

JEFFERSON COUNTY HUMAN SERVICES
Board Minutes
Thursday, March 26, 2009

Board Members Present: Jim Mode, Richard Jones, Pam Rogers, Gail Towers Macaskill, Jim Schultz, John McKenzie, and Marty Powers

Others Present: Tom Schleitwiler, Kathi Cauley, Dan Gebauer, Sydney Wesemann, Gary Petre and Donna Hollinger

1. **CALL TO ORDER**
Mr. Mode called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m.

2. **ROLL CALL/ESTABLISHMENT OF QUORUM**
All present/Quorum established

3. **CERTIFICATION OF COMPLIANCE WITH THE OPEN MEETINGS LAW**
Compliance attained

4. **REVIEW OF THE MARCH 26, 2009 AGENDA**
No changes

5. **CITIZEN COMMENT**
Mr. Mode recognized Mr. Gebauer for his many years of service and congratulated him on his retirement.

6. **APPROVAL OF FEBRUARY 26, 2009 BOARD MINUTES**
Ms. Rogers made a motion to approve the February 26, 2009 board minutes.
Mr. Powers seconded.
Motion passed unanimously.

7. **APPROVAL OF MARCH 9, 2009 BOARD MINUTES**
Mr. Jones made a motion to approve the March 9, 2009 board minutes.
Mr. Schultz seconded.
Motion passed unanimously.

8. **APPROVAL OF MARCH 9, 2009 FINANCE COMMITTEE MINUTES**
Mr. Schultz made a motion to approve the March 9, 2009 finance committee minutes.
Mr. McKenzie seconded.
Motion passed unanimously.

9. ANNOUNCEMENT AND POSSIBLE ACTION ON COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR'S APPOINTEE AS THE NEW HUMAN SERVICES DIRECTOR

Mr. Petre reported that he sent out a notification (attached) to all employees and board members to announce the appointment of Kathi Cauley as the new Human Services Director, pending confirmation by the county board on April 21. He said that it was quite an intensive process and feels that Ms. Cauley clearly stood out. He is confident that she can lead the Human Services Department and can fill Tom's shoes. Mr. Petre said that Ms. Cauley has accepted the position and he looks forward to working with her. He then asked the members to contact and encourage the board of supervisors to approve the appointment.

10. REQUEST FOR COUNTY BOARD RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING APRIL AS CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION MONTH, TERRI SMYTH-MAGNUS, FAMILY RESOURCES DIVISION MANAGER, AUTUMN KNUDTSON, CHILD PROTECTION TEAM SUPERVISOR

Ms. Smyth-Magnus said that April is Child Abuse Prevention Month and that their teams are working towards educating and informing the public about this issue. She said that Ms. Knudtson will discuss the activities that they will be doing. Ms. Smyth-Magnus asked the board to make a motion proclaiming April as Child Abuse Prevention Month and to forward it to the county board for a resolution.

Ms. Knudtson said that in an effort to continually raise awareness, their team is participating in the Fort Atkinson Children's Share and Care Fair on April 4 and the Watertown Children's Fair on April 18, where they will distribute educational materials and family oriented prizes to children. Local restaurants will be using personally designed placemats and grocery stores will also be handing them out. Blue ribbons will be tied around area trees and signs will be placed at the court house, main streets and the Fort Atkinson bike trail. Ms. Knudtson passed around a flyer (attached) about a free training on April 20 that the Child Abuse Task Force is hosting for the community entitled "Why Children's Services Doesn't Do Its Job." She also said that staff are wearing specially designed T-shirts and blue awareness bracelets. She added that next year they hope to organize a walk/run for the cause.

Ms. Rogers made a motion to forward a resolution proclaiming April as Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention Month to the county board for adoption.

Mr. Jones seconded.

Motion passed unanimously.

11. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ON THE APRIL 3, 2009 PUBLIC HEARING ON THE 2009-2011 STATE BUDGET, TO BE HELD IN CAMBRIDGE, WI

Mr. Petre reported that there is a coordinated effort between Wisconsin Counties Association (WCA) and Wisconsin Counties Human Services Association (WCHSA) on issues that they want to bring to the state legislators on the budget. Two members of the joint finance committee will be at this hearing. He said that he met with county board chair, Schmeling, to determine if there were other issues that should be discussed. After some discussion about the tax levy limits which will be addressed by WCA on a statewide basis, and concern for cuts in state shared revenues which is not a major issue for Jefferson County, they decided that it would be best to concentrate on the impact of Human Services. Mr. Petre said that they will be working with Mr. Schleitwiler and Ms. Cauley to put a presentation together.

Mr. Schleitwiler said that he received an invitation from Andy Jorgenson to attend an early coffee session to meet with the co-chairs prior to the public hearing. He said that he, Mr. Mode, Ms. Cauley and Mr. Nass will attend. They will then attend the hearing to provide testimony about the proposed budget cuts.

