

**Minutes of the Health & Human Services Committee and Board**  
**Thursday, April 22, 2021**  
**12:00 p.m.**

Chair Nelson called the meeting to order at 12:00 p.m.

**Board Members Present:** Supervisors Larry Nelson and Duane Paulson (in person), and Christine Howard (via Teams); Citizen Members Mary Baer (via Teams), Christine Beck (in person), Mary Berg (via Teams), Vicki Dallmann-Papke (via Teams), Robert Menefee Jr. (via Teams), and Dr. Mike Goldstone (via Teams).

**Also Present:** County Executive Paul Farrow (in person), Health & Human Services (HHS) Director Elizabeth Aldred (in person), HHS Interim Deputy Director Lisa Roberts (in person), HHS Administrative Services Division Manager Randy Setzer (via Teams), Chief of Staff Sarah Spaeth (via Teams), and Departmental Executive Assistant Julie Bartelt (in person).

**Items for Discussion and Consideration**

Discussed the successes of the county's response to the pandemic and the vaccine clinic, with credit to the high level of collaboration and teamwork across county departments.

Introductions of the HHS Board members to the County Executive. Recognition and thanks to Dr. Adel Korkor and Laurie Schwartz, citizen HHS Board members whose terms serving the HHS Board have expired April 1 and who will be stepping down.

On March 18, the Advisory Committees presented the top needs in the community to the HHS Board. A summary of community needs PowerPoint was shared with the County Executive by the HHS Board and Director Liz Aldred. Those needs included:

- Additional support for staff in the Public Health Division.
  - Funding for an additional Public Health Nurse.
  - Funding for an additional Public Health Educator.
  - Additional resources for data analytics, analysis and sharing to monitor health trends.
- Additional funding for room and board for the MA residential substance use benefit.
- Support for crisis stabilization.
- Support to address homelessness and housing access.
- Transportation outside of our county.
- Increased support to caregivers.
  - Respite care.
  - Increased care giver rates.
- Increased mental health services for the community.

HHS is in phase one of a multi-phase grant program to address crisis stabilization in the community. The governor has included funding in the state's proposed budget for crisis stabilization and residential treatment.

A significant need identified by all the advisory committees was homelessness and housing access. The ADRC is looking at options for a housing navigator model in the 2022 budget, using current staff.

The focus brought by the Children and Family Services Advisory Committee (CAFSAC) at the March 18 needs presentation was on the 2021 struggles of the CAFSAC agencies, having access to PPE, difficulties with fundraising during the pandemic, etc., and looking for support to address struggles.

The Public Health Division receives very limited funding from the state, and the request for support in Public Health includes a request for one PH nurse and for one PH educator in the 2022 HHS budget, to assist the county in becoming the chief health strategist in the community, as evidenced during the pandemic. Waukesha County Public Health is looking forward to continuing ongoing efforts coordinated across all community health partners. The resources support the convening of community stakeholders around collective impact and social determinants of health. Discussed resources for data analytics to monitor health outcomes and trends.

The governor's budget provides over \$3M annually to cover room and board for Medicaid enrollees receiving residential treatment. If that portion of the budget were to go in as proposed, the funding identified as a need in the assessment would be covered.

During the pandemic, the importance of caregivers was evident, as people spent less time in congregate settings and families stayed home caring for their loved ones. Respite for family caregivers is needed and funding is proposed in the governor's budget through the Alzheimer's Family and Caregivers Support Program. The second need identified is to increase the caregiver rates and HHS hopes to be able to do this to support families. The additional funding proposed is approximately \$66,000.

Transportation on an accessible van service in the county was unable to meet the needs in the county and additional providers are needed in this area to increase service appropriately. Approximately just under \$17,000 annually would support an additional two round trips per week.

Multiple advisory committees addressed mental health service needs to address isolation in the aging population, supportive services and resources for parents to address children's mental health needs, and the Mental Health and Substance Use Advisory committees also identified a sharp increase of needs over the past year. An expansion and redesign of the Comprehensive Community Support program is under review by Health and Human Services, which is 100% funded by Medicaid and is currently licensed.

Summarized and explained the areas that would require additional funding, totaling approximately \$394,000 for a PH nurse, a PH educator, room and board placements, increased rate for caregivers, and transportation providers, some of which will be offsetting with revenue and potential state funding in the proposed governor's 2022 budget.

Berg joined the meeting at 12:37 p.m.

MOTION: Paulson moved, second by Howard to adjourn the meeting at 1:05 p.m. Motion carried 9-0.

Respectfully submitted,

*Larry Nelson*

Larry Nelson  
HHS Board Chair