

JEFFERSON COUNTY HUMAN SERVICES
Board Minutes
Friday, August 21, 2009

Board Members Present: Jim Mode, Richard Jones, Pam Rogers, Augie Tietz, John McKenzie, Marty Powers and Jim Schultz

Others Present: Kathi Cauley, Sydney Wesemann, Donna Hollinger, Sue Torum, Terri Smyth-Magnus, Terry Gard and Gary Petre.

- 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 AUGUST 21, 2009 AGENDA**
No changes
- 5. CITIZEN COMMENT**
No comments
- 6. APPROVAL OF JULY 30, 2009 BOARD MINUTES**
Mr. Jones made a motion to approve the July 30, 2009 board minutes.
Mr. Schultz seconded. Ms. Rogers abstained.
Motion passed unanimously.
- 7. APPROVAL OF AUGUST 10, 2009 FINANCE COMMITTEE MINUTES**
Mr. Schultz made a motion to approve the August 10, 2009 finance committee minutes.
Mr. McKenzie seconded.
Motion passed unanimously.
- 8. DIVISION UPDATES: FAMILY RESOURCES, BEHAVIORAL HEALTH, ADMINISTRATION, ECONOMIC SUPPORT, AGING AND DISABILITY RESOURCE CENTER & AGING, AND DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES**

Family Resources:

Ms. Smyth-Magnus reported on the following items:

- Several children were moved from institutions into treatment foster homes.
- Of the 10 children who have been in our care for the past two years, two are being adopted by the end of the year and three are getting guardianships.
- Targeted Case Management billing is increasing in the Birth to Three program and we have full occupancy for the Busy Bees Preschool for the fall.
- Child Welfare staff are going to trainings and the fees have been waived.

- There is an increase in domestic violence involving egregious injuries, which has increased investigations for the intake staff. We are currently working with a family due to the death of their infant and who had no prior contact with Human Services.
- The State Surveyor came to audit the Birth to Three program and was pleased with the corrections that were made, including the fact that no state or federal funds were taken.
- We filed a claim with the insurance company for the lost funds.
- An impact statement was sent to the court for the upcoming hearing.

Behavioral Health:

Ms. Cauley reported on the following items:

- Emergency Mental Health received a grant for \$13,500 beginning July 1st for the next 5 years which will be used for staff training.
- The Intoxicated Driver Program is online and going well and is more efficient.
- Probation and Parole contracted with us to hold Anger Management Groups for them. They were satisfied with the outcomes because they were able to measure a significant reduction of anger with all participants. We are hoping to get more Fee-for-Service contracts with the Department of Corrections.
- The team is offering more groups for clients so they don't have to wait so long for a group to open up.
- We have a graduate student who is holding three groups at the jail.
- The Community Support Program is serving 30% more clients, the clinic is up by about 15% and the Emergency Mental Health had 1,000 Emergency Mental Health calls through May of this year compared to a total of 970 for all of last year. Callers are seeking help for depression, finding housing or employment, or just needing help with an overall life plan. We are also receiving calls from individuals who are suicidal.

Administration:

Ms. Wesemann reported on the following items:

- She and Dave Ehlinger interviewed nine candidates for the advanced accounting position and they will be holding second interviews in a few weeks. They are hoping that the individual will start October 1st.
- A few of her staff are working with the MIS department to finalize electronic Daily Activity Reports, which will greatly reduce the time currently being spent on payroll.
- She and Ms. Cauley have been working diligently on the budget.

Economic Support:

Ms. Cauley reported on the following items:

- The Ready Kids for School program served 1,000 children.
- The Workforce Development Center is having its 10-year anniversary in September, so they are working on an open house celebration for that.
- They held another "Rapid Response" for McCain's in Fort Atkinson
- In July, the Center served 2,259 customers
- The W-2 Plan for \$250,000 has been submitted to the state and we should hear about it in September.

- They are receiving more requests for assistance with burials, including two this past week, but we don't have money in the budget for that. If the customer has Medicaid, then the mandate requires us to give them \$1,500 for assistance, which is reimbursed. Ms. Cauley said that families can attend the finance committee meeting and make an appeal.

