

Waukesha County Board of Supervisors

**Minutes of the Health & Human Services Committee
Thursday, March 31, 2022**

Chair Dondlinger called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m.

Present: Supervisors Timothy Dondlinger, Jeremy Walz, Jim Batzko, and Ted Wysocki. **Absent:** Steve Whittow and Joel Gaughan.

Also Present: Legislative Policy Advisor Alex Ignatowski, Health & Human Services Director Liz Aldred, Accounting Services Coordinator Kristen Tranel, Clinical Services Manager Kirk Yauchler, Crisis Supervisor Jenny Wrucke, Senior Human Resources Analyst Natalie Durr, and Senior Financial Budget Analyst Alex Klosterman.

Approve Minutes of March 17

MOTION: Wysocki moved, second by Walz to approve the minutes of March 17. Motion carried 4-0.

Next Meeting Date

- May 12

Executive Committee Report of March 22

Dondlinger said the Executive Committee approved three appointments to the Delafield Public Library Board.

Ordinance 176-O-130 Modify The Department Of Health And Human Services 2022 Budget And Create Eleven (11) Regular Full-Time Positions For Community Support Services

Aldred, Tranel, and Yauchler were present to discuss this ordinance to modify the Department of Health and Human Services 2022 budget by transferring \$551,869 of contracted services expenses within the operating expenses appropriation to personnel expenses to fund the creation of 11 regular full-time positions. The positions created include three Senior Mental Health Counselors, four Mental Health Counselors, and four Human Services Support Specialist. These positions were originally contracted through Homes for Independent Living, Inc. (HILCO) to provide case management, the Community Support Program (CSP), and transition-to-independent-living assistance and community supports to clients with severe and persistent mental illness. When the request for proposal for the contract was distributed, HILCO declined to renew the contract, and the other vendor submissions were deemed inadequate. Staff indicated that these services address important community needs and proposes bringing most of these contracted positions in-house. HILCO has agreed to continue providing these services until June 30th, or earlier dependent on the implementation timeline.

As these positions are being created mid-year with an intended May 1st, 2022 start date to allow for some transition time, the total budgeted impact of these positions in 2022 is estimated at \$551,869 or approximately 8 months of personnel expenses (May-December) including prorated benefits. The HILCO positions currently perform work at the Mental Health Center facility and already have workspaces and equipment (e.g., computers, phones) with expenses included in the existing 2022 budget so no additional related operating expenses are anticipated for the new county-employed positions. The total 2022 budgeted amount for HILCO contracted services is \$826,087. After the

transfer of \$551,869 to personnel costs, the remaining balance of \$274,218 will remain in contracted services to fund the cost of 4 months of transition time with HILCO from January 1st to April 30th, 2022. The annualized expenses associated with the creation of the 11 positions is slightly less than the budgeted HILCO contract (\$826,087) at \$825,046, meaning that no additional material ongoing tax levy impact is anticipated as a result of this ordinance.

Batzko asked if the pay for these new positions was equal to contractor pay. Aldred indicated that the pay would be higher with the intention of retaining the employees for longer.

MOTION: Wysocki moved, second by Batzko to approve Ordinance 176-O-130. Motion carried 4-0.

Update On The Embedded Mental Health Professional

Yauchler and Wrucke were present to discuss this item. Wrucke discussed positive anecdotes from the work of the mental health professional (MHP) embedded in the Sheriff's Department. The program was able to intervene with an individual with mental health issues that was calling the non-emergency line 100 plus times per month. In another case, the MHP intervened with an elderly man in the jail displaying violent behavior because of dementia.

Wrucke indicated that they have permanently placed a crisis worker within the Sheriff's Department because of the efficiencies they have seen.

Wysocki asked if they are hiring a new individual to take this position. Wrucke indicated that they are simply reallocating resources. Wysocki then asked if there is any disagreement between the MHP and deputies as to when a scene should be "cleared." Wrucke said that the deputies trust the professional opinion of the MHP and that it is ultimately up to the deputy to decide when clear the scene.

Dondlinger asked if the current funding is sufficient for this program. Aldred, Wrucke, and Yauchler indicated there are ongoing discussions about plans to fund this in the future.

Wrucke went on to discuss the how the embedded MHP program correlates well with the community-based crisis stabilization program. The goal of this program is to stabilize individuals with persistent mental health issues and out of the justice system.

Dondlinger asked if other communities are utilizing these types of services. Wrucke indicated that several communities are starting to implement similar programs.

Legislative Update

Ignatowski updated the Committee on redistricting.

MOTION: Batzko moved, second by Walz to adjourn at 1:56 p.m. Motion carried 4-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Joel R. Gaughan

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Secretary