

## Minutes of the Health & Human Services Committee and Board

Thursday, February 11, 2021

Chairs Dondlinger and Nelson called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m.

**Committee Members Present:** Supervisors Tim Dondlinger, Kathleen Cummings, Jeremy Walz, Jim Batzko, Joel Gaughan, and Ted Wysocki. Gaughan left the meeting at 2:48 p.m. **Absent:** Steve Whittow.

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

**Also Present:** Legislative Policy Advisor Alex Ignatowski, Chief of Staff Sarah Spaeth, Administrative Specialist Mary Pedersen, County Board Chair Paul Decker, Health & Human Services Director Elizabeth Aldred, Public Health Officer/Public Health Division Manager Ben Jones, Adolescent & Family Division Manager Ron Pupp, Administrative Services Division Manager Randy Setzer, Director of Administration Andy Thelke, Interim Health & Human Services Deputy Director Lisa Roberts, and Budget Manager Bill Duckwitz.

### Committee Agenda Items

#### **Approve Minutes of 1-14-21**

MOTION: Wysocki moved, second by Cummings to approve the minutes of January 14. Motion carried 6-0.

#### **Next Meeting Date**

- March 11

### Board Agenda Items

#### **Approve Minutes of 11-19-20**

MOTION: Paulson moved, second by Baer to approve the minutes of November 19. Motion carried 9-0.

#### **Advisory Committee Reports**

Menefee referred to the last Child & Family Services Advisory Committee meeting and said Health & Human Services staff are anticipating a deluge of needs from children and families.

Baer highlighted the last Public Health Advisory Committee meeting and said they heard an overview on ProHealth Care activities relating to COVID-19 whereby she noted this is an amazing collaboration with the County. The committee also discussed their needs list.

### **Next Meeting Date**

- March 18

### **Announcements**

Nelson indicated that citizen board members are eligible for payment and mileage for each meeting they attend.

### **Items for Discussion and Consideration**

#### **Introduction of new WCDHHS Director Elizabeth Aldred (*Board and Committee*)**

Dondlinger welcomed Aldred and introductions were made by committee and board members. Aldred discussed her background in human services and said she is impressed so far with the Health & Human Services staff who have great ideas for new projects and initiatives. She is also impressed with the County's COVID-19 vaccination clinic.

#### **COVID-19 Vaccine Update (*Board and Committee*)**

Jones and Pupp were present to discuss this item and distributed a handout detailing current eligible populations and next eligible groups, locations where County residents have received vaccinations, County residents vaccinated by race, and vaccine FAQ. Pupp said vaccines are now available at the Public Health Division. He reviewed the County/Hospital agreement and said the hospitals have struggled, like the County, to meet the needs of the public due to not having enough vaccines. Both the hospitals and the County have begun vaccinating those 65 and older and there are about 5,000 currently on the wait list. Jones said it will be a while before this combined effort will be achieved to vaccinate the 65 and older population unless the number of vaccines increase from about 7,000 vaccines per week, currently, to about 10,000. Hospitals and the County have given out about 60,000 vaccinations covering about 10% of the population, about 1,000 vaccinations per day. Moderna is looking to get approval for 10 doses per bottle to 15 and Pfizer will also be increasing supply. Johnson and Johnson will be requesting federal approval this month. So far 43,243 County residents have received the first dose and 14,830 have received the second.

Answering Cummings' question, Goldstone stated there are no virus particles in the vaccines. Korkor concurred and said there is a lot of misinformation on the Internet, etc. and it is important this information be disseminated as much as possible.

#### **COVID-19 Financial Update (*Board and Committee*)**

Thelke, Duckwitz, and Setzer were present to discuss this item and distributed information on major COVID-19 funding sources for 2020 and 2021 such as federal CARES Act, federal Centers for Disease Control, federal Stafford Act, and County contingency fund transfers. Thelke reviewed the total funding received, the grant period, and how the funds are/were being used. This includes contact tracing, staffing and overtime costs, technology, protective services and equipment, cleaning and sanitization, testing, disease investigations, temporary facilities, dissemination of information to the public, administrative costs, supplies and signage, and vaccine administration.

