

## Minutes of the Health & Human Services Committee and Board

Thursday, March 18, 2021

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

**Board Members Present:** Supervisors Larry Nelson, Christine Howard, and Duane Paulson (via Teams), and Citizen Members Mary Baer (via Teams), Christine Beck (via Phone), Mary Berg (via Teams), Vicki Dallmann-Papke (via Teams), Dr. Adel Korkor (via Teams), Robert Menefee Jr. (via Teams), and Dr. Mike Goldstone (via Teams). **Absent:** Laurie Schwartz.

**Also Present:** Health & Human Services Director Elizabeth Aldred, Health and Human Services Committee Chair Timothy Dondlinger, Public Health Officer/Public Health Division Manager Ben Jones, Public Health Advisory Committee Representative Andrew Dresang, Aging and Disability Resource Center Manager Mary Smith, Aging and Disability Resource Center Coordinator Lisa Bittman, Aging and Disability Resource Center Advisory Committee Representative Susan Schweda, Intake and Shared Services Division Manager Kathy Mullooly, Interim Child and Family Services Division Manager Vicki Smith, Child and Family Services Committee Representatives Karen Villarreal and MaryAdele Revoy, Clinical Services Division Manager Kirk Yauchler, Mental Health and Substance Use Services Coordinator John Kettler, Mental Health/Substance Use Services Outpatient Administrator Danielle Birdeau, Mental Health Advisory Committee Representative Mary Madden, Substance Use Advisory Committee Representative Lindsay Just, citizen Rachel Sauer, citizen Alayna Benoit, citizen TJ Finley, Administrative Services Division Manager Randy Setzer, Administrative Services Division Accounting Services Coordinator Lisa Davis, Health and Human Services Compliance Coordinator Wade Woodworth, Health and Human Services Public Communications Coordinator Linda Wickstrom, and Departmental Executive Assistant Julie Bartelt

### Approve Minutes of 2-11-2021

MOTION: Baer moved, second by Beck to approve the minutes of February 11. Motion carried 10-0.

### Next Meeting Date

- April 22, 2021

### Announcements

The annual HHS public hearing will take place the morning of July 8, prior to the HHS Board meeting to hear the 2022 budget presentations. Details to follow.

Aldred announced that an updated HHS Board meeting schedule will be shared with members soon. Each meeting will feature an update from one of the HHS Divisions.

Nelson announced the revitalization of the Waukesha County Heroin Task Force which has been dormant for the last year due to the pandemic. A community summit is being planned for May.

## **Items for Discussion and Consideration**

### **Public Health Advisory Committee**

Andy Dresang serves as the Chair of the Public Health Advisory Council and is the Director of Community Engagement for Froedtert Health. Dresang presented current work of the committee, the vision of the committee for the future, moving upstream in the realm of programs and services impacting the health and wellbeing of everyone living and working in Waukesha County; the journey to the model of Public Health 3.0.

Mary Berg left the meeting at 1:12 p.m.

Planning for the future, the Public Health Advisory Council is requesting;

- two full-time positions – a Public Health Nurse and Public Health Educator.
- Support Public Health Division cost to continue to replace Cares dollars.
- Structure to support HHS or Public Health as the Chief Health Strategist and convene community stakeholders around collective impact initiatives and social determinants of health.
- Funding is critical to implement programs, trainings and infrastructure change.
- Comprehensive data collection, analysis and sharing to monitor health outcomes and trends.
- Stronger emphasis on comprehensive data collection, analysis and sharing to monitor health outcomes and trends

### **Aging and Disability Resource Center Advisory Committee**

Susan Schweda is active in several roles in the community and is the Chair of the ADRC Advisory Board. She began by sharing data about the over 60 population which is increasing in Waukesha County, followed by an overview of the data of services provided by the ADRC and the impact of the pandemic on those services provided in 2020, including services for these target groups - elderly, physically disabled, Alzheimers/Dementia, mental health and developmentally disabled.

Schweda talked about these identified unmet needs:

- Housing. A navigator model is needed.
- Respite care providers are very limited in Waukesha County.
- Transportation needs (taxi providers and accessible van service) by these target groups continue to increase.
- Mental Health Services and Case Management. Social isolation has been a concern for many years and the pandemic has taken this to a severe level.
- Prescription Drug Assistance.
- Dental.
- Utility Assistance.

