



**ROCK COUNTY HUMAN SERVICES BOARD MEETING**  
**Wednesday, February 28, 2018 – 4:30 P.M.**

**Call to Order:** Chair Knudson called the meeting to order at 4:30 p.m. on Wednesday, February 28, 2018, 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; Kathy Schulz, Supervisor; Karl Dommershausen, Supervisor; Shirley Williams, Citizen Representative; Terry Thomas, Supervisor; Linda Garrett, Supervisor; Ashley Kleven, Citizen Representative (in at 4:35 p.m.); and Terry Fell, Supervisor (out at 5:15 p.m.).

**Committee Members Absent:**

**Staff Present:** Kate Luster, Director; Phil Boutwell, Deputy Director; Sara Mooren, Administrative Services Division Manager; and Lance Horozewski, CYF Division Manager.

**Others Present:** Bill McCarty, Tom Brien, Robin Stuht, Homeless School Liaison, Tammy DeGarmo, Executive Director, Project 1649.

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

**Approval of Minutes of Human Services Board Meeting of February 14, 2018:** Supervisor Thomas moved the minutes to the floor, seconded by Citizen Representative Weaver-Landers. The minutes were unanimously approved. APPROVED.

**Citizen Participation, Communications and Announcements:** None.

**Submission of Committee Requests:** None.

**Approval of Contracts and Transfers:** Citizen Representative Weaver-Landers moved seven contracts to the floor, seconded by Citizen Representative Williams. Ms. Mooren highlighted the contract that will be providing new services to help mostly CSP (Community Support Program) clients with skill development based on each individual's unique needs. Citizen Representative Williams asked about the Tellurian contract. Supervisor Dommershausen asked about the location of residential care facilities. Ms. Mooren, Mr. Horozewski and Ms. Luster responded. The contracts were unanimously approved. APPROVED.

**February HSD Employee Impact Recognition Award:** Ms. Luster announced Tom Walli was the recipient of the February HSD employee impact recognition award but he was not able to attend the meeting. Mr. Walli has been a Youth Specialist for 19 years and was nominated by Mr. Schwarz the YSC Superintendent. Mr. Walli has a great ability to respond to youth with trauma. He tries to understand behavior and works with youth to try to change behaviors. He is always helpful and helps new workers to learn what youth need.

**Report on Unaccompanied Minors and Sex Trafficking:** Mr. Horozewski introduced Robin Stuht, and Tammy DeGarmo. Ms. Stuht explained that the McKinney-Vento law is part of the ESSA (Every

Student Succeeds Act). The McKinney-Vento law applies to unaccompanied youth who are defined as those who are not living in the custody of parent or guardian. The law assures that these students have no barriers to receiving an education. Ms. Stuht works with these youth to provide a variety of supports and services. Ms. Stuht wanted to give the youth a voice and worked with a volunteer to make a Project 1649 DVD which became viral. After the video became viral the grass roots group became a non-profit, Ms. DeGarmo was hired as Executive Director of Project 1649, and it has flourished.

Ms. DeGarmo explained that 16 hours 49 minutes is the amount of time between when school ends and begins the next day. It is a very vulnerable and dangerous time for youth who are homeless. The community realized we need to help these youth. Project 1649 with school districts and other community agencies provide basic needs to homeless youth. They have a lot of support from the community for collection drives to furnish hygiene bags, food, and school supplies. This year they held a holiday drive so unaccompanied youth were able to receive a gift, for most of the unaccompanied youth that was the only gift they received.

The cornerstone of the program has been the transitional living home for girls known as the Robin's House. They will provide case management to youth who want regular contact and goal setting assistance. This month is Robin's House four year anniversary. Ms. Stuht advised that historically the program has been solely privately funded. Recently, they received a grant to start a boy's home and next week they are opening a transitional home for boys.

Ms. Stuht and Ms. DeGarmo described their involvement in the Rock County Anti Human Trafficking Task Force. Ms. Stuht and Ms. DeGarmo provided information about Human Trafficking and shared stories of girls who have been sex trafficked and emphasized how victims are coerced and shamed.

Human trafficking is defined today as human slavery; most commonly for the purpose of sexual slavery, forced labor or commercial sexual exploitation. Sex trafficking has become the second largest source of income for criminal groups after smuggling drugs and selling arms. They have such strong psychological control over the victims, because they isolate and shame them. Ms. Stuhts played a video about sex trafficking. Ms. Stuhts and Ms. DeGarmo responded to questions. Making the community aware of this issue is the priority.

**Update on Closing of Lincoln Hills and Proposed Changes to Juvenile Corrections:** Ms. Luster advised the Assembly Bill 953 passed the Assembly the week before last with an amended version of the original Bill. There is a lot of feedback from counties but it is moving extremely quickly, and not an ideal process for counties to have the ability to help weigh in on developing the legislation. The Bill proposes to close Lincoln Hills and Copper Lake by January 2021. The DOC (Department of Corrections) would establish correctional facilities for serious juvenile offenders and the Department of Health services would expand the Mendota Juvenile Treatment Center for juveniles with mental health needs. The counties would create SRCCCY (Secured Residential Care Centers for Children and Youth) for other juveniles that do not fall into the serious category.

Options for counties include multiple counties jointly submitting a grant to modify or build a facility to become an SRCCCY under that program structure; contracting with another county for placement; contract with a child welfare agency to establish; or single county. Currently, we have secured detention and the ACTIONS 365 program at the YSC. The legislation grandfathered in programs like ours but they are dis-incentivizing the programs with lots of restrictions. Applications for the grant are due March 31, 2019, but we don't have the rule yet. Counties may apply for grants for 95% of the costs of designing and constructing a SRCCCY; 95% of the costs of designing and constructing a facility that house both a SRCCCY and a juvenile detention facility; 100% of costs of designing and constructing a SRCCCY or a portion of a SRCCCY for female juveniles; eligible construction costs include costs of renovating an existing structure; successful applicants will be reimbursed for 95% of design costs incurred in preparing a grant application. A bonus would be given for a combination of a short term detention and long term facility of 15% annually to help with costs. There will be a Juvenile Corrections Study Committee to help move this forward and help with the application process. Lincoln Hills would be turned into an adult correctional institution. This has passed the Assembly, but it hasn't passed the Senate yet.

Ms. Luster reminded we were planning on modifying the YSC but that is on hold right now to see what the final legislation is, and to get a sense of what other counties in our region are pursuing. We want to make the best decision for our County and youth. Ms. Luster will keep the Board members updated and email this presentation. Ms. Luster responded to questions.

**Director's Report:**

- **Shelter Care Update** – Ms. Luster advised we are waiting to hear more on Shelter Care. No update at this time.

**Next Meeting:** **Wednesday, March 14, 2018 at 4:30 p.m.**, in the 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor Conference room at the Rock County Health Care Center, Janesville, Wisconsin.

**Adjournment:** Supervisor Thomas motioned to adjourn, seconded by Supervisor Schulz with unanimous approval at 6:07 p.m.

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Jodi Parson, Secretary

**NOT OFFICIAL UNTIL APPROVED BY THE BOARD**