Gaughan left the meeting at 2:48 p.m.

MOTION: Howard moved, second by Baer to adjourn the Board meeting at 2:49 p.m. Motion carried 9-0.

Ordinance 175-O-081 Modify the Department of Health and Human Services – Public Health 2021 Budget to Accept Federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Epidemiology and Laboratory Capacity Grant Funds Provided by the Wisconsin Department of Health Services and Modify the Non-Departmental General Fund 2021 Budget Through a Contingency Fund Transfer for Expenses Related to the Community Vaccine Program and Continue Pandemic Response (*Committee*)

Roberts and Thelke discussed this ordinance which authorizes the Department of Health and Human Services to accept additional federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Epidemiology and Laboratory Capacity grant funding provided through the Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS) of \$2,868,600. These funds can be used for the public health COVID-19 pandemic response, including the continuation of contact tracing/disease investigation and the implementation of a community vaccination program. Currently the Federal Emergency Management Administration has been identified as a funding source to reimburse for the cost of community vaccination clinics and above budget expenses incurred related to the pandemic response that are not otherwise eligible for federal funding or where other federal funding sources are insufficient.

Implementing a community vaccination program will require additional operating expenses for supplies and equipment, such as personal protective equipment, disinfectant supplies, and clinical supplies. The community vaccination program will also require significant additions of staff, such as registered nurses, emergency medical supervision, security, supervision, and clerical support. Additional limited-term employees (LTE's – county-employed temporary extra help without benefits) will be accounted for as personnel costs. Additional contracted support, provided through third-party agencies, will be accounted for as operating expenses. Continuing contact tracing and disease investigation will also require significant LTE and contracted staff. The exact combination of LTE's and contracted positions needed remains uncertain and future funds transfers may be requested.

The County has also requested that departments redeploy regular staff to carry out support tasks, where appropriate, to quickly establish vaccine clinic operations and to help offset the need of hiring LTE and contracted positions. It is expected that much of the staff time incurred by redeployed employees is already in the 2021 budget and will not result in additional expenses. However, there will be instances where non-salaried employees work additional hours and incur overtime expenses that are not in the 2021 budget. This ordinance also authorizes a Contingency Fund transfer to the Non-Departmental General Fund of up to \$300,000 across appropriations (e.g., personnel costs, operating expenses, interdepartmental charges, fixed assets) to allow flexibility in efficiently meeting needs as they come up. The County will track all costs related to the pandemic response and continue to review potential funding sources as they become available in order to minimize the need for actual Contingency Fund use and any other net costs to the County. This ordinance does not result in any additional direct tax levy impact.

MOTION: Wysocki moved, second by Cummings to approve Ordinance 175-O-081. Motion carried 5-0.

**Executive Committee Report of 1-18-21**

**Dondlinger** advised the Executive Committee, at their last meeting, approved several appointments including Elizabeth Aldred as the new Health & Human Services Director, discussed a draft resolution on County Board size, and heard internal audit reports on the airport (fixed base operator review), courthouse tower construction (interim report), and Information Technology project management.

**Future Agenda Items**

- Periodic Updates on the Various Funded Activities Regarding the Injection Drug Use Prevention Grant as Outlined in Ordinance 175-O-068 (Wysocki)
- Presentation on the Collaboration Between Carroll University and the Waukesha Free Clinic to provide dental services to youth (Batzko)

**State Legislative Update**

Ignatowski gave an update on COVID-19 bills which the Governor vetoed and then subsequently issued another mask mandate. He also gave an update on the federal COVID-19 relief bill.

MOTION: Cummings moved, second by Walz to adjourn the Committee meeting at 3:09 p.m. Motion carried 5-0.

Respectfully submitted,

*Larry Nelson*

Larry Nelson  
HHS Board Chair