Mr. Schleitwiler said that one area of major concern are cuts within the basic county allocation as well as the children and families allocation. This will cost us about \$250,000. A second major issue will be the cost shift of payments to the mental health institutions. Currently the state pays the share of the Medicaid dollars for the elderly and children under 21, however the proposal will shift these costs to counties, which could be about \$500,000. These two issues combined total \$750,000 in budget reductions. This is a huge issue to Jefferson County as well as all other Human Services Departments in the state, so he and Mr. Mode have been coordinating efforts with the Wisconsin Counties Human Services Association (WCHSA). Wisconsin Counties Association (WCA) has also been focusing on the impact of these decisions and has been encouraging us to testify at the joint finance committee. WCA sent out a questionnaire to all of the counties to find out exactly what the areas of impact will be including the program, dollar and staff impact. WCA will then compile the information to create and present a uniform position on how this budget will affect Human Services Departments.

Mr. Schleitwiler said that they will take our information to the April 3 hearing to explain what the impacts and cost shifts will have on Jefferson County and how significant this will be on our Department and the consumers that we are here to serve.

Ms. Cauley then spoke about the surcharge that is being imposed on the counties for using Mendota and Winnebago hospitals for children. She said that the real incentive would be for the state to fully fund crisis intervention services and comprehensive community support programs.

Mr. Schleitwiler's concerns if this budget passes are 'Where would we cut back? Would we have a longer waiting list? Would we cut out supportive programs such as People Against Domestic Abuse and Big Brothers/Big Sisters?' He is hopeful that they will at least remove the hospital surcharges and reinstate the Title IV E dollars, or at least some money in the children's area. Mr. Schleitwiler said that he understands that there will be cuts, but these proposed budget cuts are just too large.

Mr. Mode added that they also want to point out that since 2003 we have been losing \$500,000 from Wisconsin Medicaid Cost Reporting because these Federal dollars were being kept by the state instead of going directly to the counties. He also said that current mandates have been expanded and new ones have been imposed with no additional funding, such as Badger Care. We also just cut \$650,000 out of our 2009 budget. Mr. Mode continued by saying that they want to make sure that the committee understands all of the things that were placed upon counties in the past and that it will be too big of a burden for counties to take on much more. The budget has a 3% levy limit in it instead of a 2% limit, which comes to \$750,000 for Jefferson County. This alone is the amount that Human Services will need to cover the proposed shortfall which wouldn't leave anything for the rest of the departments. Hopefully they can get the legislators to understand our plight.

12. DISCUSSION AND PLANNING FOR APRIL 30th BOARD MEETING WITH LOCAL STATE LEGISLATORS

Mr. Schleitwiler said that he sent an e-mail invitation (attached) to several state senators and representatives to attend our April 30th meeting in order to discuss our concerns. To date, Mr. Jorgenson is coming. The purpose will be another opportunity to discuss our issues but in a more relaxed atmosphere. He will ask the division managers to attend to discuss the issues within their areas.

BOARD REMINDERS AND UPDATES:

Mr. Mode reminded everyone about the WCHSA conference which will be in May. (attached) He said that it should be interesting because everyone will be discussing the budget.

Mr. Schleitwiler reported that there is a news release (attached) about Racine County bargaining units agreeing to a 2009 pay freeze. Mr. Petre added that he just received notice from the accounting manager that we are going to be about \$500,000 short on investment revenue, which is a significant drop. He said that we received over \$2 million in investment revenue in 2007. We budgeted \$1.9 million in 2008 and received \$1.2 million. For 2009, they budgeted \$1 million and it looks like it will end up being only \$500,000, so the County has seen a substantial loss. Additionally, the Sheriff's Department will have a projected shortfall for prisoner boarding revenue.

Mr. Petre said that we need to address the current year's financial problems and that they will be meeting with the bargaining units on Monday afternoon. Their hope is that the bargaining units will be willing to make some concessions, just as Racine County has. He said that the County may be able to generate a potential savings by negotiating the elimination of the cost of living allowances scheduled for July, and/or agreeing to unpaid holidays. If they do agree to such requests, perhaps the bargaining units may want a guarantee of no layoffs this year. All of this will be discussed at Monday's meeting.

Mr. McKenzie said that he would like to make a motion to commend Mr. Gebauer for the outstanding job that he has done on behalf of the county as Finance Director of Human Services.

Mr. Schultz seconded.

Motion passed unanimously.

13. ADJOURN

Mr. Jones made a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Mr. McKenzie seconded.

Motion passed unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 10:15 a.m.

NEXT BOARD MEETING
Thursday, April 30, 2009
9:30 a.m.
Workforce Development Center
874 Collins Road, Room 103
Jefferson, WI 53549