

Minutes of the Health and Human Services Board

Thursday, April 25, 2019
12:00 p.m.

Chair Nelson called the meeting to order at 12:06 p.m.

Board Members Present: Supervisor and Health and Human Services Board Chair Larry Nelson, citizen members Chris Beck, Vicki Dallmann-Papke, Jeff Genner, Bob Menefee, Mike O'Brien, Duane Paulson, Laurie Schwartz, Tim Whitmore. **Not Present:** Supervisor Christine Howard, citizen member Dr. Adel Korkor.

Also present: Health and Human Services Director Antwayne Robertson, Health and Human Services Deputy Director Laura Kleber, Health and Human Services Administrative Services Manager Randy Setzer, Health and Human Services Accounting Services Coordinator Lisa Davis, Health and Human Services Communications Coordinator Linda Wickstrom, citizens Lauren Clark and Patrick Reilly. Recorded by Julie Bartelt, Health and Human Services Departmental Secretary.

Presentation of 2020 Budget Recommendations to County Executive

Nelson referenced the matrix which was reviewed by the HHS Board over the prior hour; the compilation of critical needs presented by advisory committees and the annual Public Hearing. HHS has been a leader in doing more with less over the years. HHS preventative services and programs save money across the county in the long run. Discussed how to continue to meet the increasing needs of the citizens of Waukesha County, the cost to continue, budget balancing and difficult budget decisions that the County Executive faces. If HHS was going to get a status quo budget, it would be \$708,000 cost to continue, and the Health and Human Services needs in the county seem to grow every year. Nelson is concerned about reaching the breaking point and not being able to continue to do more with less, as just the cost to keep going is tremendous. Nelson reported that as a County Supervisor, he hears huge budget concerns from the Sheriff's Department. Many HHS programs prevent people from going to jail, saving tax payers money in the long run, and also help the Sheriff's Department by having less people committing criminal activity. The HHS Department has done an exceptional job with what they have had, but Nelson hopes that if steps are not taken for HHS in the 2020 budget, that things do not become a big problem down the road.

Introductions of the HHS Board members to County Executive Farrow.

Nelson summarized for the County Executive each item on the matrix of needs compiled as a result of the advisory committees' and public hearing feedback.

The County Executive is supportive of a county wide data analytics position, as there is much data crossing over departments. Farrow announced that Carroll University is creating a new business school and one of the flagship programs being considered is in data analytics. There is a meeting scheduled in the next month with Waukesha County Leadership to find out how to set up a data analytics network within the county. Farrow shared that Carthage College recently partnered with Kenosha County and they did a student evaluation project, a program they want to generate to other counties, looking at a heat map of impacts of opioid overdoses, overlaying a

map of drug related arrests. This helps to figure out where to target areas for fire, police protection, and service in a proactive approach.

The HHS Board discussed the critical need to give an increase to contracts, as most service provider agencies have received no increases in their contracts for years and they are struggling. This includes specifically the Shared Fare Taxis and many mandated service providers that would cost much more if the county had to provide in house. The request of an increase for contracted services has been expressed as a concern by all areas of all five advisory committees.

County departments and municipalities are working together looking into the role of the District Attorney's Office and a Forensic Accountant.

The HHS Board discussed the need for a mobile needle exchange program to reduce harms from injections. Nelson and the HHS Board suggested a one day per week pilot program, which would cost approximately \$22,500, possibly available from the general fund. At the end of 2020, there would be data and outcomes to show the results, which may make the case for the program to be expanded. This van will go into the heart of the communities as a prevention tool for Hepatitis C and HIV, and for education/outreach purposes.

Under the need for accessibility to treatment and services in a timely manner, there is the need for an emphasis on early intervention, services across a life span, medication assisted treatment, and sensitivity to individuals who are LGBTQI+. Nelson and Robertson also talked about first steps and initial work with several neighboring counties to develop a regional crisis respite facility to decrease hospitalization and incarceration. Lastly under accessibility to treatment is the need for Peer Support; to support the ongoing growth of Certified Peer Specialists in the county.

The last item Nelson talked about was the need to support the Zero Suicide framework. The results of the school district student survey were that alcohol and drug use are trending down, but trending upward were depression, anxiety and suicide. The HHS Department will look for grant funding for this priority.

The HHS Board recognizes that the County Executive has a difficult task ahead. All county departments need more funding. Health and Human Services provides the programs and services that people need to prevent deeper end costs to the county. HHS Board Chair thanked County Executive Farrow for listening.

County Executive Farrow appreciates this input. He acknowledged a challenge last year in the budget with the Sheriff's Department and their cost to continue. Farrow indicated the importance of public safety, which is more than just the Sheriff's Department. It includes in large part the Health and Human Services Department, and pro-active services. In putting the numbers presented on paper today together, it is between \$1.4 and \$1.8M. Keep in mind the entire levy last year that they increased to the cap was \$1.6M for all departments. That is the struggle.

Farrow reported on last week's bond rating meeting, where the county goes to show what it's doing as one of the few counties in the country that has been AAA bond rated for twenty plus years. The bond rating organization indicated that with the hard cap the state has on levy caps, in a couple of years, they will likely downgrade the county because the budget is not sustainable.

This is a challenge on the legislative side and County Executive Farrow is starting to talk about it with his counterparts.

Farrow has talked a lot with Robertson about the unfunded mandates, looking at the personnel intensity needed to solve those problems. We are trying to get legislators to realize that a person is not always needed – technology gives an opportunity to do things differently and provides flexibility.

Farrow stated that there are also challenges that are not on the matrix presented today, and one of them is homelessness issues. A number of companies have approached him with concerns about homelessness.

Farrow acknowledged the hard work and passion of the Health and Human Services Department, for which he is grateful. However, he knows it is not sustainable but is something we will continue to work through. He receives his very first budget projections next week of what they think the revenues will be, and is not expecting them to be as good as last year. We will be creative. The State is not helping us with the current uncertainty. Joint Finance finished their last public hearing yesterday. Talking to his fellow legislators it sounds like they will start with a base budget and starting over with developing the state budget. There are some programs that both sides can support. Farrow talked about the impacts Waukesha County has made with programs, specifically mentioning the Drug Treatment Courts.

Paulson asked what we can do for ourselves. Farrow's feeling, talking with his budget team, is this year we will have to go to the max and move forward. One recommendation in the governor's budget proposal is having a 2% or growth, whichever is greater. That would help a lot and Farrow has advocated with the chairs of Joint Finance to look at realistic changes. It helps when we have outside organizations like the bond rating come in and say that we have an unsustainable model. Farrow talked about issues of Waukesha County not having a sales tax. He talked about changes in property tax codes resulting in the loss to the county of taxable levy.

Farrow recognized the incredible group of non-profit agencies and generous individuals in the county with time, talents and funding.

There was discussion on homelessness issues and solutions, affordable housing in Waukesha County, growing population and transportation.

Next Meeting Date

May 16, 2019 is a joint meeting with Health and Human Services Committee at 1:00 p.m.

MOTION: O'Brien moved, second by Schwartz to adjourn the board meeting at 1:24 p.m.
Motion carried 9-0.

Respectfully,

Christine Howard

Christine Howard
Secretary