

MONROE COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

Meeting of September 20th, 2012

Community Services Center, Sparta, Wisconsin

BOARD PRESENT:

Carol Las, Chairperson
Craig Buswell, Vice Chairperson
David Pierce
James Rice
James Shilling

BOARD ABSENT:

Christopher King, Secretary
Susanne Peck (excused)
Robert Retzlaff

STAFF PRESENT:

Linda Lazer, Director
Ron Hamilton, Social Work Suprv.
Cathy Abbott, Admin. Services Coord.

GUESTS:

Joanne Bennett, MCDHS Business
Amy Haldeman, MCDHS Business
Laura Bieniek, MCDHS Unit Secretary
Lisa Jutton, MCDHS Unit Secretary

Call to Order: Chairperson Carol Las called the meeting to order at 8:41 a.m.

Employee Recognition: Four employees were recognized for their years of employment with Human Services, e.g., Joanne Bennett and Amy Haldeman, both from the Business Unit with 35 and 20 years employment respectively, and Laura Bieniek and Lisa Jutton, both from the Clerical Support unit with 15 years employment each.

Approval of Open Meeting Minutes for August 16th, 2012: Following brief review, A MOTION WAS MADE BY DAVID PIERCE, SECONDED BY JAMES SHILLING, AND CARRIED WITH ALL IN FAVOR to approve the minutes from the regular open and annual public budget meetings from August 16th, 2012 as printed.

Human Services Board Orientation:

September is National Addiction Recovery Month: Ms. Lazer stated that the month of September has been recognized as National Recovery Month for both mental health and substance abuse recovery. An informational summary about the purpose of the recognition was provided along with a proclamation for consideration of the County Board Chair to authorize. A brief discussion occurred regarding considerations for those with mental health and/or substance abuse issues to achieve recovery. After denoting a need to modify how the recognition was listed on the agenda, A MOTION WAS MADE BY JAMES SHILLING, SECONDED BY DAVID PIERCE, AND CARRIED WITH ALL IN FAVOR to amend the recognition noted on the agenda to designate September as "National Addiction Recovery Month" rather than "Alcohol and Drug Addiction" Recovery Month.

Review of Board Composition and Duties: Ms. Lazer shared an excerpt from the Administrative Committee pamphlet that addressed the composition and duties of the Human Services Board. In addition, she presented a section from the Wisconsin Statutes Chapter 46.23 that provided detail about the duties of the Human Services Board in counties with a County Administrator. Following discussion and suggestions for modification of the purpose and duty description, A MOTION WAS MADE BY CRAIG BUSWELL, SECONDED BY DAVID PIERCE, AND CARRIED WITH ALL IN FAVOR to amend the County Ordinance on the Human Services Board Composition and Duties and forward the suggestions to the County Administrator for review with the Administrative Committee.

Staff/Director Oral Reports:

Director's Update: Ms. Lazer informed Board members that the discussion about the five-year plan for the building needed to be delayed until the October meeting since the Building Manager, Garry Spohn was not available to attend this meeting. She also announced that for the first time in twenty years, there is no one placed at Trempealeau County Health Care Center. In addition, recognition was made that three high cost clients will be moving onto Crisis Recovery funding and child placement costs are declining. These reductions will reduce overall placement costs. Board members were encouraged in making the community more aware of available resources through the Aging and Disability Resource Center to avoid crisis situations. The Mental Health Collaborative pilot project will begin meetings in October.

Aging and Disability Resource Center and Behavioral Health Units: Ms. Rettler was not present to report on the Aging and Disability Resource Center (ADRC) and Behavioral Health services. The quarterly meeting of the ADRC is scheduled for October 2nd.

Children and Family Services Unit: Ron Hamilton highlighted the results of an elongated appeal process on a Kinship Program case that has recently been finalized. He shared concerns about increasing challenges in placing children out-of-home due to more involved legal and mental health concerns.

Western Region for Economic Assistance Consortium: Ms. Lazer discussed concerns over long wait times for phone calls, a backlog in processing work due to being short staffed, the assistance received from Milwaukee County and hiring of temporary staff to fill vacancies. Additionally, she discussed the meeting with Secretary Eloise Anderson regarding the request for a pilot project for child care within the Income Maintenance Consortium.

Board Member Reports/Discussion:

Oral Report on Aging and Disability Resource Center of Western Wisconsin Advisory Committee Meeting: James Rice reported that the Aging and Disability Resource Centers of Western Wisconsin Advisory Committee will next meet on October 2nd in Vernon County. Copies of this Committee's minutes will be included in the Board members' books.

Oral Report on Mississippi Valley Health Services Board Meeting: Carol Las indicated no meetings of the Mississippi Valley Health Services Board have been held since August 15th. No future meeting date is scheduled. She noted that the Monroe County population at Lakeview Health Care Center is down to six residents, the lowest in several years.

Oral Report on Western Wisconsin Cares (WWC) Meeting: James Shilling indicated there was a meeting held on August 28th. Meeting discussions occurred about the hiring of 53 additional staff to deal with the increase in enrolled consumers, the potential for adding four additional counties with higher cost service providers, development of a request for proposal and business plan for the eight-county agency, and ongoing work with the Western Region for Economic Assistance (WREA) in processing Medical Assistance applications. The next meeting is planned for September 25th.

Policy/Operational Items:

Drug Court Observation Policy Update: Ms. Lazer shared a copy of the Drug Court Observation Policy indicating that since there is no longer a Drug Court Program in Monroe County, the policy should be eliminated from the agency's roster of policies. A recommendation was made to have this policy reviewed by the Public Justice Committee to determine whether the policy would need to be retained or changed. Board members asked for additional information concerning the Operating While Intoxicated (OWI) Treatment Court at a future meeting.

Fiscal Reports:

Monthly Financial Report: Linda Lazer presented the July 2012 profit loss report that indicated a small surplus of \$21,696 or 0.5% of the budget. Ms. Lazer stated that this report is skewed as some of the larger expenses were not submitted prior to running this report and the budget is projected at a deficit of approximately (-\$60,000). She also indicated the budget deficit has been on a reducing trend over the past several months and that this year could end balanced. A discussion occurred regarding the usefulness of the cash flow report; it was determined to discontinue this report.

Review and Approval of Payment of Agency's Monthly Vouchers: Following the Board members' individually reviewing last month's vouchers, A MOTION WAS MADE BY DAVID PIERCE, SECONDED BY CRAIG BUSWELL, CARRIED WITH ALL IN FAVOR to approve payment of the monthly vouchers for August.

Date of Next Meeting/Agenda Topics/Location: The next regular monthly meeting is scheduled for Thursday, October 18th at 8:30 a.m. and will be held at the Community Services Center in Sparta.

Adjournment (approximately 10:30 a.m.): With no further topics for discussion, this meeting adjourned after A MOTION WAS MADE BY JAMES SHILLING, SECONDED BY CRAIG BUSWELL, AND CARRIED WITH ALL IN FAVOR. The meeting adjourned at 10:25 a.m.

Respectfully submitted:



Cathy L. Abbott

Administrative Services Coordinator