



ROCK COUNTY HUMAN SERVICES BOARD MEETING
Wednesday, October 13, 2021 – 4:30 P.M.

Call to Order: Chair Knudson called the meeting to order at 4:30 p.m. on Wednesday, October 13, 2021, in the Boardroom, at the Dr. Daniel Hale Williams Rock County Resource Center, Janesville, WI.

Committee Members Present: Brian Knudson, Supervisor; J. Russell Podzilni, Supervisor; and Ashley Hoffman, Citizen Representative attended in-person. Sally Jean Weaver-Landers, Citizen Representative; Shirley Williams, Supervisor; Kathy Schulz, Supervisor; Pam Bostwick, Supervisor; Stephanie Aegerter, Supervisor; and Angelina Reyes, Citizen Representative (in at 4:36 p.m.) attended virtually.

Committee Members Absent: None.

Staff Present: Tera O'Connor, Deputy Director; Sara Mooren, Administrative Services Manager; Greg Winkler, Deputy Director; Mark Stevens, Business Services Manager; Bette Trimble, Crisis Services Program Manager and Kami Williams, Child Protective Services (CPS) Lead Supervisor.

Others Present: Josh Smith, County Administrator. Terri Carlson, Risk Manager. Annette Mikula, HR Director. Patrick Singer, I.T. Rick Richards, County Board Supervisor. Cheri Diehls, Foster Parent. Dan Schuhmacher, Foster Parent. Ashley Zummo, Foster Parent. Joseph Zummo, III, Foster Parent. Cindy and Dale Smith, Grandparents. Sandy Johnson, CASA. Kim Churchill, CASA. Alyssa Whitney, CASA. Peg Cadd. Erin Martin. Terri Wixom. Kelly Berg, Foster Parent. Jennifer Nash Elliott. Tiffany Strodthoff. Devin Blay.

Approval of Agenda: Supervisor Podzilni moved the agenda to the floor, seconded by Supervisor Schulz. The agenda was unanimously approved. APPROVED.

Approval of Minutes of Human Services Board Meeting on September 22, 2021: Citizen Representative Hoffman moved the minutes to the floor, seconded by Supervisor Williams. The minutes were unanimously approved. APPROVED.

Public Comment: County Board Supervisor Richard stated comments regarding concerns from the public and community agencies and he would like the resolution supported to move forward with the CPS assessment. The most important thing is to do the best we can for the children and families.

Ms. Cadd stated comments in support of the resolution as well.

Communications and Announcements from Staff and Board Members: Supervisor Williams announced that the NAACP, Freedom is not Free fundraiser, is on November 11, 2021. The Key-Note Speaker is Dr. Darrell Williams. This will be a virtual banquet. Please call 608-364-1861 or email NAACP@gmail.com to register.

Supervisor Williams announced the celebration recognizing the existence of the Beloit NAACP since 1919, marking 102 years of existence.

Approval of Contracts and Transfers: Citizen Representative Hoffman moved four contracts to the floor, seconded by Supervisor Podzilni. Ms. Mooren provided details regarding the contracts and responded to questions. The contracts were unanimously approved. APPROVED.

Review of Bills: Mr. Stevens advised there was nothing to highlight for the September bills.

Resolutions and Committee Action:

- **Resolution Amending the HSD Budget to Accept a COVID Behavioral Health Grant *** – Supervisor Podzilni moved the resolution to the floor, seconded by Supervisor Aegerter. Ms. Trimble presented the resolution and explained that Rock County received a COVID Behavioral Health Grant from the Wisconsin DHS with an initial term of May 1, 2020 through August 19, 2021. The Wisconsin DHS made additional funding available to continue to provide recovery and support services for people with behavioral health needs affected by the COVID Crisis. Rock County has been approved to receive additional funds starting August 20, 2021 through May 31, 2022. Ms. Trimble responded to questions regarding the use of funds. The resolution was unanimously approved. APPROVED.

- **Resolution Authorizing an Assessment of Rock County’s Child Welfare System *** – Chair Knudson moved the resolution to the floor, seconded by Citizen Representative Weaver-Landers. Chair Knudson advised the most important piece of the resolution is to help children and families. There have been various concerns expressed by foster parents and other stakeholders regarding the child welfare system and this resolution recommends the County Administrator to identify and develop a contract with a third party to evaluate Rock County’s child welfare system. He reviewed the items the assessment will include. County Administrator Smith advised to address concerns there will be a third party hired to objectively look at the system and provide ways of improvement. The County is always open to ways to improve. The challenge is finding someone with expertise who can provide this service and to find funding. The budget is about to pass for calendar year 2022 and this was not included, as it is just being passed. Individually each of the Board members provided comments in support of the resolution. The resolution was unanimously approved. APPROVED.

Reports and Update:

- **Report on COVIDs Impact on the Ability to Meet with Clients** – Ms. O’Connor provided in-depth details regarding each of the following program’s ability to respond to COVID: Children’s Long Term Support (CLTS); Youth Justice (YJ) and Family Skill Development; Comprehensive Community Services (CSS); Drug Court; ADRC/APS; Community Services Program (CSP); and Economic Support. For the most part programs are meeting in-person now and working in a more flexible individualized way depending on what the client prefers. Ms. O’Connor responded to questions and will convey to Managers that staff are to ask the right questions to make sure clients who want to meet in-person will feel comfortable saying they want to.

- **2022 Budget Requests Update** – Ms. Mooren explained that there have been recent changes in the budget. The original budget request was for approximately \$650,000

which was about a 3% increase, but it has been reduced to \$185,000 which is less than 1%. The biggest change was the addition of County ARPA funds, and the County Administrator will be presenting more about that tomorrow evening at the County Board meeting. The budget includes the integrated health trending for the CPS increase of needs in services, and Economic Support services request of an ES screener position. One peer support specialist position was reduced with hopes that additional grant funding will be coming which could support that in the future.

- **Update: COVID Related Departmental and Community Needs** – Ms. O’Connor advised that there was not anything new to report. Staff are under a mask requirement and social distancing whenever possible. She has not heard any other concerns since the last meeting. There has been much more traffic in the building, and it is going well.
- **Update: Dr. Daniel Hale Williams Rock County Resource Center** – Mr. Stevens advised he and Ms. Mooren are working on a list of items that are being addressed. Some items are delayed and on back order. He advised that he learned that if the furniture would have been ordered any later in the process there may not have been any furniture yet due to back orders.

Committee Requests:

- **Requests for Future Agenda Items or Information:** Supervisor Podzilni recommended in-person meetings. Supervisor Williams explained why she would not have been able to attend the meeting if it was not a hybrid meeting. Supervisor Bostwick explained she was going to be out due to health reasons and will not be able to attend the Foster Care Advisory Committee (FCAC) meetings as she originally planned. She asked that another Board member consider taking her place. This will be an agenda item at the next HSD Board meeting.

Next Meeting: Wednesday, **October 27, 2021** at 4:30 p.m. will be a hybrid meeting via zoom and in-person at the DWRC, Boardroom, 1717 Center Avenue, Janesville, WI.

Adjournment: Supervisor Podzilni motioned to adjourn, seconded by Citizen Representative Hoffman with unanimous approval at 5:38 p.m.

Jodi Parson, Secretary

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