

## **Minutes of the Health & Human Services Committee**

**Thursday, April 16, 2015**

Chair Yerke called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m.

**Present:** Supervisors Gilbert Yerke, Duane Paulson, Bill Zaborowski, Christine Howard, Janel Brandtjen, Jeremy Walz, and Tom Schellinger.

**Also Present:** Legislative Policy Advisor Sarah Spaeth, Adolescent & Family Services Manager Peter Slesar, Health & Human Services Director Antwayne Robertson, Health & Human Services Deputy Director Laura Kleber, Senior Financial Analyst Clara Daniels, Aging & Disability Resource Center (ADRC) Manager Luann Page, and ADRC Coordinator Mary Smith. Recorded by Mary Pedersen, County Board Office.

### **Approve Minutes of 3-12-15**

MOTION: Brandtjen moved, second by Paulson to approve the minutes of March 12. Motion carried 7-0.

### **Advisory Committee Reports**

Zaborowski said the Health & Human Services Board's annual public hearing was held on April 2 and is the annual start of the department's budget process. Robertson noted about 50 to 60 people attended.

### **Chair's Executive Committee Report of 3-16-15**

Yerke highlighted the following items discussed at the last Executive Committee meeting.

- Heard an update on information technology projects.
- Approved one ordinance and two appointments which have since been approved by the County Board.

### **Next Meeting Date**

- May 14

### **State Legislative Update**

Spaeth indicated the Joint Finance Committee (JFC) began voting on the budget yesterday. Fourteen non-fiscal items were removed including the County assessment issue of which the County was opposed. Circuit Courts will receive block grant-type funding and the Director of State Courts will oversee the funding allocations. However, the JFC delayed implementation one year.

### **Update on Boys/Girls Non-Secure Juvenile Detention**

Slesar distributed pictures of the new building at Lad Lake. All exterior work is complete and the interior is now underway. Construction should be done mid-June and operations are scheduled to begin July 1. Slesar indicated a tour will be scheduled for June. A County staff member was hired as the group home manager who will bring a myriad of expertise to the position. Resumes are coming in for youth care workers. The Health & Human Services Department and the Sheriff's Department have entered into a Memorandum of Understanding for transportation. The Sheriff's

Department will be responsible for the first trip to the center and transportation will occur within two hours of notification. These are same terms as girls secure in Washington County. All stakeholders are being notified to ensure a smooth transition. Everything is going as planned and staff look forward to a continuing good relationship with Lad Lake.

**Ordinance 170-O-017: Accept State Of Wisconsin Department Of Justice Juvenile Accountability Block Grant And Modify Waukesha County Department Of Health And Human Services' 2015 Budget To Authorize Grant Expenditures**

Slesar discussed this ordinance which authorizes the department to accept up to \$21,500 of Juvenile Accountability Block Grant funding from the State Department of Justice for 2015. The funding will pay for an amended contract with Carroll University to further evaluate the Adolescent & Family Services Division's data gathering system and service intervention methods. The grant includes a local match requirement of 10% from in-kind services to be performed by department staff in support of the Carroll University study. This will be absorbed within the department's existing 2015 budget. The grant results in no additional direct tax levy impact for 2015. Slesar explained the study further.

MOTION: Paulson moved, second by Walz to approve Ordinance 170-O-017. Motion carried 7-0.

**Review Potential Changes to the Aging & Disability Resource Center (ADRC) as Outlined in the Governor's Budget**

Page indicated currently, the ADRC is a one-stop center for the elderly and persons with disabilities which she explained in detail. Five staff members field phone calls (about 20,000 each year) and about seven to eight individuals walk into the division each day. Four benefit specialists find benefits for them, for which they are eligible, that they may not otherwise have been aware of. The ADRC also does short-term service coordination including home visits to perform functional screenings which determines eligibility for services and benefits. Smith and Page reviewed the various services which include transportation, meals, bathing, housekeeping, options counseling, etc. Also included in the ADRC is the Adult Protective Services Unit. The coordination within the ADRC works very well and staff work well to keep individuals safe in their homes which ultimately saves taxpayer dollars. Smith said the ADRC is able to maximize state funds (via contract) and capture Federal Medicaid dollars of which Waukesha County does very well. The State's benchmark is 28% and the County collects 42% to 44%. These funds allow for additional enhanced programs such as Dementia care, all evidence-based. Approximately \$600,000 of the ADRC contract dollars assist in other divisions in the department for indirect administrative support. An additional \$200,000 in contract dollars goes to the Department of Administration for indirect costs there.

Spaeth said she believes the governor's proposal will be removed from the budget or be modified. It is just wording at this point to allow for change in the future. Page advised the governor has proposed that the State Department of Health Services (DHS) remove the County's right of first refusal whereby the DHS could contract all or some of these services to one entity or several. All services are currently under one roof; it is a one-stop shop. Smith said they are also concerned this proposal would eliminate all local advisory boards and remove this oversight and local control. It also could remove local knowledge as to what services are available because, for example, anyone needing services would call an 800 number based in Waupaca. It could also remove the one-on-one contact they have with the individual. Page said having contact with the individuals right away

because of the local component has alleviated the need for some high-end services. Page is concerned people would start “falling through the cracks” and ultimately end up needing high-end services.

Zaborowski and Paulson spoke in opposition to the governor’s proposal. Paulson said keeping these individuals in their home with quality services offered by the ADRC is key because it saves taxpayer dollars. He spoke of problems that existed years ago when this was not a one-stop shop. Smith noted the ADRC is a national model and the State has received numerous awards. Brandtjen, also a state representative, said an alternate proposal could work well for those counties that do not have an ADRC and it may be necessary to maintain services due to increasing costs. She noted this is the largest part of the State budget and it was added to ensure services continue. It was never put into the governor’s budget as an elimination of the ADRC. Paulson encouraged fixing those ADRC’s in other counties that are not working but do not mess with this one because it works so well. Brandtjen said what if it could work better? Paulson said he sees bad things happening to our ADRC; not good things. To answer Yerke’s question, Page said the County pays \$2.5 million each year to the managed care organization so it is our belief we should have some say in the services. It is unknown if the County would have to continue paying that \$2.5 million but she believes we will. Robertson said it is important counties be involved in discussions/planning when it concerns the future of these programs. He said we need to be stewards for the taxpayers too. He noted they can always improve how they do things and they do this everyday: how they work with families, how they assess for needs, how they administer services, etc. Brandtjen said they will not embark on any program without having specific details and at this point, they have not been given enough details to feel comfortable voting for it.

MOTION: Brandtjen moved, second by Walz to adjourn at 1:55 p.m. Motion carried 7-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Janel Brandtjen  
Secretary