

## Minutes of the Health and Human Services Board

Tuesday, June 2, 2020

Chair Nelson called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m.

**Board Members Present:** Supervisor Larry Nelson, Supervisor Christine Howard, Supervisor Duane Paulson, and Citizen Members Robert Menefee Mary Baer, Laurie Schwartz, Mary Berg, Vicki Dallmann-Papke, Chris Beck, and Dr. Adel Korkor.

**Also Present:** Health & Human Services Director Antwayne Robertson, Health & Human Services Deputy Director Laura Kleber, Administrative Services Manager Randy Setzer, Adolescent and Family Services Manager Ron Pupp, Intake and Shared Services Manager Kathy Mullooly, Aging and Disability Resource Center Manager Mary Smith, Clinical Services Manager Kirk Yauchler, Public Health Division and Public Health Officer Ben Jones, Mental Health Clinic Crisis Services Coordinator Danielle Birdeau, Community Support Program Supervisor Brad Haas, Mental Health Clinic Substance Use Services Coordinator John Kettler, Children with Special Needs Unit Coordinator Vickie Smith, ADRC Coordinator Lisa Bittman, Public Communication Coordinator Linda Wickstrom, Business Applications Support Administrator Sandra Masker, Administrative Support Supervisor Ronda Baxter, NAMI Waukesha Executive Director Mary Madden, Lutheran Social Services Program Supervisor Patrick Reilly, Lutheran Social Services Program Supervisor Linda Cole, ADRC Advisory Committee member Phyllis Wesolowski, Elevate You Adele Revoy, and Addiction Resource Council Lindsay Just

### Approve Minutes of 2-13-20

MOTION: Paulson moved, second by Beck to approve the minutes of February 13. Motion carried 10-0.

### Next Meeting Date

- June 25, 2020

### Public Health Advisory Committee Presentation

Mary Baer, Chair of Public Health Advisory Committee, shared a PowerPoint including the mission of Waukesha County Public Health. Baer reported the COVID-19 significant impact on Public Health and non-profit partners during the pandemic.

An overview of Public Health was presented that included the high costs of unfunded mandates, e.g. Tuberculosis cases. Baer explained how Public Health promotes healthy behaviors, prevents epidemics and spread of disease, protects against environmental hazards, responds to disasters and assists communities in recovery. All of this includes collaboration between many community agencies and organizations.

Baer reported on the population age change in Waukesha County and how it is affecting Public Health financially and its work load. The most recent ALICE (Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed) data available was shared. Data on the three CHIPP focus areas' (Mental Health, Nutrition and Activity, and Opioids) was reported. Baer added these CHIPP focus areas will be modified appropriately to address the impact of COVID-19.

Health Departments in Wisconsin are categorized in three levels. Waukesha County Public Health is a level II department. Baer explained what Waukesha County Public Health administers emergency preparedness, communicable disease programs, family and community health, chronic disease programs, WIC (Women Infant and Children) program, budgeting and grant funding.

Two top community needs were identified by the Public Health Advisory Committee as;

- Ensuring the Public Health Division has the cost to continue fully funded year over year, including increased funding to address COVID-19 requirements.
- Create a full time permanent Data Analytics HHS staff position, which is necessary across all HHS Divisions and important for all advisory committees. Baer provided several reasons that fulfilling this

request would be extremely valuable. Discussion about the cost of the data analytics position and other counties'/health care systems' experience with data analytics, and benefits of having this defined position.

Discussed government funding/financial support from the Cares Act to assist in the COVID-19 crisis response, which ends December 31, 2020. Significant COVID-19 efforts will continue in 2021, including potential mass immunization clinics.

### **Aging and Disability Resource Center (ADRC) Advisory Committee Presentation**

Phyllis Wesolowski presented a PowerPoint on behalf of the ADRC Advisory Committee. Data was shared illustrating;

- Significant and predicted increase in Waukesha County population over age 65.
- Current trends impacting the work of ADRC, including areas in the county with 40% ALICE (Asset Limited Income Constrained Employed) and poverty, and percent of population with various disabilities.

ADRC programs and services include information assistance, options counseling, transportation options, community resources, Benefit Specialists, nutrition support, non-medical in home supports, caregiver support, healthy aging, Dementia Care Specialist, enrollment in publicly funded Long Term Care programs, Long Term Care youth transition, adults at risk, elder abuse, self-neglect, financial abuse, and court services. Consumer and service data was shared in these program and service areas.

Wesolowski reported current critical concerns of this population in Waukesha County, which has increased the demand for services.

Waukesha County contracted service provider rates were compared to the higher private provider rates.

Needs to support services, activities and priorities were identified by the ADRC Advisory Committee as;

- Funding for increased staffing to meet demand.
- Additional supervisory staff needed to reduce staff/supervisory ratio.
- Funding to meet service demand.
- Expanding flexible service offerings.
- Expanding ability to address emerging priorities and trends.

Discussion to clarify \$30,000 for a permanent telephonic friendly visiting program and a \$10,000 request to help prosecute cases in Adult Protective Services, financial abuse cases, contracting a forensic accountant.

Smith, ADRC Manager, explained how the service needs have been exacerbated by the pandemic and how service delivery has transformed during the COVID-19 pandemic.

### **Children and Family Services Advisory Committee (CAFSAC) Presentation**

Lindsay Just, Chair, and Adele Revoy, Co-Chair of CAFSAC shared a PowerPoint presentation. CAFSAC is a subcommittee of and advises the HHS Board of the needs of children and families in Waukesha County and recommends strategies to meet those needs. Subcommittees of CAFSAC are the Collaborative Support Team (CST) and Comprehensive Community Support (CCS) that review mental health services for youth, and the Special Services Advisory Committee (SSAC) which focuses on physical handicaps or cognitive delays. CAFSAC collaborates with many different agencies and addresses topics throughout the year including human trafficking, domestic violence, alcohol and other drug abuse issues, mental health services, parenting, foster care, and truancy.

