

Minutes of the Health and Human Services Board

Thursday, June 25, 2020

11:00 a.m.

Chair Nelson called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

Board Members Present: County Board Supervisor and Health and Human Services Board Chair Larry Nelson, County Board Supervisor Christine Howard, County Board Supervisor Duane Paulson, Citizen Members Mary Baer, Christine Beck, Mary Berg, Vicki Dallmann-Papke, Dr. Mike Goldstone, Dr. Adel Korkor, Bob Menefee, and Laurie Schwartz

Also Present: County Executive Paul Farrow, Health and Human Services Director Antwayne Robertson, Health and Human Services Administrative Services Manager Randy Setzer, County Board Chief of Staff Sarah Spaeth, Health and Human Services Departmental Secretary Julie Bartelt, 1 non-participating caller

PRESENTATION TO COUNTY EXECUTIVE – 2021 BUDGET RECOMMENDATIONS SHARE ADVISORY COMMITTEE INPUT WITH COUNTY EXECUTIVE

Chair Nelson welcomed County Executive Paul Farrow. The HHS Board members introduced themselves.

A consistent message was received from all of the advisory committees at the June 2 meeting that due to the pandemic, the service needs areas are greater. Some state and federal funding has been received for 2020 in response to the pandemic, but it is unknown if state and federal funding will be available in 2021.

Nelson referred to the critical community needs matrix document by advisory committees.

Discussed the need for a data analytics position at Health and Human Services to track and measure needs and outcomes in the community. Carroll University is currently partnering with Waukesha County Public Health on coronavirus contact tracing, and an additional collaboration with Carroll University to assist with data analysis will be considered.

Under Aging and Disability Resource Center, it is believed that Items #2, #3, and #4 will be covered by additional state funding. Item #2 is the need for a Dementia Care Specialist, Item #3 is the need for a Human Services Supervisor, and Item #4 is the need for a Programs and Projects Analyst. The consensus from the HHS Board as the number one priority need is to support in-home care provider network adequacy by increasing the rate to service contractors to be competitive with the private sector. The more we can help seniors stay in their homes and receive the needed assistance, will save money. The next need is to contract with a Forensic Accountant to assist with financial abuse investigation. Finally, the need to combat social isolation and loneliness by creating an ongoing telephonic Friendly Visitor Program was discussed.

The Children and Family Services Advisory Committee has requested a contract increase for the social services contracts and consulting service agencies. Setzer is confident that WCDHHS will be able to support those community base organizations that need a 1% to 3% increase. Good news is the current state legislature understands the impact proper funding can have on Child and Family services.

The Substance Use and Mental Health Advisory Committees presented their needs jointly. Critical Need Items #2 (identified medical expenses) and #3 (programs/services sensitive to individuals who are LGBTQI) on the matrix are expected to be included in the 2021 budget. The priority is Item #1 – seeking an additional \$15,000 to provide education and training to continue early prevention programming for both Mental Health and Substance Use and the expansion of youth services. Farrow shared he is working with school districts on preparing a safe return of their students, and to address the needs and challenges students are facing. Nelson thanked Farrow for the support of Item #5, funding for class room certification training and testing for up to 15 individuals as Certified Peer Specialist (CPS) in Waukesha County, which is expected to be included in

the 2021 budget. The final critical need, Item #4, is funding for personnel and operating costs for coverage of two days per week for the mobile syringe program, which includes risk reduction education, communicable disease screening, naloxone training, and provision of syringes and/or disposal of used syringes. Discussed the proven track record of the effectiveness and cost savings this program provides.

The HHS Board members wrapped it up by stating these requests to address the critical community needs are about prevention, which result in cost savings in the long run.

Farrow thanked the HHS Team, especially Public Health. Across the county, staff have stepped up and adapted to new and different ways to accomplish their work to serve the community during the pandemic.

Farrow stated that HHS leaders do a great job working on the HHS budget. Budget teams in five county departments are looking for savings due to current revenue capacity and Farrow explained some ideas such as looking at a biennial budget cycle, sales tax – nothing is off the table as the County explores the current budget, and state faces budget challenges in shared revenue. The County will seek ways to continue providing a level of services in our growing county. Farrow asked the HHS Board to review the HHS budget for adjustments that can be made and share recommendations with him.

Discussed the current status of the CARES Act and if Waukesha County will receive any funding.

Nelson suggested that the HHS Board meet with Farrow early in the year to discuss and help Farrow successfully talk with legislators about unfunded mandates and challenges. Farrow agreed it would be good to develop a priority list and target the top two challenges to bring forward during a legislative cycle.

Dr. Goldstone and Laurie Schwartz exited the meeting at 12:09 p.m.

MOTION: Howard moved, second by Baer to adjourn the board meeting at 12:10 p.m. Motion carried 9-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Larry Nelson
Chair