



ROCK COUNTY HUMAN SERVICES BOARD MEETING
Wednesday, September 22, 2021 – 4:30 P.M.

Call to Order: Chair Knudson called the meeting to order at 4:33 p.m. on Wednesday, September 22, 2021, in the Beckman Mill Conference room, at the Dr. Daniel Hale Williams Rock County Resource Center, Janesville, WI.

Committee Members Present: Brian Knudson, Supervisor; Sally Jean Weaver-Landers, Citizen Representative; Shirley Williams, Supervisor; J. Russell Podzilni, Supervisor; Kathy Schulz, Supervisor; Pam Bostwick, Supervisor; and Stephanie Aegerter, Supervisor.

Committee Members Absent: Ashley Hoffman, Citizen Representative. Angelina Reyes, Citizen Representative.

Staff Present: Katherine Luster, Director; Tera O'Connor, Deputy Director; Sara Mooren, Administrative Services Manager; Ryan Trautsch, YJ Program Manager; Kami Williams, Child Protective Services (CPS) Lead Supervisor; Tracy Mayer, Behavioral Health (BH) Clinician; Jenny Booth, Economic Support (ES) Supervisor; and Melissa Dybas, ES Specialist.

Others Present: Josh Smith, County Administrator. Rich Greenlee, Corporation Counsel. Rich Bostwick, County Board Chair. Kelly Berg, Foster Care Advisory Committee (FCAC).

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

Approval of Minutes of Human Services Board Meeting on September 8, 2021: Citizen Representative Weaver-Landers moved the minutes to the floor, seconded by Supervisor Podzilni. The minutes were unanimously approved. APPROVED.

Public Comment: None.

Communications and Announcements from Staff and Board Members: Supervisor Bostwick advised she may be out for the next couple meetings due to medical issues.

Approval of Contracts and Transfers: Supervisor Aegerter moved two contracts to the floor, seconded by Citizen Representative Weaver-Landers. Ms. Mooren provided details regarding the contracts and responded to questions. The contracts were unanimously approved. APPROVED.

Rock County HSD September Employee Impact Recognition Award: Ms. Luster introduced Melissa Dybas, the September Employee Impact Recognition award recipient and Melissa's Supervisor, Jenny Booth. Ms. Dybas is a Rock County Economic Support Specialist. Her nomination reads as follows: Melissa Dybas truly embodies the HSD values. She consistently goes above and beyond her every-day job duties to make the work culture a better place for her co-workers. Most recently, she took it upon herself to research effective communication training

opportunities that would be available to staff. The ES supervisors were impressed with the information she found and will be offering a training on effective communication to Rock County staff as well as staff within the Southern Consortium. Melissa has also recently been working on updating the process guide for the Southern Consortium Call Center, which is a monumental task. She has spent countless hours over the course of several months updating this. It will soon be ready to distribute to all staff and will be a great resource for them. Melissa deserves to be recognized for her self-less dedication to the ES workforce! Ms. Dybas expressed that she enjoys working in Economic Support very much and Economic Support provides very valuable services to the community. She acknowledged her co-workers as well.

Reports and Updates:

- **Child Welfare System Change Update** – Ms. Luster advised she previously emailed the Family First newsletter from the State to the HSD Board members. The Newsletter provided information and dates of events that are coming up, which she detailed. On the link provided in the newsletter there are additional town hall meetings, newsletters, and social media posts.

Here locally, in addition, HSD had the first round of the next chapter of Alia wellbeing meetings. The plan for workforce wellbeing groups will be to provide themes to management to develop a concrete response. Leadership coaching is taking place and most new supervisors are taking advantage of this optional coaching. The Family Team meetings are moving forward with implementation to start taking referrals October 1, 2021. Many parents have been hired for the Parents Supporting Parents grant. Also, the grant that Alia has to do community-based work is starting.

- **Foster Care Advisory Committee Update** – Ms. Mayer introduced Ms. Berg, a Foster parent on the FCAC. Ms. Berg explained that the last meeting was a hard meeting with many emotions coming out during the meeting. They discussed having a Board member come to the FCAC meeting to get an outside perspective of the meetings. They feel like they are spinning their wheels. Ms. Mayer advised there are subgroups that were created to go over the surveys. There seems to be communication issues and discussion took place for a website for Foster Care parents. Possibly a free-standing website for Foster Care. Dane County has a website and Ms. Stilen will contact them to find out who updates their website to keep it current. Frustrations came out regarding figuring out how to make this happen and who will support it. It needs to be sustained, comprehensive and informative. Ms. Berg stated part of the frustration seems like the staff who attend the meetings do not have the margin to do things in between the meetings. Each meeting feels like the same issues are stated and in between meetings nothing is being implemented. Chair Knudson advised this will stay on the HSD Board agenda every other meeting to keep the Board updated.
- **2022 Budget Requests Update** – Ms. Luster advised the budget meetings with the County Administrator are finished. There have been a few changes as follows:
 - There are additional positions to be added to CLTS. In the 2022 budget there will be 33 new positions requested. There has been monumental growth related to the number of kids being referred and being eligible in correlation to the states plan to eliminate the wait list. The trending was expected to start to level but it has not. It does not change our bottom line as this is a reimbursed Medicaid program.

- HSD is requesting an allocation to the CPS Program Manager position and will be looking at all the program manager positions. Ms. Koene resigned as the CPS Manager and we are recruiting for that position again. We are choosing to ask for reallocation to that vacant position to attract applicants with a more competitive wage as part of the budget request.
 - HSD has received more youth aids revenue and HSD is asking if it can be expected again for next year. Ms. Luster and Ms. Mooren responded to questions regarding being over budget in some areas.
- **Update: COVID Related Departmental and Community Needs** – Ms. Luster advised HSD staff are continuing with masking while in the building and being smart about minimizing contact where social distancing cannot be achieved. HSD Leadership is continuing to manage COVID related leaves and are seeing most challenges in the 24-hour facilities. Ms. Luster responded to questions about staff vaccinations and masks.
 - **Update: Dr. Daniel Hale Williams Rock County Resource Center** – Ms. Luster advised the move is complete and that it was exciting to be in the new building. She acknowledged and thanked the Move Committee and Administrative Services staff for their hard work on the move. HSD is still in transition, there is a list of things that need to be done that are being prioritized but for the most part staff are happy. Chair Knudson advised Board members to contact Jodi Parson for a tour.

Committee Requests:

- **Requests for Future Agenda Items or Information:** Supervisor Bostwick asked about Paula Schutt's retirement and if her position was going to be replaced. Ms. Luster advised the position will be filled and she will keep the HSD Board updated.

Executive Session: Citizen Representative Weaver-Landers and Supervisor Williams moved to go into Executive Session at 5:05 p.m. per Pursuant to Wis. Stat. § 19.85(1)(f) Considering financial, medical, social or personal histories of specific persons which, if discussed in public, would be likely to have a substantial adverse effect upon the reputation of any person referred to in such histories or data, or involved in such problems or investigations. APPROVED as follows: Ayes – Supervisors Knudson, Aegerter, Bostwick, Podzilni, Schulz, Williams; Citizen Representative Weaver-Landers. All present except Citizen Representatives Hoffman and Reyes.

Supervisor Williams moved to end Executive Session at 6:37 p.m., seconded by Supervisor Bostwick. APPROVED.

Next Meeting: Wednesday, **October 13, 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 Williams motioned to adjourn, seconded by Supervisor with unanimous approval at 6:38 p.m.

Jodi Parson, Secretary

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