

Minutes of the Health & Human Services Committee

Thursday, January 14, 2021

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

Present: Supervisors Tim Dondlinger, Jeremy Walz, Jim Batzko, Joel Gaughan, and Ted Wysocki. Kathleen Cummings arrived at 1:23 p.m. **Absent:** Steve Whittow.

Also Present: Legislative Policy Advisor Alex Ignatowski, Chief of Staff Sarah Spaeth, Accounting Services Coordinator Lisa Davis, Interim Deputy Director Lisa Roberts, County Board Chair Paul Decker, and County Board Supervisor Darlene Johnson.

Approve Minutes of December 14, 2020

MOTION: Gaughan moved, second by Wysocki to approve the minutes of December 14. Motion carried 5-0.

Future Agenda Items

- Update on the Injection Drug Use Prevention Grant

Future Meeting Dates

- February 11, 2021

Discuss and Consider Ordinance 175-O-068 Amend the 2021 Budget of the Department of Health and Human Services to Accept the Injection Drug Use Prevention Grant Funding and Appropriate Additional Expenditures

Davis discussed this ordinance which authorizes the Department of Health and Human Services to accept \$75,104 of Injection Drug Use Prevention funding from the State of Wisconsin Department of Health Services which seeks to provide prevention services for residents who inject illicit substances including naloxone training and distribution, mobile prevention services, and inter-county regional partnerships. The grant period is January 1st, 2021 through December 31st, 2021 with the option of four renewals. This ordinance also modifies the 2021 budget to increase operating expenses by \$68,276 including \$63,896 for contracted services to provide trainings, overdose fatality review, and mobile prevention services and \$4,380 for travel and trainings. The grant is expected to cover an estimated \$6,828 of indirect costs that are already included in the 2021 budget and no additional expenditure authority for this cost is requested. Reimbursements for indirect costs that are included in the base budget will result in a favorable tax levy impact.

Supervisors Batzko and Wysocki asked staff to report back to the committee on progress.

MOTION: Gaughan moved, second by Walz to approve Ordinance 175-O-068. Motion carried 5-0.

Discuss and Consider Ordinance 175-O-069 Amend the 2021 Budget of the Department of Health and Human Services to Accept the Injection Drug Use Treatment Grant Funding and Appropriate Additional Expenditures

Davis discussed this ordinance which authorizes the Department of Health and Human Services to accept \$159,013 of Injection Drug Use Treatment funding from the State of Wisconsin Department of Health Services which seeks to provide additional resources for the treatment of residents who inject illicit substances including peer support services and expanded treatment options. The grant period is January 1st, 2021 through December 31st, 2021 with the option of four renewals. This ordinance also

modifies the 2021 budget to increase operating expenses by \$144,557 including \$92,312 in direct treatment costs, \$32,934 for medication, \$12,480 for a contracted peer support specialist to provide treatment services, and \$6,831 in travel and training costs. The grant is expected to cover an estimated \$14,456 of indirect costs that are already included in the 2021 budget and no additional expenditure authority for this cost is requested. Reimbursements for indirect costs that are included in the base budget will result in a favorable tax levy impact.

MOTION: Batzko moved, second by Walz to approve Ordinance 175-O-069. Motion carried 5-0.

Discuss and Consider Ordinance 175-O-070 Create 1.00 FTE Clinical Therapist Position and Abolish 1.00 FTE Senior Substance Abuse Counselor Position in the Department of Health and Human Services and Create Future Clinical Therapist Position After Remaining Senior Substance Abuse Counselor Position is Vacant

Davis discussed this ordinance and said the Department of Health and Human Services budget currently funds two full-time Senior Substance Abuse Counselor positions, Open Range 9 (\$26.41/hour minimum, \$30.67/hour mid-point, \$34.93/hour maximum). This ordinance authorizes the Department to abolish one regular full-time Senior Substance Abuse Counselor, where the previous incumbent recently retired, and create one regular, full-time Clinical Therapist position, Open Range 12 (\$30.57/hour minimum, \$35.51/hour mid-point, \$40.45/hour maximum). The level of services that can be provided by Senior Substance Abuse Counselors and billed for against Medicare is less than what can be provided by clinical therapists that have higher credentialing. The cost of this new position is estimated to be approximately \$10,000 less than the previous position due to the previous employee being near the top of the salary range resulting in no need for budget modification for additional personnel costs. This ordinance also authorizes the Department to abolish the other Senior Substance Abuse Counselor position upon vacancy and create another full-time Clinical Therapist. While the Clinical Therapist position has a higher salary range than the Senior Substance Abuse Counselor position and may result in higher personnel costs in the long-term, the department believes that the additional revenue generating from this position will cover the additional expenses.

Cummings arrived at 1:23 p.m.

MOTION: Wysocki moved, second by Batzko to approve Ordinance 175-O-070. Motion carried 6-0.

COVID-19 Response Update

Roberts was present to discuss this item and explained how the Emergency Operations Center responded during the early part of the pandemic. The County coordinated with community partners to prepare and open lines of communication. The County has since transitioned to a unified command structure.

Legislative Update

Ignatowski updated the committee on the upcoming legislative session.

MOTION: Walz moved, second by Cummings to adjourn at 2:20 p.m. Motion carried 6-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeremy Walz

Jeremy Walz
Secretary