

## **Minutes of the Health & Human Services Committee**

**Thursday, May 20, 2010**

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

**Present:** Supervisors Janel Brandtjen (Chair), Kathleen Cummings, Mike Inda, Pauline Jaske, Jim Jeskewitz, Peter Wolff, and Gilbert Yerke. Wolff left the meeting at 2:45 p.m.

**Also Present:** Chief of Staff Mark Mader, Health & Human Services Director Peter Schuler, Health & Human Services Deputy Director Don Maurer, Children & Family Services Manager Jesus Mireles, Permanency Services Supervisor Lisa Roberts, Children with Special Needs Supervisor Don Daniels, and Senior Financial Analyst Clara Daniels. Recorded by Mary Pedersen, County Board Office.

### **Correspondence**

- Invitation to the June 14 Executive Committee meeting to hear a presentation on the Avatar System audit.
- Letter from the State Department of Children and Families congratulating the County's Child Support Division on their program performance for 2009.
- Summary of the Health & Human Services Board/Committee annual public hearing of April 22.

### **Schedule Next Meeting Dates**

- June 10 (combined with the Health & Human Services Board)
- July 15 (committee only)

### **Meeting Approvals**

MOTION: Jaske moved, second by Jeskewitz to approve Brandtjen and Inda's attendance at the Wisconsin County Human Services Association (WCHSA) Spring Conference May 12-14 at the Osthoff Resort in Elkhart Lake. Motion carried 7-0.

MOTION: Jaske moved, second by Cummings to approve attendance for any committee members wanting to attend the June 14 Executive Committee meeting. Motion carried 7-0.

### **Advisory Committee Reports**

Cummings reported on the Waukesha Housing Authority Board, of which she is a member. The board is currently accepting vouchers to take clients off the wait list and place them in affordable housing. Supervisor Ruf is chair and the board is meeting more often than in the past.

### **Nomination and Election of Vice Chair and Secretary**

MOTION: Cummings moved, second by Jeskewitz to elect Jaske as vice chair. Motion carried 7-0.

MOTION: Yerke moved, second by Jeskewitz to elect Cummings as secretary. Motion carried 7-0.

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

Mader said it is important that committee members review information with diligence and recognize the need for constant vigilance. The committee should be prepared to address and answer questions

pertaining to human services related ordinances at the County Board level. This committee is different from other committees in that they often represent those without a voice.

Mader indicated all meetings are recorded (except closed sessions) and, therefore, are subject to open records requests. This committee has oversight of the Health & Human Services Department including the Veterans Services Division and the Aging & Disability Resource Center (ADRC), ADRC Advisory Board, Health & Human Services Board, Waukesha County Housing Authority, and the Veterans Service Commission.

### **Committee Welcome and Opening Remarks by Chair Brandtjen**

Brandtjen advised that if anyone leaves a meeting with a question(s), she and staff are always available to help answer them. She asked if a supervisor needs to take a phone call that it be taken in the hallway, that texting be kept to a minimum, and that phones either be turned off or set to vibrate. It is important committee members be respectful to presenters.

### **Announcements**

Schuler said both Environmental Resources and Public Health staff are actively investigating the foodborne illness outbreak that occurred last week at the Country Springs Hotel. He stressed that hotel staff have been extremely cooperative with the investigation. Of the 512 people who attended the event, 154 were followed up on, 129 people got ill, and 12 did not respond, therefore, they were not interviewed. They know of 15 people who ate the main course entrée which caused the illness but who were asymptomatic. Schuler noted that asymptomatic individuals can still spread the disease. There were a few secondary spreads to family members, etc., but everyone they were aware of who got the illness are now symptom-free.

### **Brief Educational Overview of the Health & Human Services Department**

Schuler and Maurer were present to discuss this item to which Schuler gave history on the department's structure and its one-stop shopping approach to services. Schuler feels the State has lost its zeal for human services over the years. While the State still encourages collaboration and a simplified funding structure, they do not seem to have the enthusiasm for the one-stop shopping approach, as well as other things. Schuler praised the department's staff, and their longevity, who he said are committed to the department's service delivery approach.

Copies of the department's organizational chart, service directory, staff contact information, and 2010 adopted budget information by division were distributed. Schuler advised the committee will hear more about each of the divisions today and at future meetings. There is one fiscal/administrative division while the rest are direct service delivery. These include Clinical Services, Public Health, ADRC, Veterans Services, Adolescent & Family, Children & Family, and Intake & Support Services. Schuler said the Criminal Justice Collaborating Council's budget and coordinator also fall under this department.

### **Educational Overview on the Children & Family Services Division**

Mireles, Roberts, and Daniels were present to give an overview of the Children & Family Services Division which includes the following units: Child and Family, Children with Special Needs, and Permanency Services.

