

Minutes of the Health & Human Services Committee

Thursday, December 3, 2020

Chair Dondlinger called the meeting to order at 1:05 p.m.

Present: Supervisors Tim Dondlinger, Kathleen Cummings, Jeremy Walz, Jim Batzko, Joel Gaughan, and Ted Wysocki. **Absent:** Steve Whittow.

Also Present: Legislative Policy Advisor Alex Ignatowski, Public Health Manager Ben Jones, Service Preparedness Coordinator Bridget Gnad, Administrative Services Manager Randy Setzer, HHS Director Antwayne Robertson, and Deputy Director Lisa Roberts.

Approve Minutes of September 10 (Amended) and October 8

MOTION: Gaughan moved, second by Wysocki to approve the minutes of September 10, 2020 as amended. Motion carried 6-0.

MOTION: Batzko moved, second by Cummings to approve the minutes of October 8, 2020. Motion carried 6-0.

Correspondence

- Intradepartmental fund transfer request from the Aging & Disabilities Resource Center totaling \$3,710.
- Letter from citizen Robert J. Ziegler regarding COVID-19 concerns in Waukesha County.

Chair's Executive Committee Report

Dondlinger said the Executive Committee, at their last meeting, interviewed three candidates to fill the District 7 County Board vacancy and heard an update on the redistricting process.

Future Agenda Item

- EOC Policy Committee Update

Future Meeting Dates

- January 14, 2020

Discuss and Consider Ordinance 175-O-061 Modify 2021 Waukesha County Health and Human Services Public Health Budget for COVID-19 Testing Efforts

Davis and Jones were present to discuss this ordinance as outlined which modifies the 2021 Waukesha County Health and Human Services – Public Health budget to increase operating expenditures by \$500,000 to pay for COVID-19 testing efforts. During 2020, testing efforts have been funded by the state and include using the National Guard and grants to local health care providers to administer tests. This funding is set to expire on December 9 and December 30, respectively. At this time, it is unclear whether there will be state or federal funding to provide testing on January 1, 2021. (A state allocation of \$513,200 of federal CARES Act funding will likely go mostly unspent due to the state leading testing efforts during 2020, and the allocation sunsetting at the end of the year). This budget modification is intended to help ensure that there is

spending authority to provide testing capabilities (e.g., contracting with local health care providers) at the beginning of the year after existing grant allocations terminate.

This ordinance also increases General Fund balance usage by \$500,000 to pay for the testing efforts. During 2020, the County is claiming existing staff time (included paid leave) dedicated to the pandemic response against CARES Act allocations (e.g., Routes to Recovery). Since most of these personnel costs were already included in the 2020 adopted budget (the exception being additional overtime expenses), these revenues help generate favorable variances (lapsing to General Fund balance at year end) which will be available for the pandemic response needed in 2021. For 2020, it is anticipated that at least \$3.4 million of CARES Act funding will be received for staff time. Given the uncertainty of state and federal funding in 2021, this ordinance relies on General Fund balance. The County will continue to monitor funding options to help minimize the use of this General Fund balance.

MOTION: Cummings moved, second by Gaughan to approve Ordinance 175-O-061. Motion carried 6-0.

Update on COVID-19 Response and Outlook

Gnadt explained there are multiple testing sites across Waukesha County and the weekly testing, six days a week, and the capacity is about 7,800. Gnadt went on to discuss the State testing pilot program grant and explained that the CARES Act funding will end at year-end 2020. Jones explained that numbers are continuing to increase although contact tracing has been effective. Jones went on to give an update on vaccines.

Legislative Update

Ignatowski updated the committee on news from the State legislature.

MOTION: Cummings moved, second by Walz to adjourn at 2:25 p.m. Motion carried 6-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeremy Walz

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Secretary