

**SUMMARY OF THE WAUKESHA COUNTY HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES  
BOARD/COMMITTEE  
SPRING PUBLIC HEARING  
APRIL 5, 2018**

**Attendance and Introductions**

County Board Supervisor and Health and Human Services Board Chair Chuck Wood, County Board Supervisor and Health and Human Services Committee Chair Christine Howard, County Board Supervisors Duane Paulson and David Swan, Health and Human Services Department Director Antwayne Robertson

County Board Supervisor Chuck Wood called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m. He introduced himself and thanked everyone for coming. This is an opportunity for the Waukesha County Health and Human Services Board to hear from the citizens of Waukesha County in regard to service needs. The HHS Board will share this input, along with information from the advisory committees, with the County Executive as the 2019 county budget work begins.

Below are summaries of each speaker's comments.

**SPEAKER #1 Mary W.** the manager at **Wisconsin Community Services (WCS)**. She spoke on behalf of Criminal Justice Collaborating Counsel (CJCC) programs. In the past, WCS has come to the annual public hearing and given statistics, such as the 30,000 jail bed days saved through these programs. "Those numbers still hold, but this year they are focusing on CJCC successes that are a little harder to quantify." Goals are keeping individuals out of jail, keeping families' together, giving people an opportunity to contribute to the community through employment and remaining in their homes. The programs assist individuals to seek needed treatment. Mary spoke of collaboration with many agencies to connect individuals with the resources needed. They assist individuals in obtaining their driver's licenses through the use of the driver's safety plan and make sure participants appear for court dates. Evidence reveals that incarceration makes people worse; incarcerated people tend to lose their jobs, may lose their homes, and lose ties to the community. Cost effective programing, i.e. the pretrial supervision and daily report center are vital in keeping these Waukesha County citizens in their jobs and contributing to the tax base that helps fund these programs. "Most importantly, the programs keep individuals accountable and the community safer with intensive supervision, the GPS tracking devices and the use of the continuous alcohol monitoring devices." Funding is essential for the daily report center, because unlike the Drug Treatment Court Program that only focuses on high risk individuals, the daily report center focuses on all levels, and is the only post-conviction program in Waukesha. Not only is continued funding necessary, but an increase in funding is desperately needed, due to the increase in costs, as well as the increase in demand, several CJCC programs are currently operating with major deficits. Without increased funding, service to individuals will not continue in 2019 at the current level of funding.

**SPEAKER #2 AMY M.**, recent graduate of the **WCS Alcohol Treatment Program**. The program led her to the help she needed. Through AA support groups and AODA counseling she was able to build relationships with family, to deal with stressors of life in a healthy way, and to

be honest with herself and with others. With the help of the Alcohol Treatment Program and the treatment staff she is enjoying a sober life which continues today. The Pretrial Program was also beneficial in helping her stay focused and sober before sentencing. Now that she has finished the program, she has been trained to be a peer mentor, which is also offered by WCS. Helping others stay sober helps her to continue down the right path and remain sober.

**SPEAKER #3 ROBERT J.**, has been a member at **Friendships Unlimited** for six years. It is a safe and supportive center for adults suffering from mental illness, where everyone is like family. The staff are relatable as they have also struggled with mental illness. He is doing well through receiving and offering support to peers, participating in groups and activities offered at Friendships. Robert would like to see this program not only continue, but expand to help more people.

**SPEAKER #4 NIKKI C.**, spoke on behalf of **Friendships Unlimited**, and believes that many times going there for support from peers has kept her from ending up in the Mental Health Hospital. She has made many friends; they and the staff are like family. Nikki appreciates the groups, especially the social anxiety group which has helped her open up to situations where she used to panic, such as family holiday gatherings and public speaking. She has coped and grown, and enjoys the many activities and events at Friendships, i.e. campfires, the lake, bowling, Brewers games, or just hanging out together. She thanked the board to their time.

**SPEAKER #5 CHARLENE P.**, **Friendships Unlimited** provides structure and hope, helping her to remain sober and apply for a job.

**SPEAKER #6, DAVE**, Friendships Unlimited, shared his history of struggling with mental illness since 1978. He appreciates the support from peers and staff at Friendships when he was feeling suicidal, when he was homeless, and to help with SSI and employment.

**SPEAKER #7 SANDY S.**, shared with the HHS Board what she likes about **Friendships and Spring City Clubhouse** – baking and kitchen activities, friends and staff.

**SPEAKER #8, PAULA D.**, is a member of Clubhouse where she enjoys the opportunity to share her talents and skills to make herself useful assisting the mental health community. She enjoys the socialization when life at home gets lonely. Clubhouse provides Paula a feeling of worth and value.