ADRC and Aging:

Ms. Torum reported on the following items:

- The ADRC is self-sustaining and doing well. They are enrolling four people per month into a managed care and when there are vacancies, they fill those slots as well. Their waiting list continues to grow with 148 people on the waiting list. The requests are for funding and in-home care.
- They have been getting referrals from the Mental Health team and their disability benefit specialist has been a tremendous help helping them apply for the BadgerCare Core Plan.
- The assistant benefit specialist helped an individual with a lengthy appeal process get disability. The individual was recently awarded Social Security disability plus a back payment of \$40,000.
- The Veteran's transportation services are going to be merged into their transportation unit. Currently this area receives Dept of Transportation grant money, county tax levy and they are hoping to get more money from the Aging programs.
- They will need ask customers to make a donation for rides again because under the Federal dollars that support the Aging Programs, they can not charge older individuals.
- The 29th year of "Young and Old Stick Together" (YOST) will start again in Waterloo. This is a volunteer program that matches high school seniors with senior citizens in order to help them in their community.
- The team is seeing an increase in referrals in elder abuse and neglect, as well as financial abuse. Due to financial reasons, generations of families are finding it necessary to live together and then some of them realize that they are not all compatible. This has had some devastating results. The team has also had several referrals of sexual abuse of DD adult males. Nursing homes are finding that some guardians of their residents are not paying their nursing home bills either.
- Ms. Torum believes that this will be a record year for referrals and they are working diligently to help people and to alleviate the problems.
- They are working on a volunteer guardianship program, which will be on next month's agenda.

Mr. Mode said that there is misinformation among some county board members that if Countryside is sold, we would be responsible for paying the costs for some of the residents. Mr. Mode said that this is not the case. The county would have no responsibility and the new owner would be doing business just as any other private business would be.

Mr. Jones reported that the Delinquency Prevention Council hosted a Youth Leadership Conference that he and Mr. Schultz took part in and that it went very well. There were different breakout sessions including a session on volunteering. Mr. Schultz gave a session

on drugs and alcohol. Mr. Schultz added that their hope is that the group stays together to deal with these issues. He said that the kids were very verbal, very thoughtful and a great group of kids.

Developmental Disabilities:

Ms. Cauley reported on the following item:

- The team is working with Care Wisconsin to make the transition go smoothly, and all of our workers have been offered positions as of the first of the year.

9. REVIEW AND DISCUSSION OF 2010 BUDGET

Ms. Cauley reported on the significant changes to the budget as follows:

- There was a decrease of \$344,000 in state aid, which includes a complete loss of IV E funds.
- The new Mendota surcharges for individuals over 65 or under 21 have been estimated at a yearly cost of \$225,000.
- Due to the canceled contract with Care Wisconsin, we have a loss of revenue totaling \$1,300,000.
- The total loss of all combined is \$1,875,000.
- We have centralized the transportation for the Veteran's department, so we transferred \$7,000 from their department to ours.

Ms. Cauley continued to say that the budget came in just under the target number not only due to the cuts listed above, but also by making the following changes as listed below:

a) Consolidated employee duties whenever there was a vacancy instead of refilling the position. These positions include the following:

- Behavioral Health Manager
- Jefferson Nutrition Site Manager
- Medical Records
- Support Staff
- Accountant - will be part time
- DD Supervisor - will be changed to Adult Protective Service worker
- Community Outreach Worker
- Delinquency Team Supervisor - will be changed to a lead worker

Ms. Cauley reported that the total savings for these changes in wages, benefits and expenses such as mileage comes to \$1,400,000.

