



**ROCK COUNTY HUMAN SERVICES BOARD MEETING**  
**Wednesday, February 10, 2021 – 4:30 P.M.**

**Call to Order:** Chair Knudson called the virtual meeting to order at 4:30 p.m. on Wednesday, February 10, 2021.

**Committee Members Present:** Brian Knudson, Supervisor; Sally Jean Weaver-Landers, Citizen Representative; Shirley Williams, Supervisor; J. Russell Podzilni, Supervisor; Kaelyb Lokranz, Supervisor; Kathy Schulz, Supervisor; Pam Bostwick, Supervisor; Angelina Reyes, Citizen Representative; and Ashley Hoffman, Citizen Representative.

**Committee Members Absent:** None.

**Staff Present:** Katherine Luster, Director; Greg Winkler, Deputy Director; Tera O'Connor, Deputy Director; Sara Mooren, Administrative Services Manager; Verence Sandoval, Administrative Intern; and, Mark Stevens, Business Services Manager.

**Others Present:** Sue Rusch.

**Approval of Agenda:** Citizen Representative Weaver-Landers moved the agenda to the floor, seconded by Supervisor Podzilni. The agenda with the requested change was unanimously approved. Approved.

**Approval of Minutes of Human Services Board Meeting of January 27, 2021:** Supervisor Bostwick moved the minutes to the floor, seconded by Citizen Representative Kleven. The minutes were unanimously approved. Approved.

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

**Submission of Committee Requests:** Supervisor Schultz requested information regarding assistance for the homeless during this cold weather.

**Approval of Contracts and Transfers:** Supervisor Podzilni moved ten contracts to the floor, seconded by Citizen Representative Weaver-Landers. Ms. Mooren explained all the contracts were renewals for current contracts. The contracts were unanimously approved. Approved.

**Review of Bills:** Mr. Stevens presented the bills and there were no questions.

**Update Regarding Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Activities and Plans:** Ms. Luster stated that two Equity Manager positions have been created, one each for Human Services and the County Administrator's Office. The recruitment process has started. The HSD position will be a leadership position that reports directly to Ms. Luster. The position's role is both internal and external, addressing diversity issues in the department and the community. Ms. Luster emphasized that while we will have an equity manager, everyone plays a part in promoting equity, diversity and inclusion. Last year, Human Services conducted a survey to help develop priorities and recommendations for the Department with an emphasis on leadership development around issues of diversity, inclusion, and equity. Ms. Luster shared examples of the work the Department has already accomplished. She also gave an overview of suggested Inclusive Leadership Competencies emphasizing that a key piece that stands out is creating intentional time and space for discussions/efforts for leaders and to make this a priority. Fundamental education/learning/development, book options for reading, and using designated time in leadership meetings for discussion are all important ways to increase awareness and share thoughtful dialogue.

**Discussion and Possible Action to Select the HSD Logo:** Ms. Luster shared revised logos that the graphic designer created that reflect feedback from the survey results, namely logo examples #4 and #5. The designer provided samples of the revised logos using several different color options. Ms. Luster also shared black and white samples of the same. She noted that the color options appear as light gray scale, except for the dark blue (example #7), which appears more distinct. Ms. Luster also shared that the dark blue is the best to photocopy in black and white while still retaining a more distinct quality. Supervisor Lokrantz made a motion to approve example #7 as the new Human Services Department logo. Citizen Representative Weaver-Landers seconded. The motion was unanimously approved. Approved.

### **Director's Report:**

- **Update: COVID Related Departmental and Community Needs:** Ms. Luster responded to Supervisor Schultz's request for information regarding assisting the homeless in cold weather. She shared that there are emergency warming shelters in the County and Human Services has taken the lead in facilitating this initiative. Shelters are limited in terms of capacity because of COVID-19. The EOC takes on the role of responding to any unmet need. Crisis is the contact number for warming center information/requests. Arrangements with a local hotel (Holiday Inn Express) and other local hotel options, are coordinated through Crisis. Information has been communicated by the EOC to the public through an information release. ECHO also has some dedicated dollars for housing purposes. If someone is eligible for longer term housing, we make sure they are connected with that resource, as well. Supervisor Schultz requested specific information in regard to location of the warming shelters, noting the need for transportation to the shelters. Ms. Luster assured that bus tokens, rides, and a sensitivity to the acute situation this weather presents are all part of the Department's response. A list of shelter locations will be emailed to the Board.

In regard to COVID-19 vaccinations, Ms. Luster advised that many staff in the Phase 1A category were vaccinated at Blackhawk Technical College two weeks ago. Twelve staff had to reschedule, as well as some foster parents. There is a plan for them to be vaccinated soon. Phase 1B is coming, but we are waiting our turn and working with Public Health around the prioritization of this group as well as the

65+ age group that will have ongoing access at this point. The Vaccination Coordination Committee is working on outreach to vulnerable populations.

The Department continues to keep staff safe by providing adequate PPE. There is not a shortage of N95 masks, however there are staff who were fitted for N95 mask models that are not always accessible. In addition, we have contracted with Battelle to decontaminate N95 masks.

Supervisor Schultz shared that there is some difference in the way hospitals and clinics are notifying people about the vaccine. She has also heard that some people have difficulty making an online reservation to be vaccinated with the only other option being to call and wait for a call back. Ms. Luster responded that the Vaccination Coordination Committee and Public Health are working on these issues to help ease the process.

- **Update: Dr. Daniel Hale Williams Rock County Resource Center:** Mr. Stevens shared some building construction photos reflecting paint color, carpet, the rotunda, skylights and conference room space. He shared that the building is 44% complete. Ms. Luster shared furniture photos of work spaces. Ms. Luster will also share a link to an interview with Danny Evans and Randy Terrones about Daniel Hale Williams that depicts his legacy in Rock County and the journey to his name becoming the namesake of our new building.

**Next Meeting:** Wednesday, February 24, 2021 at 4:30 p.m. – Virtual Meeting.

**Adjournment:** Supervisor Schultz motioned to adjourn, seconded by Citizen Representative Angelina Reyes with unanimous approval at 5:30 p.m.

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Kathleen Wellnitz, Secretary

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