**SPEAKER #9, REBECCA M.**, is a resident of New Berlin for over twenty years, and a member of Stewards for Prophetic and Hopeful Intentional Action (SOPHIA), an interfaith group, promoting common values of their faith traditions. She thanked the HHS Board for their support the Criminal Justice Collaborating Councils work. SOPHIA supports the continuation and expansion of the CJCC programming, including the Alcohol and Drug Treatment Courts, as the humane and fiscally responsible thing to do. She asked the HHS Board to consider the resolution that SOPHIA and statewide wisdom affiliates have been promoting, which advocates for more state funding and expanded access for the programs of the CJCC.

**SPEAKER #10, VICKI P.**, came to Friendships Clubhouse to find new friends, gain an understanding of her mental illness, and assistance to re-enter the workforce. When life gets tough, she knows she can go to Clubhouse and find the tools needed to remedy the situation, as well as colleagues to help her work through anything.

**SPEAKER #11, TED S.**, shared the inspirations received from attending Spring City Corner Clubhouse which help him in his struggles with mental illness and substance use. The programs have helped build his confidence, providing a feeling of acceptance, and have given the capacity to do many things, including getting his own apartment and becoming an apartment manager. He was also able to build a closer relationship with his sister, and help care for her through cancer treatment. Clubhouse is a place where he and his peers can go, feel safe and support one another through all of the activities and learning opportunities. Before Clubhouse, he was drinking, doing drugs, struggling with mental health, in treatment centers, jail, and struggled with suicidal thoughts. Ted shared his goal to go to school, work for Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR) and attend WCTC in a trucking program. He feels blessed to be a new person full of hope, thankful for the friends, staff and programs at Clubhouse, and asks the HHS Board for continued funding.

**SPEAKER #12, KURT R.**, talked about his introduction to the Sit-ski through the Adaptive Community Approach Program (ACAP). The sit-ski allows people with disabilities to enjoy the sport of water skiing. Kurt participates in many committees and suggests the formation of a task force to promote the inclusion and connecting of the economically disadvantaged and/or disabled population to all that Waukesha County has to offer, including sports/leisure activities, and continued disability education and sensitivity training to all in the community. He recommends the task force consist of government, local businesses, and faith groups.

**SPEAKER #13, BERNIE G.**, a member of Stewards for Prophetic and Hopeful Intentional Action (SOPHIA) appeared in support of the Waukesha County CJCC programs, of which his SOPHIA colleague previously spoke. He had a couple of other questions for the board. First, what was the result of the fall survey to the community asking about areas of spending? Chairs Wood and Howard answered that was the Community Health Improvement Plan and Process (CHIPP). The top three priorities identified in the CHIPP survey were opiates, mental health, nutrition and physical activity. The CHIPP workgroup is focused on developing a written plan for each of those sectors by June and implement plans in July. (Information can be found on <https://www.waukeshacounty.gov/chipp>.)

Bernie also shared recent news stories, “one about an individual who had broken into the Farm and Fleet, later charged with a felony. The other story related to a young relative of his who had posted a picture of a gun magazine on social media. This young man later went to the theater, someone called the police and reported that he was going to shoot up the theater. The young man was arrested, searched, and nothing was found.” This could have been a tragedy, his young relative was going through a mental breakdown, and was released. Given these two stories, Bernie asked if there is a breakdown between health and human services and law enforcement. Another incident Bernie shared was that of a gentleman at the Salvation Army having a mental breakdown; the Salvation Army called the police who arrested him instead of taking him to get mental health help. There needs to be a connection between law enforcement and those who need assistance with mental health, homelessness, and connection to resources. Robertson

shared that approximately 75% of Waukesha County law enforcement agencies are trained in Crisis Intervention Training, specifically on how to interact with someone who is having an episode. The training is provided through NAMI and the Waukesha County Health and Human Services Clinical Services Division is involved. In regard to the criminal justice process, Waukesha County has been engaged in an initiative, one of the few counties in the state identified by the National Institute of Corrections, in an Evidence Based Decision Making (EBDM) program, currently in phase VI. Waukesha County has conducted a criminal justice systems map, examining areas to address efficiencies and process improvements, to ensure those who are low risk offenders get the best possible treatment, and diversion for those who can avoid the criminal justice system from the beginning. An unnamed women shared that last week law enforcement was invited to meet members at the Clubhouse, giving officers a chance to learn about interacting with the mentally ill, and allowing a positive interaction to those with mental illness who may be afraid or have had bad relations with law enforcement in the past

Wood explained that the HHS Board will convey to the County Executive what was shared and learned this evening as the budget process moves forward. He thanked everyone for attending and/or speaking this evening, and welcomed any additional questions following the public hearing.

Adjourned at 7:57 p.m.