



**ROCK COUNTY HUMAN SERVICES BOARD MEETING**  
**Wednesday, April 14, 2021 – 4:30 P.M.**

**Call to Order:** Chair Knudson called the virtual meeting to order at 4:30 p.m. on Wednesday, March 24, 2021.

**Committee Members Present:** Brian Knudson, Supervisor; Sally Jean Weaver-Landers, Citizen Representative; Shirley Williams, Supervisor (by telephone); 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:** None.

**Staff Present:** Katherine Luster, Director; Tera O'Connor, Deputy Director; Sara Mooren, Administrative Services Manager; Verence Sandoval, Administrative Intern; Maria Delgado, Economic Support (ES) Division Manager; Julie Studinski (ES); and Tami Shaw (ES).

**Others Present:** None.

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

**Approval of Minutes of Human Services Board Meeting of March 24, 2021:** Supervisor Hoffman moved the minutes to the floor, seconded by Supervisor Bostwick. The minutes were unanimously approved. APPROVED.

**Citizen Participation, Communications and Announcements:** Supervisor Bostwick shared that she and others participated in this week's Human Services Day at the Capital and met with several legislators.

**Submission of Committee Requests:** None.

**Review of the Bills:** Mr. Stevens reviewed the bills. Supervisor Bostwick asked about the impact of the American Rescue Act on our ability to pay non-profit organizations. Mr. Stevens and Ms. Luster responded to the questions.

**Approval of Contracts and Transfers:** Citizen Representative Weaver-Landers moved fourteen contracts to the floor, seconded by Citizen Representative Hoffman. The contracts were unanimously approved. APPROVED.

**Resolution to Recognize Economic Support Workers** – Supervisor Bostwick moved the resolution seconded by Citizen Rep. Weavers-Landers. Ms. Delgado reviewed the important role that Economic Support workers play in assuring that Rock County residents have access to much needed benefits including Foodshare, Medicaid and Child Care. During the pandemic, they have adapted to many changes, shifting policies and needs. This is an important opportunity to recognize the central role they play in our community. The resolution was unanimously approved. APPROVED.

**Resolution Recognizing Administrative Professionals** – Citizen Rep. Weavers-Landers moved the resolution seconded by Supervisor Schulz. Ms. Mooren described the many essential functions filled by Administrative Support professionals all year long and specific role they have played to adapt to the needs associated with COVID-19. She emphasized the value in recognizing Administrative Assistants as well as other staff in the Administrative Services Division who provide behind the scenes support to allow the programs of HSD to operate. The resolution was unanimously approved. APPROVED.

**Discussion Regarding Use of Exhibit Space at Daniel Hale Williams Resource Center** – Ms. Luster and Mr. Stevens shared information about a proposal by the Blackhawk Community Credit Union and the Rock County Historical Society to develop an exhibit to be displayed in the Dr. Daniel Hale Williams RC Resource Center. Mr. Stevens also shared information about the plans to honor Dr. Williams with a permanent display in a visible location when coming in the West Entrance. The Blackhawk Credit Union’s proposed exhibit would focus on the history of General Motors and the GM plant’s role in the community and could be a draw for the general public. Pros and cons of this idea were discussed. Concerns were expressed about respect for client privacy when coming to receive services and that increased public traffic with no other connection to the building could be disruptive. There were also suggestions for other subjects that have more of a direct tie to the mission of Human Services to be the focus of a display. Examples included artwork from local schools or from recipients of services. The idea of a rotating display option vs. a permanent exhibit was supported. The specific proposal from Blackhawk Credit Union was identified as one positive option among potential others to be included as possible rotating exhibits in the future. Ms. Luster will share this feedback with Brent Sutherland from Facilities Management for consideration moving forward.

**Director’s Report:**

- **Update: COVID Related Departmental and Community Needs:** Ms. Luster shared the following updates: The HSD continues to operate as it has been with no changes. Ms. Luster also discussed the American Rescue Plan Act which will result in over \$30 million dollars coming to Rock County over the next two years. Money must be spent by 2024. Ms. Luster reviewed the four categories of allowable expenditures and advised that the County Board will need to make decisions about how to prioritize use of these funds. Human Services related needs are likely to be allowable expenses under some categories so Ms. Luster suggested that the HSD Board consider suggested priorities to recommend for possible funding. As more information is available about specific allowable expenses, Ms. Luster will share this information.
- **Update: Dr. Daniel Hale Williams Rock County Resource Center:** Ms. Luster advised there has been significant progress at the DWRC, which most were able to see during the tour earlier that day.

**Next Meeting:** Wednesday, **April 28, 2021** at 4:30 p.m. – via Zoom.

**Adjournment:** Supervisor Williams motioned to adjourn, seconded by Supervisor Schulz with unanimous approval at 5:40 p.m.

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Kathleen Wellnitz, Secretary

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