

Waukesha County Board of Supervisors

**Minutes of the Health and Human Services Committee  
Thursday, May 13, 2021**

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

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

**Also Present:** Legislative Policy Advisor Alex Ignatowski, Chief of Staff Sarah Spaeth, Health & Human Services Director Liz Aldred, Clinical Services Manager Kirk Yauchler, Public Health Officer Ben Jones, Administrative Specialist Mary Pedersen, County Board Chair Paul Decker, and Human Services Manager Ron Pupp.

**Update on County Response to COVID-19 Pandemic**

Jones said Waukesha County is in an okay place right now with regards to COVID-19. Cases are down and we are now in the medium category, down from the high category since last June. We went from about 550 cases per day to currently about 30 per day. A vast majority of current cases are kids under 16 and this has remained stable over the last three months. Jones said since the beginning of the pandemic, they have taken a data-driven approach and have been meeting with school superintendents each week since last June. He noted that a very small percentage of kids in quarantine actually test positive for COVID-19 and the measures put in place at the schools are working. Quarantines for school-based exposure will no longer be recommended but schools can continue to choose. Vaccinations for 12 to 15 year-old children are now approved. Jones discussed vaccination rates for county residents per age group and said about 60% of Waukesha County residents who can receive the vaccination have received at least one shot. Due to this percentage, the County clinic is closed except for those still needing a second shot. Jones said the demand is not there although school districts and medical partners have opened clinics. Jones indicated it is much difficult for the virus to survive heat and humidity and he discussed what we can expect this fall. COVID-19 is not going away but we cannot continue with the status quo. Conversations on how to live with the virus are happening, even up to the state level.

**Homeless Engagement and Response Team Efforts in Frame Park**

Yauchler gave an update on this effort and collaboration between the Health & Human Services Department, various non-profit organizations, and the police department. Efforts include mobile crisis services, therapy sessions with transportation, a crisis hotline, weekly visits to better understand this population, hot lunches in Frame Park, survival bags, available services offered through the department. The current focus has been improving coordination among all the divisions in Health & Human Services to identify risk of homelessness. According to one non-profit, one of the biggest factors is building rapport among the homeless population.

**Update on Juvenile Detention Center Operations**

Aldred distributed copies of "Proposal to Close Juvenile Detention Center" which she discussed in detail. Aldred discussed a decreasing number of children in secure detention and even when the

Juvenile Center it is empty it still needs to be staffed. Kids can be electronically monitored. This has worked well and will continue when possible. Statewide, there has been a 40% reduction of kids in secure detention, partly due to early intervention programs, etc. Aldred discussed the County's current contract with Washington County for females and noted that our contract will allow the County to send males there as well. Aldred said that based on 2021 projections, the cost to hold these juveniles in Washington County would be roughly \$100,000 while the current budget for the County's Juvenile Center is around \$840,000. Aldred went on to discuss the impact on staff, timeline, and replacement programming which Aldred believes will improve overall services for youths.

Cummings had concerns with this proposal.

**Approve Minutes of April 27, 2021**

MOTION: Walz moved, second by Cummings to approve the minutes of April 27. Motion carried 5-0.

**Next Meeting Date**

- June 10, 2021

**Announcements**

Dondlinger said Supervisor Larry Nelson, Chair of the Health & Human Services Board, has invited the committee to attend their May 20 meeting. Walz said the Menomonee Falls Village Board has proclaimed this week "Police Week" with an event this Saturday. Cummings advised of an event at Cutler Park on May 27 involving Boy Scouts.

**Legislative Update**

Ignatowski gave an update on the State budget process.

MOTION: Walz moved, second by Cummings to adjourn at 2:27 p.m. Motion carried 5-0.

Respectfully submitted,

*Jeremy Walz*

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Secretary