

**CHILD AND FAMILY SERVICES ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
MINUTES**

**JUNE 17, 2010**

**PRESENT:** Joe Vitale, John Schiraj, Diane Ripple, Greg Jonas, Faith Holley-Beal, Jim Pearson, Raquel Mehring, Barb Holtz, Lisa McClean, Sarah Matson

**STAFF PRESENT:** Pete Slesar, Antwayne Robertson

Diane Ripple called the meeting to order at 8:36 a.m.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Joe Vitale made a motion, seconded by Greg Jonas, to approve the minutes of May 20, 2010.

**BOARD LIAISON REPORT**

Joe Vitale began by stating that he believes that when CAFSAC members speak to the HHS Board and Committee, they have about 99% strong support of those members. He suggested that individual members attend the County Board meeting on June 23<sup>rd</sup> at 7:00 p.m., in the Courthouse, and sign up to speak to the County Board, explaining who they are, what they do, and how their programs save the county money. Joe gave examples of success stories given by presenters at the Public Hearing in April. There are other needs on the table for the County in addition to HHS. There are serious jail concerns again. Pete Slesar responded by stating that other areas competing for dollars have a broader constituency, and politicians respond to that, i.e. parks. The populations we serve don't have the same political voice and the same broad range and visibility. For such reasons, Joe urged members to make their voices heard. County Board members who are not HHS members don't get a chance to hear about the things they are doing. Diane asked if it would be beneficial to bring clients to speak to the Board. Joe stated the impact will be referencing dollars at this time, and encouraged members to appear before the board giving a brief overview of the services they provide and the ways they save the county money. The Board is faced with very difficult decisions this year. The County Executive can only spread a dollar so far, so Joe wants to make sure their voices are heard.

**ISSUE SEGMENT – HOMELESS/WAUKESHA SCHOOL DISTRICT**

The speaker was not present.

**SAFE AND STABLE FAMILIES**

John Schiraj handed out a budget report on United Way's Promoting Safe and Stable Families. There was only one slight increase in funds. He stated that in September they'll hear a report from all providers. A six month report is due the end of July, with year-to-date outcome information showing their achievements.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

Lisa Mclean reported that so far this year the youth suicide rate has increased and may become the highest rate ever in Waukesha County if this continues. They recently launched a campaign to go into schools and educate teachers and parents on the warning signs. They want to form a partnership with HHS as gatekeeper for training with other youth service organizations. There is a need to bring awareness to the community on this. Barb Holtz asked if there's a reason for the increase. Lisa stated that one idea that has been discussed is stress over the economy. The adult rate is equally rising. The 211 line used to receive one call per month, now they receive one per day. The National Suicide Lifeline is kicking off a teen program. Joe stated that NPR had a recent broadcast indicating that the suicide rate for army veterans was on the rise. Lisa reported that veterans use the national 1-800 line. Jim Pearson stated that the Addiction Resource Council is forming a new parents' education group around AODA issues and suggested partnering with the Waukesha Mental Health Association to include suicide issues.

Pete Slesar reported on a workgroup assigned by the governor to look at the budget gap that exists regarding juvenile detention facilities. One recommendation could be to close one of the boys' facilities, either Ethan Allen or Lincoln Hills. If Ethan Allen is closed, that would hugely impact our population. It would mean that all of our boys would be placed 200 miles from their homes. A major factor that has helped us to reduce the length of time in detention is to keep families involved in the treatment, which can't happen if the boy's are placed so far from home. Pete stated that they have advocated that this be considered. 70% of young people placed are from Waukesha, Dane, Milwaukee, Rock, Kenosha, and Racine Counties. Pete sees considering closing one of the facilities as ironic, at this time when there's a bigger focus on regional facilities with more of a community base. The group is to make their recommendation by the end of June, and we'll see how this is followed up on by Governor Doyle's successor. Joe asked what the reason would be to keep Lincoln Hills open in light of the origin of the detainees. Pete stated that the workgroups' feeling is that there's a higher level of treatment at Lincoln Hills. Lincoln Hills is a newer facility than Ethan Allen. Pete stated it seems almost like a north and south issue. They view the Ethan Allen population as the more "street wise" kids. The testimony that Pete has heard was that smaller counties want to have their population engage with other smaller counties' kids.

Antwayne Robertson reported on a news story he forwarded to CAFSAC members this morning dealing with a recent child sex trafficking case. The guest speaker at the July CAFSAC meeting is Miles Severson who will present on Human Trafficking.

Pete began follow-up discussion from the last meeting on how CAFSAC can pull together data about the effectiveness of their various programs. He, Antwayne Robertson, and Jesús Mireles had met and agreed that we could do that by getting together contracted CAFSAC agencies, getting a listing of who the clients are, determining a specific time period and the criteria used to show change, and compiling data. He stated that while none of us has the luxury of having research people available, any data they can provide would put them a step ahead. He suggested looking into and refining a method to gather and show outcome data. Some of the CAFSAC members indicated that they have been doing that. Joe stated that Pete, Antwayne and Jesús have a broader perspective and view of this. He suggested that as a group, they should come up

with an answer as to where there exists duplication, and if not necessary, how we're addressing it. Antwayne added that at the recent CDBG meeting they were very focused on the subject of duplication of services. Pete suggested bringing people together to communicate and look for similar outcome data. Barb Holtz assumed that some programs apply to the same group of people. She suggested that at the annual meeting instead of doing the typical agency sharing, they should have similar agencies compare their programs, i.e. family issues. They could compare similarities and come up with differences. There are a number of groups we could do that with, another one would be home visiting. Diane Ripple agreed with the idea, and felt that this would also give a lot of material to the 2011 needs presentation. She stated that if people agree, they can use the November meeting for this instead of agency sharing. Members can start thinking about it now. She will work on coming up with the groups that can do a comparison. Joe stated that this is a proactive approach, and if members are losing dollars, they will be aware of who to partner or cooperate with. It's better to be proactive and prepared with answers. Diane will start to identify what the main groups will be and email folks to determine where they fit in. Lisa talked about CDBG asking what "outreach" means and if there's duplication.

Jim Pearson announced that tonight Chuck Wood is speaking at Steinhafels. He shared a flyer on a free lecture series in July and August, "Addiction, Why Can't They Just Stop".

Lisa talked about the housing action coalition grant for assistance. There was a huge cut and there will not be enough vouchers. Cuts affect about twelve agencies. Rent assistance and moving assistance were severely cut. The grant runs 7-1-10 to 6-30-11. Counselings and positions were also cut. Bernie is putting together a press conference with help from Pro-Health.

Diane reported high enrollment in the Spanish language parenting classes.

Joe stated that the organizations not present at this meeting need to be present more so now than ever. There was discussion about updating the CAFSAC members list. Diane reported that they are supposed to be coming up with a nominating membership committee in September. Barb Holtz volunteered to make phone calls, as did Joe Vitale. Diane reported she has a candidate for a citizen member who she has invited to the July meeting.

## **NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting will be held on July 15, 2010 at 8:30 in the Boardroom of the Human Services Center.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

Diane Ripple motioned to adjourn, and Joe Vitale seconded the motion, at 9:25 a.m.

Approved on 7-15-10  
(Date)