In the Child and Family Unit, staff provide ongoing child protective intervention to children and their families. This includes case management, service coordination, court related services, etc.

The primary goal is to prevent the reoccurrence of child abuse or neglect, child well-being, and keep families together whenever possible. Almost all of the children have been victims of child abuse or neglect and remain living in the home because the risk of further maltreatment is low or moderate due to services provided.

In the Children with Special Needs Unit, staff provide services to children that have long-term support needs, and their families. The Unit Supervisor and Family Support Program staff are County staff and Lutheran Social Services employs staff through a contract with the department for Children's Long Term Support service coordination. The unit also provides social work services for children with profound special needs who are placed in treatment foster care, group homes, and residential care settings because of protection issues or because the parent/caregiver's inability to provide the care and supervision their child needs. Daniels said clients remain in his division until the age of 18 at which time many are transferred to Adult Services in the ADRC. Individuals with a mental health disability may be involved with the unit until the age of 22. Many children in the unit will have lifelong special needs, such as autism or other severe condition requiring institutional care. The cost of institutional care is about \$120,000 per year, per child and more than likely, the child will remain here for his or her lifetime. There are also children in this unit with less severe special needs who will require out-of-home care such as group homes or treatment foster care.

In the Permanency Services Unit, staff provide services to children placed in foster care to ensure their safety and to identify a permanent home for the child. All children are victims of child abuse or neglect and have been removed from the home through court order or Voluntary Placement Agreement. Services are provided to the child, the birth parents/guardians, and foster families and include case management, service coordination, court related services, etc. Roberts said there are currently about 125 licensed foster homes which involve 70 to 80 families and 70 to 100 kids, either in foster care or relative placements. This unit also includes the Foster Care Coordinator who oversees foster home recruitment, licensing, and training. Roberts noted that a trauma committee has been formed to work on the many trauma-related issues to help kids heal.

### **Statistic of the Month: Family Support Program**

Mireles indicated they were able to serve twice as many children with special needs with the same amount of money due to changes in the Family Support Program (FSP) funding allocation. In addition, staff can utilize Children's Long Term Support (CLTS) waiver funding when possible to fund some goods and services that families need with CLTS funding instead of FSP. They will be asking families to spend their FSP allocation in a more timely fashion so they can identify and reallocate unspent funding to another family on the FSP wait list. Daniels said they are currently serving about 150 FSP families and there are about 150 on the wait list. For CLTS, they are serving about 250 families and there are another 150 on the wait list. Daniels said the government recently passed an insurance mandate so not only will this free up dollars for additional clients but it should also reduce the wait time even further.

Wolff left the meeting at 2:45 p.m.

### **Educational Overview on the Strengthening Families Initiative**

Roberts gave an overview of the Strengthening Families initiative and discussed the "six protective factors" that keep families strong. These include parental resilience, social connections, knowledge of parenting and child development, concrete support in times of need, social and emotional competence of children, and healthy parent-child relationships. Research from the Center for the

Study of Social Policy and Strengthening Family Illinois shows that when these six protective factors are present in a family, the family is stronger and the children are safe. Through Parent Cafes, parents work in a positive environment to build these protective factors. Roberts said they are targeting the Women's Center, doctors' offices, schools, daycares, etc. so any family who wants to talk about how they can build up their family and get ideas from other families, are welcome to participate.

**Ordinance 165-O-010: Appropriate Additional Federal Funding From The American Recovery And Reinvestment Funds For The Birth To Three Program**

Mireles discussed the ordinance as outlined which involves accepting \$18,000 in federal stimulus dollars for the Waukesha-Milwaukee-Ozaukee County Consortium to train staff on new tools pertaining to social and emotional development of children. Milwaukee and Ozaukee are also receiving funds for this purpose. To answer Brandtjen's question, Mireles said the funding is available until July, 2011 but will more than likely be spent this year.

MOTION: Cummings moved, second by Yerke to approve Ordinance 165-O-010. Motion carried 6-0.

**Report on the Wisconsin County Human Services Association (WCHSA) Spring Conference**

Inda commented on the session on multi-county nursing homes. Currently, funds cannot be transferred from one county to another. A commission has been formed to combine county funds and work together as a group which should save quite a bit of money. Brandtjen said Mireles gave a presentation on our positive working relationship with Lutheran Social Services. He had explained how counties can work collaboratively with other entities to save money and still be successful. Brandtjen said she was disappointed they did not receive much information on the outgoing administration and the transition of the new one.

**Future Agenda Items**

- Periodic Reports on the Waukesha County Housing Authority

MOTION: Jeskewitz moved, second by Cummings to adjourn at 2:58 p.m. Motion carried 6-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathleen M. Cummings  
Secretary