- b) No raises for contracted providers
- c) Decreased funding to contracted providers in the IV E area which includes \$5,000 for Dodge & Jefferson County BB/BS and \$10,000 for Walworth, Rock & Jefferson County BB/BS, which is a total reduction of \$14,000. PADA was reduced by \$5,000 and Delinquency Prevention Council was reduced by \$15,000.
- d) Increased the assessment fees for the Intoxicated Driver Program by \$15 and increased the "no shows" fee.
- e) Increased rents
- f) Included a low projection for the revenue for the 1915i funds

- g) Decreased fuel costs by using the Highway Dept gas pumps
- h) Family Care payments decreased by about \$350,000
- i) MIS costs decreased
- j) We received computers from Child Support
- k) Health insurance costs decreased
- l) We only have two capital expenditures; one of which will be replacing four – 30 year old heaters in the west side of the building, at a cost of \$40,000. Mr. Jones added that the Infrastructure Committee approved this expenditure unanimously. The other expenditure is for a heavy use printer that will be used at the Workforce Development Center at a cost of \$5,400.
- m) We are establishing 5 crisis stabilizations beds in the community, which will not only save money in the Child Alternate Care area, but will be a benefit for the child and family as well.
- n) Guardianship fees have increased, so we are developing the volunteer guardianship program.

Mr. Petre said that this will be reviewed at the Finance Committee meeting on Tuesday, August 25. He added that he appreciated that the staff was willing to work with the Veteran's Office with transportation. The Veteran's Department has \$7,000 of tax levy that will be transferred to the Human Services Department for this purpose. Mr. Petre added that the VA department is trying a new approach by offering a \$25 gas card to family members to drive.

Ms. Torum said that the VA has a van, but it is only for trips for veterans to a veteran's hospital, and gas is not included. Ms. Torum added that in order to stay under the umbrella of Elderly and Disabled for the transportation portion, they will not be able to call it "Veterans Services."

Ms. Cauley informed the board about the potential risk areas of the budget, which include the children's area and hospitalizations. Ms. Wesemann said that they increased the children's alternate care area to \$273,000 since they are at \$332,000 through June. She added that they increased the hospitalization/institution costs to \$742,000. She said that they still haven't received any allocations for State Automated Child Welfare Info System (SACWIS) yet. All state aid categories were reduced for the budget.

Ms. Rogers complimented Kathi and the staff for coming in at the required budget percentage.

There was further discussion about the donation requests to Big Brothers/Big Sisters and PADA. Mr. Jones is very concerned about cutting PADA. Ms. Cauley said that PADA receives 100 calls a month, which would go to our Intake unit if PADA was not sufficiently funded. Before making any final decisions, the board would like to get more information from Rock, Walworth & Jefferson County Big Brothers/Big Sisters. In order to meet the Finance Committee deadline of September 21st, the board will hold its September meeting on Thursday, September 17th at 10:30.

Ms. Cauley added that they have applied for two Medicaid Infrastructure grants totaling \$250,000 for work that the department is already doing. One is for \$140,000 to help disabled youth find jobs and the other is for \$110,000 to help individuals who have severe and persistent mental illness find supportive employment. None of this money is in the budget.

Then Ms. Cauley distributed a report titled "List of Potential Budget Cuts for 2010," (attached) which itemizes a 14% reduction of our budget or \$1,100,000. This would be implemented only if the referendum fails and Countryside doesn't sell. The first eight items are computer related items and the heating system replacement. Then it would eliminate the contracts with BB/BS and PADA and the remaining would eliminate positions. If it came to cutting more positions, we would be in danger of liability issues as many of these positions are for mandated programs.

Mr. McKenzie said that he felt very strongly against using a blanket approach across the Departments to resolve the deficit when our primary responsibility to the county is human services. He said that there is a lot more that can be done before making more personnel cuts at Human Services. Mr. Schultz agreed voicing his concern that we need to take care of the citizens of the county. Various members of the board and staff said that Human Services substantially reduced costs last year and that there will be 20 less employees next year. Reducing even more staff would result in huge liability issues because of not fulfilling mandated protective services. Ms. Cauley emphasized that these costs will not save money in the long run and may even escalate costs.

10. SEPTEMBER BOARD MEETING

Due to the deadline of the budget and needing to discuss this further, the board decided to hold the September meeting on Thursday, September 17 instead of the normally scheduled date of September 24.

11. ADJOURN

Mr. McKenzie made a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Ms. Rogers seconded.

Motion passed unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 11:00 a.m.

Respectfully submitted by Donna Hollinger

NEXT BOARD MEETING
Thursday, September 17, 2009
10:30 a.m.
Workforce Development Center
874 Collins Road, Room 9
Jefferson, WI 53549