



**ROCK COUNTY HUMAN SERVICES BOARD MEETING**  
**Wednesday, April 11, 2018 – 4:30 P.M.**

**Call to Order:** Chair Knudson called the meeting to order at 4:30 p.m. on Wednesday, April 11, 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; Linda Garrett, Supervisor; Ashley Kleven, Citizen Representative; Terry Thomas, Supervisor; and Terry Fell, Supervisor.

**Committee Members Absent:** None.

**Staff Present:** Kate Luster, Director; Sara Mooren, Administrative Services Division Manager; Timothy Zuehlke, Controller; April Heim, ES Division Manager; Penny Nevicosi, Juvenile Justice Supervisor; Kim Blaser, Juvenile Justice Specialist; John Weber, Program Analyst; Lea Gerue, Juvenile Justice Specialist; and Cheri Stockheimer, Juvenile Justice Specialist.

**Others Present:** Fred Blaser, Kim Blaser's husband. Tom Brien, County Board Supervisor elect. Stephanie Aegerter, County Board Supervisor.

**Approval of Agenda:** Supervisor Thomas 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 March 28, 2018:** Supervisor Dommershausen moved the minutes to the floor, seconded by Supervisor Schulz. The minutes were unanimously approved. APPROVED.

**Citizen Participation, Communications and Announcements:** Ms. Luster and Chair Knudson recognized and thanked Supervisor Garrett and Supervisor Dommershausen for their service on the HSD Board. Supervisor Garrett expressed words of appreciation.

**Submission of Committee Requests:** Chair Knudson advised the updated committee request list was distributed. Citizen Representative Williams requested updates on welfare reforms and the changes the President has made. Ms. Luster advised when she has information on the work requirements she will update the Board.

**Approval of Contracts and Transfers:** None.

**Review of Bills:** Mr. Zuehlke highlighted the Henricksen entry and explained that items were purchased to update conference rooms. Supervisor Schulz asked about the Franklin Street Property Group entry. Ms. Mooren responded and advised she would email more information to the HSD Board members to follow up.

**Resolution to Recognize Kim Blaser:** The resolution was moved to the floor by Citizen Representative Weaver-Landers, seconded by Supervisor Kleven. Ms. Nevicosi introduced Kim Blaser. Ms. Blaser has served the citizens of Rock County for over twenty-five years as a dedicated and valued employee of Rock County. Ms. Blaser worked in the Child Protective Services area throughout her years of employment at Rock County Human Services. She started in the Ongoing CPS unit, and in 1999 transitioned into the Access unit as an Intake social worker. In 2009, Ms. Blaser accepted a position in Juvenile Justice as the Juvenile Court Intake worker. Ms. Blaser is a high performer, extraordinarily organized, extremely reliable and compassionate. She was able to successfully engage youth and families in a respectful and non-threatening manner and helped families to navigate through the system. Ms. Blaser's kindness and willingness to help will be greatly missed. Chair Knudson expressed appreciation and best wishes. The resolution was unanimously approved. Approved.

**Resolution to Recognize Economic Support Staff:** The resolution was moved to the floor by Citizen Representative Kleven, seconded by Citizen Representative Weaver-Landers. Ms. Heim presented the resolution. Economic Support staff administer difficult, complex and ever changing public assistance programs to the citizens of Rock County. Ms. Heim advised to recognize ES staff they have a celebration planned for tomorrow. Going along with the new organizational culture, the ES activity planned will focus on building morale and positivity. All staff were given tickets to fill out to express and recognize something positive about co-workers and supervisors. Then the tickets would be used for a raffle to win prizes. She distributed a handout with details of the activity. Ms. Heim read some of the comments from the tickets that have been received. Ms. Luster recognized Ms. Heim and expressed she is greatly valued and doing a great job leading the ES Division. The resolution was unanimously. Approved.

**Report on Residential Rate Setting Tool:** Ms. Mooren explained prior to Family Care a lot of our adult placements were funded by Long Term Care. There were some inconsistency with rates and rate setting took a lot of negotiating. With the transition to Family Care we were able to develop and incorporate a new process which helps guide staff and providers on rate setting.

Mr. Weber distributed handouts and talked about the process. He explained that input from many staff and community resources was utilized to develop the methodology process. He explained the rate categories in detail and the assessment process. This process makes it easier for staff to be more consistent with rates.

Mr. Weber advised there is also an appeal process. An individual has the right to an appeal if they think their needs are more than what is assessed. Mr. Weber and Ms. Luster responded to questions about Room and Board and the appeals process.

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

- **Shelter Care Update** – Ms. Luster advised the application for Derrick's House is moving through the process and as we have received questions from the State on the policies. We will be getting back to the State next week, and if approved will schedule a walk through next.
- **Juvenile Corrections Update** – Ms. Luster advised she and Mr. Horozewski will be meeting with County Administrator Smith on what steps to take on Juvenile Corrections. She received an email today from WCA that there will be a Juvenile Correction's forum next month to start planning.
- **Diversity and Inclusion Initiative** – Ms. Luster distributed the Rock County HSD Diversity and Inclusion Commitment Statement. She advised HSD leadership worked with Marc Perry to identify our vision and what we believe we can commit to. It is a practical product that gives us standards. It will be helpful to give to new staff as they are hired. We have created a workgroup to work on actions steps for recruitment of staff, retaining staff, cultural

competency and recognizing disparities in clients and staff. More concrete updates will be coming.

Supervisor Dommershausen asked about helping people to become self-reliant, so they no longer need assistance. He has talked to many people who receive benefits, who ask about this.

**Next Meeting:** **Wednesday, April 25, 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 Fell motioned to adjourn, seconded by Supervisor Garrett with unanimous approval at 5:25 p.m.

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Jodi Parson, Secretary

**NOT OFFICIAL UNTIL APPROVED BY THE BOARD**