



ROCK COUNTY HUMAN SERVICES BOARD MEETING
Wednesday, December 11, 2019 – 4:30 P.M.

Call to Order: Vice Chair Weaver-Landers called the meeting to order at 4:30 p.m. on Wednesday, December 11, 2019, in the 3rd Floor Conference room at the Health Care Center, Janesville, Wisconsin.

Committee Members Present: Sally Jean Weaver-Landers, Citizen Representative; Terry Thomas, Supervisor; Terry Fell, Supervisor; Kathy Schulz, Supervisor; Stephanie Aegerter, Supervisor; Shirley Williams, Citizen Representative (in at 4:37 p.m.); and Ashley Kleven, Citizen Representative.

Committee Members Absent: Brian Knudson, Supervisor. David Homan, Supervisor.

Staff Present: Kate Luster, Director; Tera O'Connor, Deputy Director; Megan Learn, Administrative Intern; Sara Mooren, Administrative Services Division Manager; Greg Winkler, Behavioral Health (BH) Division Manager; Julie Butz, Children's Long Term Support (CLTS) Program Manager; Mark Stevens, Business Services Manager; and John Weber, HSD Analyst.

Others Present: Ginger Schwahn, United Cerebral Palsy (UCP). Pam Bostwick, Citizen. Sue Rusch, Community. Jamie Fugate, Community. Nancy Rennie, Community. Terri Wixom, Community. Una Williams, Community.

Approval of Agenda: Citizen Representative Kleven moved the agenda to the floor, seconded by Supervisor Aegerter. The agenda was unanimously approved. APPROVED.

Approval of Minutes of Human Services Board Meeting of November 25, 2019: Supervisor Thomas moved the minutes to the floor, seconded by Supervisor Schulz. The minutes were unanimously approved. APPROVED.

Citizen Participation, Communications and Announcements: None.

Submission of Committee Requests: Supervisor Schulz asked about grievances and what types of issues are being received. Ms. Luster advised the Grievance Process will be a future agenda item.

Vice Chair Weaver-Landers led discussion about the date of the next HSD Board meeting and whether to cancel. It was agreed that the next HSD Board meeting would be cancelled.

Approval of Contracts and Transfers: Citizen Representative Kleven moved thirty contracts to the floor, seconded by Supervisor Aegerter. Ms. Mooren advised there were some Comprehensive Community Services (CCS) contracts, a few renewals, Alia, and a new Psychiatrist contract. Ms.

Luster explained the contract for Alia was for consultation related to the Foster Parent focus groups. Ms. Mooren and Ms. Luster responded to questions. The contracts were unanimously approved. APPROVED.

Review of Bills: Mr. Stevens advised there was nothing out of the ordinary. There were no questions.

Discussion of Human Services Department Role and Resources Related to Housing and Homelessness: Ms. Luster distributed handouts and explained that while HSD is not mandated, funded or contracted to deliver housing or homeless services. There are significant case management and support activities that occur to prevent homelessness and assist clients who are struggling with homelessness and associated risks. HSD also provides funding for emergency housing needs for HSD clients in certain circumstances.

Ms. Luster explained more about the Adult Protective Services (APS) services related to vulnerable adults who do not have housing or who need emergency housing. She provided data on the number of days HSD provided housing support and cost of expenses. Ms. Luster responded to questions about a drop in center and advised a drop in center would not be considered a mandated service and is not a budget priority for HSD. Tax levy would have to be used to support such an operation. She explained that homelessness is an important issue to address but not a mandated service for HSD.

Ms. Luster advised HSD Behavioral Health staff work with the mentally ill and provide housing vouchers to assist and prevent homelessness. The HSD works hard to advocate for people with mental illness with landlords as well. Some individuals without stable housing decline help that is offered. She provided an example of a client who recently was helped by outreach, but had refused help many times in the past. Ms. Luster explained more about outreach and engagement, and responded to questions. Ms. Luster also explained the supportive services HSD provides.