Areas affected by the pandemic have been the senior nutrition program, care providers have limited staff, individuals not wanting providers in the home, and adult day centers closing. Most recently The Caring Place announced they will close April 30.

### **Child and Family Services Advisory Committee**

Adelle Revoy serves as Chair for CAFSAC and is the Director of Data Management and Evaluation for Elevate, a non-profit based in Jackson, serving Waukesha, Washington and Sheboygan Counties. Karen Villarreal is the Program Manager for the Safe Babies Healthy Families Program at Easter Seals and

recently stepped in as Co-Chair for CAFSAC. Villarreal has served as CAFSAC Chair and Co-Chair in the past.

Revoiy shared the mission of CAFSAC and the types of members making up the committee. CAFSAC had sent out a survey and received 36 responses from Waukesha County non-profits about how COVID-19 challenges impacted their services, clients, and finances. Revoiy and Villarreal reported on the results, which included negative budget and financial impacts, service shutdowns, and staff challenges. The survey asked organizations what DHHS could do to lessen these hardships for clients, employees, and agencies in 2021, thinking beyond financial assistance:

- Vaccines for staff and clients; education about vaccines.
- Facilitate conversations regarding what families are dealing with and ways for agencies to collaborate efforts.
- More PPE.
- More outreach to let families know what services are available.
- Access to shelter during the winter.
- More and improved support and services for mental health consumers.
- Clear messages about COVID mitigation, importance of masks and vaccines, more distribution sites.
- More parent resources on how to support their children's mental health at home.
- Supplies and donations to specific things the clients need.
- Employment services and insurance extensions for those newly unemployed.
- Low cost health care and low-income housing.
- Help communicate the importance of regularly seeing a dentist and other preventative health services.

Mary Berg returned to the meeting at 3:08 p.m.

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

Lindsay Just is the Executive Director of Addiction Resource Council located in Pewaukee and the Chair of the Substance Use Advisory Committee. Mary Madden is the Executive Director of NAMI Southeast Wisconsin (formerly NAMI Waukesha) and the Chair of the Mental Health Advisory Committee.

Just shared the SUAC's and the MHAC's focus on input of consumers, family members and service providers, as well as national and community trends to advise the HHS Board on priority needs of the citizens of Waukesha County, addressing the needs through community agencies in partnership with Waukesha County HHS. Just explained reasons for joint recommendations. Co-occurring conditions are common, substance use disorders and mental illness have many of the same risk factors, services for co-occurring illnesses should focus on both mental illness and substance use disorders together, and effective behavioral treatments and medication exist to treat substance use disorders and mental illness. The MHAC and SUAC have identified three critical areas of community needs.

On February 1, 2021, Medicaid released a benefit that will pay for substance use treatment in residential and transitional facilities, but the benefit will not pay for room and board. The first joint recommendation of MHAC and SUAC is to include room and board costs for HHS clients who are involved in residential or transitional facility treatment and are unable to afford the cost of room and board. Alayna shared her lived experience perspective.

Joint recommendation #2 explained by Madden is that the HHS Board support for grant funded projects for crisis stabilization and respite services. The committees also request that regional initiatives for crisis stabilization and respite facilities that may be coming from the state level be supported.

Joint recommendation #3 is to address housing issues:

- Too many people fall through the cracks because they don't meet the criteria for certain programs.
- Those without ongoing case management services can get stuck in a cycle of chronic homelessness.
- Rachel spoke about her difficult experience finding housing in Waukesha County. Others, like Rachel, leave the community they have lived and/or work in to find affordable housing elsewhere.
- HHS staff are working with community partner organizations to review gaps in service and how best to fill them.
- While there was not a specific ask, the committees did ask that the Board support the recommendations from HHS staff on this issue.

Nelson indicated that the HHS Board will review and prioritize these asks from the advisory committees to address identified community needs and will present to the County Executive on April 22.

MOTION: Menefee moved, second by Baer, to adjourn the HHS Board meeting at 4:14 p.m. Motion carried 10-0.

Respectfully submitted,

*Larry Nelson*

Larry Nelson  
HHS Board Chair