



ROCK COUNTY HUMAN SERVICES BOARD MEETING
Wednesday, August 11, 2021 – 4:30 P.M.

Call to Order: Chair Knudson called the virtual meeting to order at 4:30 p.m. on Wednesday, August 11, 2021.

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; Greg Winkler, Deputy Director; Sara Mooren, Administrative Services Manager; Mark Stevens, Business Services Manager; Bette Trimble, Crisis Services Program Manager; Maria Delgado, Economic Support (ES) Division Manager; Bonnie Ritzert, Economic Support Specialist (ESS); Jenny Booth, ES Supervisor; Jamie Proctor, Child Protective Services (CPS) Supervisor; Ellie Kone, Lead Worker Family Team Meeting Coordinator, CPS; Jordyn Jenkins, Lead Worker Family Team Meeting Coordinator, CPS; and Brenda Endthoff, AODA Coordinator.

Others Present: Patrick Singer, Data Services Manager, Rock I.T. Sue Rusch.

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

Approval of Minutes of Human Services Board Meeting on July 28, 2021: Supervisor Podzilni moved the minutes to the floor, seconded by Supervisor Schulz. Supervisor Schulz requested a correction to the minutes under the Approval of Contracts and Transfers item. The contracts were unanimously approved and the minutes should be corrected to reflect that. It was noted to add the following language, "The contracts were unanimously approved. APPROVED."

Public Comment: None.

Communications and Announcements from Staff and Board Members: None.

Approval of Contracts and Transfers: Citizen Representative Weaver-Landers moved the four contracts to the floor, seconded by Supervisor Schulz. Ms. Mooren provided details regarding the three amendments and the one new contract. The contracts were unanimously approved. APPROVED.

Review of Bills: Mr. Stevens advised there were no entries out of the ordinary to highlight for the July bills.

Resolutions and Committee Action:

- a. **Resolution to Recognize Bonnie Ritzert** – Citizen Representative Weaver-Landers moved the resolution to the floor, seconded by Supervisor Bostwick. Ms. Delgado introduced Bonnie Ritzert. Ms. Ritzert has served the citizens of Rock County for twenty-nine years as a dedicated and valued employee of Rock County. Ms. Ritzert began her career in 1992 as an Economic Support Specialist (ESS). Ms. Ritzert worked with many residents assisting, guiding and determining their eligibility for income maintenance programs and other services. Ms. Ritzert was promoted to a Lead ESS position in 1997. She has demonstrated her extensive knowledge in Economic Support programs. She has trained and mentored many new Economic Support staff. She is respected for her extraordinary attention to detail, expertise in policy and procedure, and incredible memory. She has an incredible ability to understand and explain the “why” behind policy. She has been a key part of helping staff learn and succeed at their jobs. She teaches in a kind and thoughtful way. She will be missed more than she will ever know. The resolution was unanimously approved. APPROVED.
- b. **Discuss and Possible Action on the DWRC Display Case Policy** – Ms. Luster reviewed the updates she was asked to complete at the last HSD Board meeting. Supervisor Aegerter moved to approve the policy to the floor, seconded by Citizen Representative Weaver-Landers. Supervisor Schulz requested additional language added. After discussion Ms. Luster agreed to add an update regarding the ability to modify the policy in the future if needed. After the update is complete Ms. Luster will email the final copy to the HSD Board members. Supervisor Aegerter moved approval of the amended policy to the floor, seconded by Citizen Representative Weaver-Landers. The policy was unanimously approved. APPROVED.

Reports and Updates:

- **Report on CPS Family Team Meetings Status** – Ms. O’Connor introduced Jamie Proctor, Jordyn Jenkins, and Ellie Kone all who are a part of running Family Team Meetings. Ms. O’Connor presented a power point providing information regarding the following:
 - What are Family Team Meetings
 - Approach & Guiding Principles
 - History
 - Where are we now
 - Where are we goingMs. Jenkins and Ms. Kone expressed excitement to apply the wrap around model to Rock County HSD Child Protective Services families.
- **Report on Eviction Moratorium and Effect on HSD Clients** – Ms. Luster advised she collected information from staff regarding clients who would be affected by the lift of the eviction moratorium. We have approximately six clients at risk of eviction when the moratorium is lifted, and we have case managers working with these clients. There are other variables and barriers contributing to eviction other than financial. Finances are usually not the barrier as we have funding readily available for housing supports. Some examples of barriers are that landlords are unwilling to rent to an individual who has significant property damage on their record. Another issue is there are many landlords selling and getting out of the business leading to housing no longer being available. HSD clients have a lot of support from case managers who help with housing and are a solid support for them. Therefore, she advised this is not a reflection of the general community.

Ms. Luster introduced Ms. Trimble to provide more information about the Crisis services area and specifically to respond to the agenda item requested by Supervisor Schulz. Ms. Trimble advised there are Crisis flex funds available for short term housing needs and there are Federal funds available for sober living housing supports. She explained how grant funds can be used and provided examples. The main issue staff are experiencing to help individuals and families is the lack of housing available. Ms. Trimble responded to questions. Ms. Luster reiterated that we have funding but the barrier is the lack of housing availability.

- **Update on COVID Related Departmental and Community Needs** – Ms. Luster advised HSD is continuing business as usual related to Covid. Tomorrow evening the County Board will be addressing a potential change in mask mandates, and she is waiting to see the results from that meeting to find out if there are any changes. Cases are increasing and staff are taking steps to make sure people are cared for. With the move to the new location and return to work concurrently taking place, we are watching for any pending policy changes from the County Board. The Open House for staff was planned to be in-person but we want to be smart and will be adapting to any policy changes that may occur.
- **Update: Dr. Daniel Hale Williams Rock County Resource Center** – Ms. Luster advised she emailed the same information that was emailed to all HSD staff regarding the move to the HSD Board members. There has been numerous hours of planning, work and forethought to consider. She thanked Ms. Mooren, Mr. Stevens and their staff for all their efforts. The move will take place on August 27, 2021 through September 13, 2021.

Committee Requests:

a. **Review of Committee Requests to Date:** Chair Knudson advised he and Ms. Luster are going to look at future agenda item requests to fully understand the item being asked. Looking at if it is an actual agenda item or if it is more of a question that could be answered by email and sent to the entire HSD Board as information rather than adding to the agenda.

b. **Requests for Future Agenda Items or Information:** None.

Ms. Luster advised she will be bringing in staff starting with the next meeting rotating reports from CORE committees starting with the Professional Development committee. Also, there will be program reports from B-3, CLTS, and Crisis. Chair Knudson reminded the HSD Board members that if there are any questions they have or information they would like, please call Ms. Luster, there is no need to wait until the meeting.

Next Meeting: Wednesday, **August 25, 2021** at 4:30 p.m. – via Zoom

Adjournment: Citizen Representative Weaver-Landers motioned to adjourn, seconded by Supervisor Podzilni with unanimous approval at 5:31 p.m.

Jodi Parson, Secretary

NOT OFFICIAL UNTIL APPROVED BY THE BOARD