervisor Garrett asked about the number of students mentored. Mr. Horozewski advised the additional funding will allow us to mentor fifteen additional youth, bringing the total number of youth to fifty five. Garrett asked about accountability on how youth do over time as well as current information. Mr. Horozewski advised we track and report recidivism, school attendance and achievements to the State. He will provide the Board with the information he reports to the State at the end of the year and will ask Community Action to speak to the Board as well. Mr. Horozewski responded to questions.

**Update on Foster Care Recruitment:** Ms. Speich introduced Cheri Salava, the Foster Care Supervisor and Heather Krueger, Foster Care Social Worker. We are focusing on recruiting for more foster homes to place children. The Foster Care and Adoption Resource Center met with Rock County HSD to target foster parent recruitment in Rock County, and prepared a consultation report about recruitment and retention in Rock County. We are making progress and implementing suggestions from the consultation. We have designated one foster care worker, Heather Krueger, to focus on recruitment. Ms. Krueger is a dynamic individual who has accepted the position to focus on recruiting. We are focusing on recruiting more homes to accept teens and focusing on more diverse families as well. We have contacted more faith based groups and are reaching out to the school systems.

Removing a child from home is very traumatic for a child. Sometime siblings are split up and sometimes we have to place a child out of county and into different schools. We want to try to keep children in their schools. We are talking to schools and faith based groups to help children in their school.

We provided a booth at the Rock County 4-H Fair and a booth at the Beloit National Night Out. We had a lot of inquiries at the fair and 22 people showed interest. Supervisor Fell asked about the follow up to the inquiries. Ms. Krueger advised Jennifer Wilson has reached out to the interested people and has had six return her call. Ms. Salava stated becoming a foster parent usually takes about two years from when a person first starts thinking about becoming a foster parent. It is a huge commitment and is not a quick decision. We want happy foster parents and we want to provide support to help retention of foster homes. We brought back foster care support groups, foster care advisory committee, and we are focusing on ways to implement better communication with foster homes. We are trying to have meetings as soon as possible between the foster parent and birth parent, along with their workers, to help plan for better consistency in the child's life. We want to implement Primary Care teams and have started training staff.

We are planning more recognition events for families with a picnic in July, a pool party in August, a fall party and a foster parent banquet in February. We have resurrected the Foster Care Newsletter as well. The best way to recruit foster parents is to make current foster homes happy so they encourage others to become foster parents. Ms. Krueger and Ms. Salava responded to questions about foster care rates, insurance, school districts, and special needs.

**Director's Report:**

- Family Care Transition Update – Ms. Luster reported we now have 855 Family Care enrollments. Staff are doing a great job.
- Zero Suicide Initiative – Ms. Luster gave a power point presentation overviewing the Zero Suicide initiative. Zero Suicide is a culture shift and a change in the way of thinking about suicide. Suicide should be thought of as a “never” event rather than an inevitable event. We want staff to think about suicide as 100% preventable. Ms. Luster explained the Zero

Suicide core components which start with leadership commitment. Zero Suicide is feasible without additional funding. Ms. Luster responded to questions.

**Next Meeting:** Wednesday, **September 14, 2016 at 4:30 p.m.**, at the Rock County Health Care Center, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor Conference room, Janesville, Wisconsin.

**Adjournment:** Supervisor Dommershausen motioned to adjourn, seconded by Supervisor Fell with unanimous approval at 5:48 p.m.

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Jodi Parson, Administrative Secretary

**NOT OFFICIAL UNTIL APPROVED BY THE BOARD**