

Minutes of the Health & Human Services Board

Thursday, November 19, 2020

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

Board Members Present via Teams: Supervisors Larry Nelson, Christine Howard, Citizen Members Christine Beck, Mary Baer, Mary Berg, Vicki Dallman-Papke, Dr. Michael Goldstone, Dr. Adel Korkor, Robert Menefee Jr., and Laurie Schwartz. **Absent:** Supervisor Duane Paulson

Also Present: HHS Director Antwayne Robertson, HHS Administrative Services Manager Randy Setzer, HHS ADRC Manager Mary Smith, HHS Public Health Manager and Waukesha County Public Health Officer Ben Jones, HHS Emergency Preparedness Coordinator Bridget Gnad, County Board Chief of Staff Sarah Spaeth, and County Board Legislative Policy Advisory Alex Ignatowski.

Approve Minutes of 10-6-20

MOTION: Dr. Korkor moved, second by Howard to approve the board minutes of October 6, 2020. Motion carried 10-0.

Approve amending previously adapted 9-10-20 minutes

MOTION: Baer moved, second by Schwartz to amend previously adapted minutes of September 10, 2020 meeting to include “**MOTION:** Howard moved, second by Goldstone to approve the revisions to the Public Health Advisory Committee bylaws as presented. Motion carried 9-0.” Motion carried 10-0.

Advisory Committee Reports

Mary Smith reported that Jackie Smith from the Housing Coalition spoke on homelessness at the ADRC Advisory Committee meeting.

Menefee attended the Child and Family Services Advisory Committee meeting this morning. The HHS Board needs to continue to appreciate and support the staff at HHS, the schools, and the agencies serving our community. They are experiencing continued stress and alarming staffing issues.

Public Comment

A member of the public shared their opinion of the county’s response to the pandemic, with a focus on testing and public information.

Next Meeting Date

January 14 if held jointly with the HHS Committee, or January 21 if held separately. A decision will be made by the HHS Board and HHS Committee chairs the first week in January.

Aging and Disabilities Resource Center (ADRC) Funding Redesign

Mary Smith, Manager of the ADRC, talked about the Wisconsin initiative for the single-county and multi-county/tribal Aging and Disabilities Resource Centers (ADRCs) reinvestment. ADRCs provide needed long-term care services to individuals and their families. This is the fastest growing demographic of the state’s population, yet funding has not changed in Waukesha County for twelve years.

An advisory stakeholder group was formed in 2017 including the ADRC Professional Associations of Wisconsin, members from WCHSA, and members from the Human Services Fiscal Managers Association. In 2018, the group identified specific issues of generational differences as ADRCs began forming at different times beginning in 1998, health equity, projected population growth, and cost of living adjustments and determined how much additional funding would be needed to appropriately fund and operate ADRCs across the state, that not only updates formula factors but ensures greater equity in funding and services provided throughout the state.

There is a 78-page scope of service contract with the state that outlines all duties required of ADRCs, which was used to determine that \$27 million additional dollars is needed to meet the needs of the population currently served. Smith explained the factors weighed and data used in the formula to determine the amount of funding and how it should be distributed across the state.

The advisory group also looked at what additional services are needed to benefit communities and expanding some services including;

- Expand Dementia Care Specialist Funding Statewide
- Fully Fund Elderly Benefit Specialists Statewide
- Expand Caregiver Support and Programs
- Expand Health Promotion Services
- Expand Care Transition Services
- Fund Aging and Disability Resources in Tribes
- Fully Fund Aging and Disability Resource Support Systems

The state recently informed Waukesha County what its potential allocation would look like if this additional \$27 million was made available throughout the state. Smith explained the formula used to make that determination and how Waukesha County would use the new funding formula with the existing grant funding and federal Medicaid match funding.

This is the beginning of this advocacy effort to get adequate funding across the state and would include a significant increase in Waukesha County. The Wisconsin Counties Association has taken this on as one of their legislative topics as they move forward with a proposal for the governor's 2022 budget and has prepared a resolution to present to the governor in support of the additional funding for ADRC's.

HHS Board members, Mary Smith, and the legislative advisory county staff discussed advocacy efforts moving forward.

ADRC Advisory Committee Bylaws

Mary Smith presented the revised ADRC Advisory Committee bylaws. The ADRC is required to have a commission on aging as part of the statute of the Wisconsin Elders Act, and the ADRC Advisory Board serves as the commission on aging for Waukesha County. There is also the ADRC scope of services contract which lists requirements for the ADRC Advisory Board. In addition, the county code lists requirements for the ADRC Advisory Board. These three requirements were considered in the revised bylaws and is why the ADRC Advisory Board bylaws are a little different than the other advisory committees' bylaws.

MOTION: Baer moved, second by Howard to approve the revised ADRC Advisory Board bylaws. Motion carried 10-0.

COVID Contact Investigation/Disease Investigation Sustainability and Testing Sustainability Efforts Should Federal/State Funding be Discontinued

Gnadt, Emergency Preparedness Coordinator, is currently fulfilling the role as Testing Coordination Team Lead. Community testing is currently available in Waukesha County six days per week with a capacity of 4,200 tests per week. Health care systems are also testing. Waukesha County has partnered with three entities; the Wisconsin National Guard, Village Primary Care, and the Waukesha Free Clinic. The partnerships are supported through the state testing pilot program.

The funding for the testing pilot program partners is available through December 30. After that, Waukesha County is taking a proactive look at options. There is a chance that the National Guard could be available after December 9. The DHS testing pilot program deadline has been extended to November 30 and could be extended again. The County has requested assistance through the federal system, but that has been prioritized to areas of greater need. With no confirmation of other available funding sources, considering working through volunteers, which provides unique challenges. Also discussed possibility to implement an antigen testing program. Through these considerations, the testing team is working through four scenarios – 1. an option that the state program continues in some form, 2. there isn't any state funding support, 3. the county could partner with Curative to provide lab analysis, testing kits, labor, etc., and 4. discontinue COVID-19 testing. Waukesha County is planning for if the testing pilot program is unable to continue or if the National Guard does not get extended into 2021, with the knowledge that testing needs do not end when the calendar year ends.

Setzer added that Waukesha County did receive Cares Act funding for testing in 2020, not all of which will be used. However, the county has not been told that money could be carried over to 2021. It is assumed the funding would go back to the state because the expiration is December 30.

Discussed a county budget amendment approved for grant money which will be used for contact tracing and disease investigation sustainability in 2021.

Discussed the importance of testing and tracking well into 2021. The funding that has come from the federal government is not something that the county could sustain. Hopefully funding will come through in December or a contingency plan will be in place.

Jones talked about a need for a statewide comprehensive testing system, including clear antigen testing strategies. Jones explained the Wisconsin Public Health Association and the Wisconsin Association of Local Health Departments and Boards are two state associations that meet and have lobbying efforts. Discussed Waukesha County's efforts advocating for legislative support of Public Health and COVID response. Waukesha County has put together thorough sustainability plans to continue contact tracing and testing.

Jones gave an update on the COVID case data and explained what the county workforce is doing in response. Jones responded to a question from the HHS Board about what the biggest challenge is – limited resources and funding.

Waukesha County has formed a workgroup to plan for future vaccine delivery to the community.

Considerable efforts by an entire team of staff have promoted CDC recommended guidance around social distancing and mask wearing, through social media, press conferences, etc.

MOTION: Howard moved, second by Schwartz to adjourn the board meeting at 2:51 p.m. Motion carried 10-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Larry Nelson

Larry Nelson
Chair