

**SUMMARY OF THE HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
BOARD/COMMITTEE
SPRING PUBLIC HEARING
APRIL 6, 2017**

Attendance and Introductions

County Executive Paul Farrow,
County Board Supervisor and Health and Human Services Board Chair Chuck Wood,
County Board Supervisors Duane Paulson, Christine Howard, Larry Nelson, William Zaborowski, Darlene Johnson, and David Swan
Health and Human Services Board Citizen Member Jeffrey Genner,
Health and Human Services Department Director Antwayne Robertson

County Board Supervisor Chuck Wood called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. He introduced himself as the new Health and Human Services Board Chair and thanked everyone for coming. This is an important evening as the County Board does their best to keep up with best practices and trends to work with the County Executive on budgets, and community needs.

County Executive Paul Farrow thanked everyone for coming out to share their concerns and advise as they look forward to the next budget cycle.

Below are summaries of each speaker's comments.

SPEAKER #1 Mary W, Wisconsin Community Services (WCS) serves as the Director of Waukesha and Jefferson Court Services and appreciates the opportunity to talk about important, cost effective programs. WCS advocates for justice in community safety, providing innovative opportunities for individuals to overcome their adversity. She is proud to be accompanied by several clients who have successfully completed WCS programs. She shared statistics from the program. In 2016, the WCS programs together saved 33,639 jail days. Participants in the Adult Community Service Option Program completed 23,703 community service hours at non-profit agencies throughout Waukesha County. The Juvenile Intensive Services Department includes the intensive tracking and home detention program, and on call support 24/7, 365 days per year, which totaled 179 hours of talking with juveniles and parents. The staff works on defusing conflict so juveniles to avoid placement in the Juvenile Center, which is very costly.

SPEAKER #2 Michelle spoke on behalf of **WCS**. She recently completed the Day Report Center (DRC) program and shared the story of her long battle with heroin, other drugs, and alcohol. She initially did not take the pre-trial WCS seriously, and SCRAM (Secure Continuous Remote Alcohol Monitor) was an option to jail. The SCRAM staff were very helpful. She was able to get and stay sober. She spent eight months last year incarcerated and the judge allowed her early release if she participated in the Day Reporting Program, which was phenomenal. They helped her set goals and a plan to stay sober. With the help of DRC she was able to become a sober, valued member of the community.

SPEAKER #3 **Shawn** related that on April 16, 2016 he was arrested for intoxication, incarcerated for 39 days, and started the pretrial WCS program. That helped him stay grounded. His daughter had been taken into foster care because of his mistakes. The Health and Human Services Department, Lutheran Social Services, and Intensive Outpatient Program (IOP) all did a great job collaborating his case. In about ten days, he will be celebrating one year of sobriety and owes it to these services. Shawn is grateful that the services were available for him in Waukesha County.

SPEAKER #4 **Dan** shared that about a year ago he graduated from the Alcohol Treatment Court (ATC) program, which was an incredible savior. It gave him the start he needed, after his third DUI. He understood that under the ATC he would be released early, which was a nice carrot, but there was so much more. They held him accountable, were encouraging, but not coddling. He is twenty-eight months sober and is now a sponsor, helping others. He spoke about the culture where alcohol is prevalent. This program is extremely important and we are fortunate to have it in our county. He hopes the program continues.

SPEAKER #5 **Joel** is with SOPHIA (Stewards of Prophetic, Hopeful, Intentional, Action), a local faith based organization in Waukesha County. They have been promoting CJCC (Criminal Justice Coordinating Council) programming in Waukesha County for quite some time. He praised the HHS Board for doing a good job last year with the budget. However, he believes more needs to be done, some at the county level and a larger amount at a state and federal level. Joel attended the Joint Finance Committee meeting, where SOPHIA and affiliated organizations asked that TAD (Treatment Alternatives and Diversion) grant funding be increased to \$15M per year and explained how they came up with that number. At the county level, he is asking for maintaining the cost to continue for existing programs and expand where possible. In addition, he asked that the county contact the state legislators to request increase the TAD grant budget.

SPEAKER #6 **Ted** is a member of Spring City Corner Clubhouse and Friendships Unlimited, a program to help those with mental illness. Without the program, he would not be the person who he is today. He is a former addict and an alcoholic, which was his way to cope with his mental illness. Through his membership and participation at Spring City Clubhouse, working on his treatment plan and through his faith, his life has made a 360 degree turn. He learned to interact and communicate with others, and now has his own place, and a job. He has gained respect in the community and is learning to respect himself. He is closer to his family. He is doing things today that he never thought he could.

