

Minutes of the Combined Health & Human Services Board & Committee

Thursday, November 15, 2018

Chairs Howard and Nelson called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m.

Committee Members Present: Supervisors Christine Howard (Chair), Kathleen Cummings, Jeremy Walz, Jim Batzko, Joel Gaughan, Darlene Johnson, and Duane Paulson.

Board Members Present: Supervisors Larry Nelson (Chair), Christine Howard, and Duane Paulson, and Citizen Members Christine Beck, Jeffrey Genner, Robert Menefee, Michael O'Brien, Dr. Adel Korkor, Laurie Schwartz, and Tim Whitmore. **Absent:** Citizen Members Mary Lodes and Vicki Dallmann-Papke.

Also Present: Chief of Staff Mark Mader, Legislative Policy Advisor Sarah Spaeth, Health & Human Services Director Antwayne Robertson, Health & Human Services Deputy Director Laura Kleber, Child and Family Services Manager Lisa Roberts, Compliance Coordinator Will Emslie, Aging & Disability Resource Center Manager Mary Smith, Human Services Manager Kathy Mullooly, and Public Communications Coordinator Linda Wickstrom.

Committee Agenda Items

Approve Minutes of 10-4-18

MOTION: Paulson moved, second by Cummings to approve the minutes of October 4. Motion carried 7-0.

Next Meeting Date

- December 6

Executive Committee Report of 10-23-18

Howard said the Executive Committee approved nine appointments, including those for several new Health & Human Services Board members, and heard standing committee reports.

Board Agenda Items

Approve Minutes of 9-13-18

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

Advisory Committee Reports

O'Brien indicated the AODA Advisory Committee heard a report indicating the Criminal Justice Collaborating Council and District Attorney's Office received a \$600,000+ grant for opiate diversion programming.

Next Meeting Date

- December 6

Overview of Child Welfare Services (CPS) Caseload Size/Funding Study (*Board and Committee*)

Roberts, Robertson, and Emslie were present to give an overview of this item. Copies of “County Perspectives and Recommendations to Address Wisconsin’s Child Welfare Crisis”, as presented at the Wisconsin County Human Services Association Annual Conference, were distributed. Staff gave background and discussed this statewide issue including out-of-home care growth and costs, reasons for caseload increases (e.g., drug and alcohol abuse), key state-level responsibilities, federal mandates and performance requirements for federal funding, a broken cost sharing framework, current state and county contributions, local budget and service impacts statewide, national research and key takeaways (e.g., performance, liability exposure), a lack of standards and study recommendations in Wisconsin and proposed caseload standards adopted by WCHSA, and 2019-2021 budget request (increase Children & Family Aids by \$30 million annually to be used by counties).

Roberts discussed Child Protective Services what has been referred to as a crisis in Wisconsin. In some areas of the state, the number of children taken into custody has tripled. The number of cases referred to CPS has increased 654% and CPS workers are carrying much higher caseloads than national standards. There has been an 18% increase in out-of-home care costs (2013-2017) in Waukesha County and many other counties have seen even more dramatic increases. The median length of time children were in out-of-home care increased 127% from 2011 to 2016. The opioid and meth epidemics have overwhelmed the child welfare system in many parts of Wisconsin and the number of cases dealing with AODA issues was 54.05%. The Child Protective Services Caseload Study Committee consists of 17 county human services directors and managers. Regarding State and County contributions, State Children and Family aids increased 9% (2009-2018) while the County tax levy increased 35% (2011-2016). An Illinois study found that investments in low caseloads was offset by reduced child removal, reductions in residential placements, and shorter lengths of stay in foster care. Roberts discussed liability exposure and said of the 32 states which were the subject of class action lawsuits between 1995 and 2005, 64% required defendants to address issues concerning caseworkers, such as adequate staffing, maximum caseloads, and enhanced training and supervision. Compared with states with county-administered CPS systems, Wisconsin is an outlier in lacking either caseload standards, studies or recommendations. Roberts went on to review the caseload standards developed by WCHSA which will be used to inform policymakers on the importance of maintaining appropriate CPS staffing levels and calculate the level or resources required for counties to begin moving toward the standards.

Approve updated Children and Family Advisory Committee Bylaws (*Board*)

This item was held over to a future meeting as they have not been completed.

Approve 2019-2021 County Aging Plan (*Committee*)

Smith reviewed the draft 2019-2021 County Plan on Aging as outlined which included information on verification of intent, the Executive Summary, organization and structure of the Aging Unit, public involvement in the developing the plan, goals for the plan period, coordination between Titles III and VI, compliance with Federal and State laws and regulations, and assurances. Smith highlighted the plan goals for each year which were also reviewed at an earlier meeting.

MOTION: Walz moved, second by Cummings to approve the 2019-2021 County Aging Plan as presented. Motion carried 7-0.

Legislative Update

Spaeth indicated she will review legislative priorities in greater detail at the next meeting. She noted there are 18 legislators in our delegation and will distribute this list soon. She went on to discuss upcoming meetings with legislators.

MOTION: Whitmore moved, second by O'Brien to adjourn the board meeting at 2:50 p.m. Motion carried 10-0.

MOTION: Cummings moved, second by Paulson to adjourn the committee meeting at 2:50 p.m. Motion carried 7-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeremy Walz

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Secretary