In Children, Youth and Families (CYF) area when parents with children are evicted or struggling financially, staff work with them to try to prevent homelessness. There is a lack of affordable housing in Rock County which is a huge barrier. There is a shortage for housing for the poor and working poor. The HSD is at the table with a city group that is looking into this. The HSD is advocating for housing. It is a barrier to find housing when someone has bad credit, been evicted or has had criminal charges. There is a lot of discussion around this right now and it is a very important issue for the community at large.

Birth to 3 Transition Update and Introduction of United Cerebral Palsy (UCP) Director: Ms. Luster introduced Ginger Schwahn the Director of UCP, the new provider for the Birth to 3 program. Ms. Schwahn explained UCP has been in existence as a non-profit since 1956. One advantage for UCP, is it is part of a larger national agency. The national platform gives them a voice on Capitol Hill.

The UCP is one of the few non-profits that services individuals through their lifespan. Ongoing contact from the Birth to 3 program to Children's Long Term Support (CLTS) to Family Care or IRIS, as an adult. The UCP partners with families on their journey through the transition. Ms. Schwahn has been at UCP for ten years and her journey started in the child care area. She explained UCP looks at what is best for the family first and foremost.

Ms. Schwahn responded to questions about the number of applicants and hires from CESA 2 employees. She explained services are not changing and she would like to quiet the concerns

about that. Ms. Schwahn provided an update on the transition, and advised it is a big transition to take place in a short period. Mr. Winkler added that Dec. 18, 2019 is the last day of working with CESA 2 and by the end of next week the transition should be complete.

Ms. Schwahn advised that feedback from families will be collected through family surveys as part of quality control. The Director of the Birth to 3 program will be back to provide information to the HSD Board and answer questions.

Director's Report:

- **1717 Center Avenue (New HSD location)** – Ms. Luster explained that there are still some changes HSD is requesting, to make the space more open and collaborative. Ms. Luster and Division Managers are meeting with the architect on Monday to complete the details. The final plan is very close to being complete.
- **Foster Parent Engagement Efforts** – Ms. Luster advised there will be focus group meetings to address issues of communication, trust and relationship issues with foster parents. There will be two focus groups on Friday, December 13, 2019 and one on Saturday, December 14, 2019 at the First Congregational Church in Janesville. Ms. Luster has emphasized to the consultants that everyone involved should all see the same report. Ms. O'Connor and Ms. Luster are not involved in the focus groups. The hope is to problem solve and receive elements of solution and next steps from the consultants. Ms. Luster has asked for specific examples of concerns in form of complaints and grievances and some have been received, which has made it possible to resolve some of them. A lot of issues are around collaboration and communication.

Ms. Luster confirmed there is a definite need for trust building engagement with foster parents and with staff. She wants all to feel supported and wants to help break down silos. It is a good opportunity to move forward to improve our structure, alignment with each other, and the mission of the HSD. Ms. Luster responded to questions about respite programs for foster parents.

Ms. Luster commented on the food share changes in SNAP. She advised Wisconsin has already been doing some of the changes that have recently been on the news related to work requirements. She explained that the Federal government wants to standardize the utility allowance and what that means for Wisconsin Food Share recipients. She will forward a letter to the HSD Board members about the State's position, and have an agenda item in the future for any questions. Ms. Luster also advised she will have the Adoption Task Force bill on the next agenda as suggested.

Next Meeting: Wednesday, **January 8, 2019** at 4:30 p.m. at the Rock County Health Care Center, in the 3rd Floor Conference Room, Janesville, WI. *****Please note - December 25, 2019 meeting is cancelled. *****

Adjournment: Supervisor Aegerter motioned to adjourn, seconded by Citizen Representative Kleven with unanimous approval at 5:37 p.m.

Jodi Parson, Secretary

NOT OFFICIAL UNTIL APPROVED BY THE BOARD