

Minutes of the Health & Human Services Committee

Thursday, May 1, 2008

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

Present: Supervisors Duane Paulson (Chair), Bill Zaborowski, Jim Jeskewitz, Gilbert Yerke, Janel Brandtjen, and Kathleen Cummings. **Absent:** Pauline Jaske.

Also Present: Chief of Staff Lee Esler, Health & Human Services Director Peter Schuler, Health & Human Services Deputy Director Don Maurer, Aging & Disability Resource Center (ADRC) Director Cathy Bellovary, and Citizen Kathy Paulson. Recorded by Mary Pedersen, Legislative Associate.

Read Correspondence

Paulson referred to information, sent out with the agenda, on the upcoming Wisconsin County Human Services Association (WCHSA) conference.

Schedule Next Meeting Dates

Paulson said the next meetings are scheduled for May 15 and May 29. To reduce staff time and duplication, the majority of the meetings will be combined with the Health & Human Services (HHS) Board. Combined meetings will be held at the Human Services Center.

Meeting Approvals

MOTION: Yerke moved, second by Brandtjen to approve attendance to the HHS Board's public hearing of April 30. Motion carried 6-0.

MOTION: Cummings moved, second by Jeskewitz to approve attendance to the WCHSA conference May 7-9. Motion carried 6-0.

Committee Welcome and Opening Remarks by Committee Chair

During meetings, Paulson asked committee members to be respectful of our presenters, keep private conversations to a minimum, and that cell phones are silenced whenever possible. He said it is important to stay on the agenda topic and not get off subject. All ordinances and resolutions must be voted on, either for or against, and all of them will be forwarded to the full County Board (unless they are tabled or held over by a presenting committee).

To become acclimated with the HHS Department, the committee will meet at the different HHS buildings and hear educational presentations for each division. Paulson said the department has divisions at the Human Services Center, Juvenile Center, Mental Health Center, Public Health building, and there are some employees at the Workforce Development Center at the WCTC campus. There are approximately 390 employees in the HHS Department. We also partner with many outside organizations such as Lutheran Social Services.

In 2003, the HHS Department accounted for 34% of County expenditures (levy) and by 2008 it was 36%. Much of this is due to mandates imposed on counties by the State. The HHS budget is \$91 million out of a total County budget of about \$255.5 million, and \$22 million of that is tax levy.

Often, when funds are cut on the county level, matching state funds are lost. Paulson said one of the easiest things to cut is preventative programs but that often results in paying for more expensive services down the road. Paulson went on to explain the County budget process.

Nomination and Election of Vice Chair and Secretary

MOTION: Yerke moved, second by Cummings to elect Jeskewitz as vice-chair. Motion carried 6-0.

MOTION: Brandtjen moved, second by Jeskewitz to elect Cummings as secretary. Motion carried 6-0.

Discuss Committee Duties and Responsibilities as Contained in the Code of Ordinances

Esler reviewed the committee duties and responsibilities as outlined in the County Code including County Board operating procedures and rules, actions and procedures, and general committee duties. He explained the differences among committees, boards, and commissions and gave some history of the HHS Department.

Introduction by Health & Human Services Director Peter Schuler

Schuler was introduced whereby he explained his role as Health & Human Services Director. He spoke briefly of the five advisory committees to the HHS Board and their role in the budget process (e.g. Developmental Disabilities Advisory Committee, Alcohol & Other Drug Abuse Advisory Committee). Schuler noted that the members of these advisory committees work very hard, are knowledgeable, and take their role seriously. Membership can include citizen members, service providers, service recipients, etc.

Schuler advised that his department works very closely with the ADRC (formerly the Senior Services Department) and the Veterans' Services Department. They make sure services are coordinated among the departments so there is no overlap. The department also has employees at the Workforce Development Center who are under contract to deliver W-2 services for a different provider who is under contract with the State. The W-2 Program replaced the AFDC (welfare) program in the 1990's and it is work oriented.

Schuler said between now and October, their goal is to educate the committee on the departments/divisions so committee members feel comfortable making budgetary decisions.

Presentation and Overview of the Aging and Disability Resource Center (ADRC) of Waukesha County

Bellovary distributed copies of the organizational chart for the ADRC, formerly the Senior Services Department. The ADRC began on April 1 and was the result of Long Term Care reform efforts by Governor Doyle. The Long Term Care Division of the HHS Department, serving those with developmental disabilities, will also be part of the ADRC and on July 1, Long Term Care clients will begin the transition. The ADRC model was approved by the State and also the full County Board. The center, currently in the Administration Building, will relocate to the Human Services Center in August or September. Bellovary distributed booklets for Community Care and Care Wisconsin. These agencies are under contract with the State and provide services for the ADRC.

Bellovary noted that the new ADRC should result in reduced and eliminated wait lists for services. Some individuals have been waiting for ten, even twenty years, depending on the service needed. Esler said waiting lists developed when funding was not available. He noted that these services are typically very expensive. The theory behind ADRC's is if we can provide clients with more custom and tailor made services, placements in institutions and nursing homes, which are even more costly, will decrease. Bellovary said this is what they do with their Older Americans Act dollars. Often, it is because they can provide an in-home meal, baths, or help through medication management which allows people to stay in their own home and out of costly nursing homes. Besides being less costly, studies have shown they are happier and healthier in their own homes. Bellovary said ADRC's are working in other counties and they are hopeful it will work here.

Bellovary went on to review core services of the ADRC including Information & Assistance, Long Term Care Options Counseling, Short Term Care Management, Financial & Functional Eligibility, Emergency Referrals, Adult Protective Services/Elder Abuse, Elderly & Disability Benefit Counseling, Outreach & Marketing, and Health Promotion, Prevention & Early Intervention.

Bellovary distributed booklets on the Specialized Transportation Program and she briefly explained the Taxi Program, Rideline Program, and the ADA Parallel Corridor Paratransit Service. These transportation services are for citizens 65 years of age and older or are disabled. Eligibility requirements, fares, area served, and service availability differ, depending on the type of service.

The most cost effective program is the Taxi Program and it operates in eight communities. These not for profit programs (all but two) are dependent mostly on volunteers. Individuals who want to utilize this service must be able to enter or exit a car with little or no assistance. There are also two shuttle programs, one in Sussex and the other in Menomonee Falls. Bellovary advised that the Rideline Program is strictly for non-ambulatory individuals and we are currently contracting with Medacare Vans to provide this service. Regarding the ADA Parallel Corridor service, Waukesha County works with Waukesha Metro and provides transportation, basically up and down Bluemound Road. This service is provided to disabled individuals according to the Americans with Disabilities Act for those unable to utilize fixed route mass transit services.

Discuss Health & Human Services Board's Public Hearing of April 30, 2008

This item was not discussed as most committee members were not at last evening's hearing.

MOTION: Jeskewitz moved, second by Cummings to adjourn at 3:24 p.m. Motion carried 6-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Approved on: _____

Kathleen M. Cummings
Secretary