

Minutes of the Health & Human Services Board
Thursday, June 17, 2021
1:00 p.m.

Chair Nelson called the meeting to order at 1:01 p.m.

Board Members Present: Supervisor Larry Nelson (in person), Supervisor Christine Howard (via Teams), Supervisor Duane Paulson (via Teams), Citizen members Mary Baer (via Teams), Christine Beck (phone), Robert Menefee Jr. (via Teams), Dr. Mike Goldstone (via Teams)

Also Present: Health & Human Services (HHS) Director Elizabeth Aldred (in person), HHS Clinical Services Director Kirk Yauchler (in person), HHS Mental Health Center Administrator Jeff Lewis (in person), and Departmental Executive Assistant Julie Bartelt (in person)

Approve Minutes of May 20, 2021

MOTION: Baer moved, second by Beck to approve the minutes of May 20. Motion carried 7-0.

Advisory Committee Reports

Baer reported that the Public Health Advisory Committee (PHAC) met last week and members appreciate getting back to business as usual. The PHAC plans on requesting presentations from each HHS Division, similar to what the HHS Board is planning for future meetings. Nelson added that the Finance Committee has approved two position reclassifications in order to hire for a position with data analytics expertise, which has been recommended by the advisory committees and the HHS Board.

Dr. Goldstone reported for the Substance Use Advisory Committee. There was a successful Heroin Task Force (HTF) Summit to restart the HTF on June 2. 67 people signed up and 63 showed up.

The ADRC Advisory Committee met in the beginning of June. They reviewed the annual ADRC report and heard a presentation including challenges of this population during the pandemic. Howard will share two documents from that meeting via email to the HHS Board.

Menefee attended the Child and Family Services Advisory Committee (CAFSAC) meeting this morning. There was a great deal of discussion about agencies returning to work and the mask policies. There was a reported increase in substance abuse over the last fourteen to sixteen months, and CAFSAC discussed support services.

Howard reported on a presentation by the new director at Habitat, Melisa Songco, at a recent Home Consortium meeting, including the federal government's increase in funding with a focus on homelessness and affordable housing. Nelson will share yesterday's press release about a program to help renters and landlords with the eviction moratorium expiring at the end of this month.

Future Agenda Items

Each meeting through next February is scheduled to feature an overview of one division, including an explanation of unfunded federal and state mandates within their division.

Next Meeting Date

The next meeting of the HHS Board is July 8. The annual HHS Board Public Hearing will commence at 8:30 a.m. in the Human Services Center Building LL cafeteria, followed by the presentation of the 2022 HHS budget in Room 271. This meeting is expected to take all day.

Review proposed amendment to the medical and psychological staff bylaws pertaining to allowing use of a Physician's Assistant

Nelson introduced the topic, explaining that on June 7, the Joint Conference Committee of the Mental Health Center, unanimously voted to recommend to the HHS Board to approve this amendment. Yauchler further explained why this amendment to the bylaws is needed – difficulties recruiting for psychiatrists, psychiatrists aging out of the profession, limits on the psychiatry residency programs, demand has increased for psychiatrists and there are challenges for the county to compete with private industry. The industry has pivoted to look at mid-level providers which includes advanced practice nurse practitioners (APNP), nurse prescribers, and most recently includes physician assistants within the psychiatry specialty. Yauchler reported that an APNP has been hired and will begin in September. The struggle has been to fill a 3-4-month void. A very highly qualified candidate, a doctoral level physician's assistant with a specialty in psychology, was presented to HHS and the medical and psychological staff bylaws must be amended in order to allow for this type of mid-level provider.

Discussed what is being budgeted for in 2022 – two psychiatric providers (a combination of a psychiatrist and a mid-level position).

Lewis gave an overview of the amendment to the bylaws to allow use of a Physician's Assistant.

MOTION: Dr. Goldstone moved, second by Menefee to approve the amendment to the medical and psychological staff bylaws pertaining to allowing use of a Physician's Assistant. Motion carried 7-0.

Overview of June 2 Heroin Task Force Summit

The Summit took place on June 2. 175 community partners have endorsed continuing connection to this work. Of those, 67 signed up and 63 community members participated in the interactive 90-minute virtual summit for the purpose to relaunch the Heroin Task Force (HTF) in Waukesha County. County Executive Paul Farrow was in attendance, as were the HHS Director Aldred and HHS Deputy Director Roberts, and a mix of non-profit, law enforcement, community members, and health care. The focus was to hone in on what can be done with a collective community approach in a 12 to 18 month plan to address substance use issues that have been exacerbated during the pandemic, focusing in on relaunching and getting action teams together for the remainder of this year. Key issues and challenges facing the community were identified, and there is a small group of about 10 community partners meeting on June 24 for the purpose of clustering common themes and specific actions. Those key issues will go out to the full HTF list, giving them an opportunity to determine which initiatives they would want to be personally involved in or that their agency might want to lead. The HTF will continue on a quarterly basis. Dates have been scheduled in September and December. Engagement in the community is confident and all involved believe there will be a positive collective impact.

Yauchler reported data from the medical examiners' office. The reported 83 drug related deaths in 2020 is a record in Waukesha County. Since 2016, the data is broken down into heroin related, opioid medications, non-prescription synthetic opioids, fentanyl and analogs, novel psycho-active substance with no heroin or fentanyl present was added in 2020, and other drugs and medications. There is also

information on whether it was determined to be an accident, suicide or undetermined. Coming through in the data is the presence of fentanyl in the opiates and fentanyl's impact on the drug related deaths.

MOTION: Paulson moved, second by Beck to adjourn the meeting at 1:45 p.m. Motion carried 7-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Larry Nelson

Larry Nelson
HHS Board Chair