SPEAKER #7 **Shari** is a member of Spring City Clubhouse since 2011. She is also a member of Friendships Unlimited since 2005. Shari suffers from Bipolar, Obsessive Compulsive Disorder, and Posttraumatic Stress Disorder. She enjoys the Clubhouse because she learns new skills, helps others, builds relationships, and works on different projects – all things that help build her self-esteem and her recovery. She has been involved in the self-esteem group, Assertive Group, and WRAP (Wellness Recovery Action Plan). Shari thanked the HHS Board for allowing her to share her story.

SPEAKER #8 **James** first went to Spring City Corner Clubhouse for a Health Fair he heard about at a NAMI (National Alliance on Mental Illness) support group. He first joined

Friendships and eventually joined Clubhouse. His life has changed as he learns new skills and works on life goals. He is a US Military Veteran with schizophrenia, which has made him 100% disabled. James is exploring the possibility of being an advocate for people with mental health challenges. Positive things have happened in his life because he sought help for his problems instead of giving up. At Spring City Corner Clubhouse, they all share the fact that with compassion to one another they can be a part of the greater community in which they live.

SPEAKER #9 Ken was going through a crisis in his life when he was directed to Spring City Corner Clubhouse. He was unemployed for months, was severely depressed, and contemplating harming himself. He was embraced and supported by the staff. They helped him obtain Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR) funding which he will utilize in furthering his education. Clubhouse is a safe haven where he feels welcomed, accepted, and cared for. The members are like family. He feels blessed to be a member of Spring City Corner Clubhouse.

SPEAKER #10 Diane is Director of Programs and Services at the Women's Center. She acknowledged the County's support of the Women's Center over the past years. Without that support, they could not do the work they do. Their mission is to provide safety, shelter and support to women, men, and children affected by domestic and sexual violence and child abuse. They do this through an array of free comprehensive services including the emergency shelter, 24/7 hotline, individual and group counseling, restraining orders, employment assistance and transitional living. 2016 was a year marked by high degrees of domestic violence homicides. Across the state of Wisconsin 84 people lost their lives to domestic violence homicide and 3 of those fatalities occurred in Waukesha County. She gave other examples of recent incidents of domestic violence in the County. In 2016 there were nearly 6,000 calls to the 24/7 hotline, from victims or family/friends, Waukesha Memorial Hospital's emergency room, and law enforcement. The Child Abuse Prevention program, and the Family Support Project, is a critical part of breaking the generational cycle of abuse. Diane gave examples of how the Women's Center helps victims become survivors. As the only agency in the county providing dedicated and trauma-informed shelter and supportive services free of charge to adult and child victims/survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault or abuse, the Women's Center respectfully urges the county to continue funding their core, life-saving programs. They have consistently been good stewards of the funds by helping families achieve positive outcomes, leading to a life free from violence and thus positively impacting our community at large.

SPEAKER #11 Mike spoke about problems in the political structure that does not allow the county to raise the resources necessary to meet the needs of the community. He is hopeful that the county will engage at the state level to get statutes changed so the county can raise the funds desperately needed. Waukesha County is one of the wealthiest counties in the nation with ample resources and should fund those in need. In a county like Waukesha, to have unmet needs in the community is a moral travesty.

SPEAKER #12 Carl spoke about moving from Cleveland, Ohio to Waukesha County several years ago and finding a high quality of life and friendly, caring people. Waukesha County is a great place to raise a family and work. He has learned that HHS plays a big role in fostering that caring community. The Department's commitment to the CHIPP (Community Health Improvement Plan and Process) process is one example. Many good programs were piloted as

part of this countywide health assessment and many of those now must compete for limited funding. If Wisconsin had adopted Medicaid expansion, our state would save \$200M per year. Imagine what the county could do if it could invest another \$10 to \$15M additional dollars into the community into proven programs such as the Drug and Alcohol Treatment Courts, working hand-in-hand with mental health services. Yesterday, Carl testified at the budget hearing that it is time to say 'yes' to Medicaid expansion, knowing full well how little impact his testimony may make. Without rank and file members of all political parties coming together on this issue, nothing will change. In conclusion, he asked each HHS Board and Committee member to examine the facts in their own hearts and work within their circles to get this groundless objection to Medicaid expansion reversed.

SPEAKER #13 Unnamed women thanked the Spring City Clubhouse for giving her son a place to go to share and have reliable friends, along with good counseling. It has made a wonderful difference in his life.

SPEAKER #14 Jim spoke about his son with schizophrenia and an incident in 2013. Jim attempted to get his son admitted into the Mental Health Hospital at the time and was refused. Because of not admitting his son, there was a terrible event with a lot of media coverage, and his son is now in Mendota for the rest of his life. It did not have to be the case. This rests on everyone's shoulders – everyone in the state. Jim requests more funding for mental health services. He also requests those in attendance to contact their state legislators to get something done so people are not being refused mental health services.

Summary and Closing

Chair Chuck Wood thanked everyone for attending and requested attendees to complete the provided survey.

Meeting adjourned 7:54 p.m.