

MONROE COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
Meeting of November 15th, 2012
Community Services Center, Sparta, Wisconsin

BOARD PRESENT:

Carol Las, Chairperson
Craig Buswell, Vice Chairperson
Christopher King, Secretary
David Pierce
Robert Retzlaff

STAFF PRESENT:

Linda Lazer, Director
Susan Rettler, Clinic Administrator
Ron Hamilton, Social Work Supervisor
Patricia Lembitz, Business Administrator
Cathy Abbott, Admin. Services Coord.

BOARD ABSENT:

Susanne Peck (excused)
James Rice
James Shilling (excused)

GUESTS:

Tammy Stenslien, MCDHS Social Worker
Garry Spohn, Monroe Cty. Building Mgr.

Call to Order: Chairperson Carol Las called the meeting to order at 8:38 a.m. with a quorum of Board members present at 8:47 a.m.

Recognition: Tammy Stenslien, a Social Worker with the Children and Family Services unit, was present to be recognized for twenty-five years of employment with the Department.

Approval of Open Meeting Minutes for October 18th, 2012: Following brief review, A MOTION WAS MADE BY ROBERT RETZLAFF, SECONDED BY DAVID PIERCE, AND CARRIED WITH ALL IN FAVOR to approve the minutes from the regular open meeting of October 18th, 2012 as printed.

Public Comment Period: No one was present for public comment at this time.

Invited Guest re: Discussion about Building Maintenance, Safety Factors, and Weapon

Signage: Garry Spohn, Monroe County Building Manager, was invited to this meeting to participate in a discussion about the maintenance and safety factors of Community Services Building A, as well as the potential for weapon signage on the building. A lengthy discussion occurred about the soundness of the building structure, the status and need for specific repairs including heating, air, plumbing, lighting, and electrical systems, safety factors including fire safety and weapon signage, and overall planning for building repairs and upkeep.

Mr. Spohn addressed questions from Board members and provided his observations about the building's condition and safety factors, as well as informed members about the history for how signage has been affixed to other County buildings. Specifically with regard to the weapons signage, he suggested that the Human Services forward their request to the Property and Purchasing Committee to move forward to pay for and install the signs. He indicated that he would need to know the number of signs and the suggested locations for placement.

Human Services Board Orientation: No items were presented at this meeting.

Staff/Director Oral Reports:

Director's Update: Ms. Lazer shared an informational sheet with Board members on the Western Region Integrated Care (WRIC) Collaboration, a group representing Jackson, La Crosse, and Monroe Counties, working on effective and recovery based mental health and substance abuse services. As a three county project working on 32 core services, this collaborative group of Directors and key administrative staff are meeting regularly to look at the feasibility of strengthening and/or blending services among the three counties.

Ms. Lazer also updated members on planning for the Western Region for Economic Assistance (WREA) with regard to the State denial of the additional funding, the proposed utilization of Milwaukee Economic Support staff to assist with the work backlog, and the effectiveness of continuing to use of the Central Document Processing Center. Locally, Ms. Lazer explained that WREA would be looking at the potential for including additional funding, such as Wisconsin Heat and Energy Assistance Program (WHEAP) and Food Share Employment and Training Program, that could utilize the current WREA Economic Support staff within the Consortium.

She also explained that County Directors would continue to work on funding through the Wisconsin County Human Services Association (WCHSA) for the upcoming budget years 2014-2015. Carol Las has volunteered to represent Monroe County as a Board member at future WCHSA meetings.

Ms. Lazer explained the State has awarded a contract to a second managed care organization, Care Wisconsin, in addition to Western Wisconsin Cares (WWC.) This group already works in southern Wisconsin counties and is looking to expand in our area. Counties involved currently in WWC are curious about the impact that introduction of another service provider might have on consumers, available staff, and funding for services.

Ms. Lazer shared a graph indicating a significant decrease to the indirect cost rate for Human Services. She further explained the impact on external funding coming into the agency, as well as the agency's fee schedule charged for case management. She explained how the rate is achieved, the reason for the decrease, and the direct impact on agency revenues. She also noted other revenue sources where funding cuts impacted the budget this year and next year.

Board members were also informed about a request from the Justice Committee to reconsider psychiatric testimony billings in a recommitment court hearing.

Aging and Disability Resource Center and Behavioral Health Units: Comments on this agenda topic were discussed above under other topics.

Children and Family Services Unit: No specific issues were discussed under this agenda item.

Western Region for Economic Assistance Consortium: Information was included on this item under the Director's update above.

Board Member Reports/Discussion:

Oral Report on Aging and Disability Resource Center of Western Wisconsin Advisory Committee Meeting: The next meeting of the Aging and Disability Resource Center Advisory Committee is set for December 11th with Monroe County hosting the meeting at this building.

Oral Report on Mississippi Valley Health Services Board Meeting: Ms. Lazer reported that at a recent meeting of County Directors, the WIPFLI consultants had presented results from a survey conducted with County Directors about the future use of the Lakeview Health Care Center. The largest gap in services was identified as the area of juvenile mental health services.

Oral Report on Western Wisconsin Cares (WWC) Meeting: Discussion about this topic was included in previous discussion above.

Policy/Operational Items:

Policy/Operational Items – Recommendation to Eliminate Three Policies: Ms. Lazer addressed three policies that are being recommended for elimination as the policies were no longer necessary, i.e., Assuring the Health, Safety, and Welfare of Long-Term Support Participants, Adult Foster Home and CBRF Rate Setting, and Drug Court Observation Policies. Following brief review, A MOTION MADE BY CRAIG BUSWELL, SECONDED BY ROBERT RETZLAFF, AND CARRIED WITH ALL IN FAVOR to approve elimination of the three policies noted above.

Fiscal Reports:

Monthly Financial Report: Patricia Lembitz presented the profit loss report indicating the department's budget through September 2012 was running at a deficit and highlighted specific areas of concern.

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

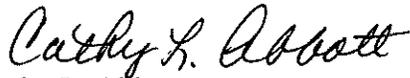
Date of Next Meeting/Agenda Topics/Location: The next regular monthly meeting is scheduled for Thursday, December 20th at 8:30 a.m. and will be held at the Community Services Center in Sparta in room 443-444.

Prior to adjourning the meeting, Board members were informed about the informational sheet reflecting information about November being recognized as Adoption Month. Also referenced

was the number of children from Monroe County that had been adopted from foster care placements, noting ten adoptions completed from 2011 to the present plus one more is expected prior to the end of this year. Mr. Hamilton noted that following a recent training where local judges and social workers were present, increased adoptions for child permanence will receive a higher priority than in the past.

Adjournment (approximately 10:30 a.m.): With no further topics for discussion, this meeting adjourned after A MOTION WAS MADE BY ROBERT RETZLAFF, SECONDED BY CRAIG BUSWELL, AND CARRIED WITH ALL IN FAVOR. The meeting adjourned at 10:49 a.m.

Respectfully submitted:



Cathy L. Abbott
Administrative Services Coordinator