Waukesha County currently is in desperate need of respite care programs that provide breaks for families and unpaid caregivers of children with a developmental delay, behavioral problems, and adults with an intellectual disability or cognitive loss. Just explained the benefits of respite programs for both the caregivers and the person receiving care.

On February 9, 2018, the landmark Family First Prevention Services Act was signed into law, including reforms to help keep children safely with their families, emphasizing importance of children growing up in families, and to ensure children are placed in the least restrictive setting, such as foster care. It is designed to ensure that

agencies are providing evidence based programs to communities. Agencies were in the process of preparing for the ability to provide evidence based programming to Waukesha County residents before the COVID-19 pandemic hit the nation. Now, Waukesha County communities and businesses face an entirely new set of problems, reported by Revoy.

Three areas were identified by CAFSAC to highlight for the HHS Board. Nonprofit agencies are feeling the impact of COVID-19 financially, increased service demand, and the need to adjust the method to deliver services. Revoy reported the status of services for at risk youth, the increase of substance use, and increase in domestic violence issues. Nonprofit agency COVID-19 impact survey results were reported, including financial and unemployment, and uncertainty of the future.

A successful response to COVID-19 relies on the nonprofit agencies where people go for help when in crisis. Revoy also spoke about nonprofit agencies inability to address important prevention services during this pandemic. Revoy explained the struggles that nonprofits are experiencing to provide services virtually. CAFSAC members recommend continuing to survey how agencies are faring, survey agencies for their readiness for the Family First Act coming in 2021, to work with the State to find flexible service delivery or accommodations to support people in a remote environment, and collaborate on creative solutions for program delivery.

CAFSAC asked the HHS Board to consider keeping agency funding at the current level and to consider additional funding for those agencies that may be facing program closure.

Discussed technical barriers to families, the availability of COVID-19 testing to foster care families, funding for the Family First Prevention Act; and existing programs operation in 2021.

### **Substance Use Advisory Committee and Mental Health Advisory Committee**

A PowerPoint was shared. Madden related the committees' focus to advise the HHS Board on priority mental health and substance use disorder needs of citizens of Waukesha County by community agencies in partnership with Waukesha County HHS. The changing insurance climate given the current public health crisis and changes in mental health parity will have a financial impact across many programs. The COVID-19 crisis has created new barriers and increased the need for mental health and substance use disorder services.

Because of the number of individuals having co-occurring illnesses, the Mental Health Advisory Committee and the Substance Use Advisory Committee have collaborated over the last several years.

Three recommendations were presented to the HHS Board:

- To continue and expand the ability to provide quality and accessibility to services in a timely manner across the lifespan, with an emphasis on early intervention, medication assisted treatment, and programs/services that are sensitive to the needs of individuals who are LGBTQI (lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer or questioning, intersex).
- Increase of harm reduction services, through funding appropriation to increase the number of days for syringe distribution program.
- Peer support; ongoing growth of Certified Peer Support in Waukesha County.

Reilly described Syringe Exchange Program (SSP's) as community based programs that provide access to sterile needles and syringes, facilitate safe disposal of used syringes and provide a link to other important services, such as referral to substance use disorder treatment, screening/care/treatment for viral hepatitis and HIV, overdose prevention education, vaccinations, screening for sexually transmitted diseases, abscess and wound care, naloxone distribution and education, and referral to mental health and other medical services. Reilly justified how SSP's help people stop using drugs, prevent overdoses, and decrease needles in public places. Moreover, the results do not cause or increase illegal drug use or crime, but are noted to be cost effective, citing evidence based research from the Centers for Disease Control (CDC). Kettler shared data. Madden explained that the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) has deemed peer support as an evidenced based practice that provides another level of care within the mental health services system for those receiving treatment for mental health and/or substance use disorders. Peer Support Specialists are individuals who have been successful in their own recovery process, and who help others

experiencing similar situations to stay engaged in the recovery process. Madden described the benefits to the individual receiving the support, the peer specialist themselves, and the mental health system as a whole. Peer Specialists have been a lifeline throughout the current pandemic. The Youth Outreach Specialist at NAMI Waukesha has provided services for youth during the pandemic, including creating a newsletter, streaming live on Facebook, setting up a text line and being available for one-on-one support as needed. This link to the Ending the Silence video, explaining the youth program and importance of the Peer Specialists' role in schools, was shared [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4TMfrNIFb18&feature=emb\\_logo](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4TMfrNIFb18&feature=emb_logo).

Cole reported how seven Peer Support Specialists through Lutheran Social Services at Friendships Unlimited, are providing CCS services, 7 days per week. Cole further explained how Friendships and Spring City Corner Clubhouse had been operating during the COVID-19 Safer at Home and planning an opening following CDC safe guidelines next week for face-to-face support.

There is a Peer Support Specialist position working with Waukesha County specifically in the substance use role.

Kettler has successfully obtained grant funding for Peer Support Specialist training classes in the past.

Chair Nelson shared news of a potential new HHS Board member. He is hoping to onboard the individual in June and fill the opening on the Mental Health Joint Conference Committee. Nelson is reviewing the committee openings to fill with HHS Board members as liaisons on advisory committees.

Chair Nelson summarized the needs and process to plan for the June 25 meeting of the HHS Board with the County Executive regarding the HHS 2021 budget. Nelson and the HHS Board thanked the Advisory Committees' presenters for their work and time.

MOTION: Korkor moved, second by Howard to adjourn the board meeting at 4:27 p.m. Motion carried 10-0.

Respectfully submitted,

*Larry Nelson*

Larry Nelson  
Chair