

**Ashland County Health & Human Services Board Meeting**

**Zoom**

**February 16, 2022 4:15 p.m.**

**Members Present:** Clarence Campbell, Matthew Horning, Laura Kruse, Richard Huber, Matt MacKenzie, Dr. Koeller, Laura Nagro

**Excused:**

**Unexcused:** Charlie Ortman, William Metzinger

**Others:** Terry Barningham, Dan Grady, Peter Herlevi, Kelly Maday, Laura Compton, Melanie Connors, Liz Szot, Jerry Esala, Scott Griffiths, Emily Hanson, Val Levno

Jake Levings, Ryan Bybee, Joy Schelble, Doreen Maday, Presley Nuutinen, George Bussey, Doug Liphart, SPARK Student

**CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order by C. Campbell at 4:17 p.m.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

The minutes of the November 2021 Board Meeting were reviewed.

**Dr. Koeller made a motion to approve the November 2021 minutes. Seconded by Dr. Horning. Motion carried.**

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Jake Levings, Middle School Principal; Ryan Bybee, School Resource Officer, Joy Schelble, Parent and Educator; Doreen Maday, Home School Coordinator; SPARK Participant – all spoke in support of the SPARK Program.

**BFI AND YOUTH JUSTICE GRANT UPDATES**

Scott Griffiths showed a power point while summarizing the SPARK Program from its inception. Scott reviewed statistics, guidelines and agreements of the program. A discussion was had regarding the need to decrease risk within the activities of the program.

**L. Nagro made a motion to suspend the rules and allow Doug Liphart to speak. Seconded by L. Kruse. Motion carried.**

D. Liphart spoke on behalf of Scott Griffiths and the way the SPARK Program is ran.

**AGING UNIT ISSUES**

T. Barningham reported that there have been some staffing issues with the Aging Unit and it almost got turned over to be under Health & Human Services supervision without much notice. Instead, Laura Nagro has been hired as the Aging Unit Director and has been working to get everything back on track.

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### RE-APPOINTMENT OF COMMUNITY REPRESENTATIVES TO HHSD BOARD

Dr. Horning's and Laura Kruse's terms expire in March; both have agreed to stay on the Board.

**M. MacKenzie made a motion to support the re-appointment of Dr. Horning and Laura Kruse to the HHS Board. Seconded by L. Nagro. Motion carried and will move to Dan Grady for approval.**

### 2021 YEAR-TO-DATE EXPENDITURES/EOY PREDICTION

P. Herlevi reported that this year the Health & Human Services Department looks to be coming in under the levy budget, due to ARPA Funding and Covid-19 monies.

### COVID-19 AND PUBLIC HEALTH UPDATES

L. Szot reported that Ashland County is currently in the high level of community transmission. The Covid-19 positive activity level seems to have peaked and is now decreasing. Public Health is still having walk-in vaccination clinics every three weeks, with the next one occurring on February 22. The first vaccines given out by Public Health were in January of 2021; to date the Department has given out a total of 4,376 doses. The current vaccination rate of age eligible residents is 71%, which is considered "herd immunity".

Liz also reported that they are working on getting the Lead Safe Homes Program back up and running, as it was put on hold during the pandemic; and they are also looking at rolling over to electronic health records, as there is more than likely a grant that will fund the changeover.

### ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH UPDATED PROCESS AND FEES

The Public Health Department does not currently have a Registered Sanitarian, though they are in the process of setting up interviews with some viable candidates. Liz is proposing to increase the annual licensing fee for county businesses. The current fees have been the same for over 10 years; Ashland County fees are among the lowest in the State; and the program is no longer self-sufficient. Ashland County is in a consortium with Sawyer County, and the proposed fees would be consistent with Sawyer County's fee schedule. The State also keeps a portion of the fees collected – they currently get 10%, but with the new contract, that amount will be increasing over the next couple of years.

**M. MacKenzie made a motion to approve the new fee schedule and send it to the full County Board, with a notice of public hearing before the full County Board votes on it. Seconded by L. Nagro. Motion carried.**

### UNIT REPORTS

Each unit supervisor updated the Board with current events/issues that are occurring in their prospective departments.

### STAFFING UPDATES

- Melissa Burns has started as a paid intern for the Children & Families Unit.
- Miranda Provost has left the CCS Program and was replaced by Brittny White.

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- Shelby Eckland has given her resignation from CSP, the hiring process for her replacement is ongoing.
- Joan Weber from Child Support is retiring in May.
- Liz Kallio, the Mental Health Professional for the CCS Program, has left and there have been no applicants for the open position.
- There are currently several interns working in both the Sanborn and downtown buildings.
- Interviews for the Registered Sanitarian are being held at the end of the week.

### **CCS WORKER SHORTAGE ISSUES**

It was requested prior to budgeting that the Service Facilitators for the CCS Program get a raise, but that was not passed by the Executive Committee. For each Service Facilitator to get a \$1 an hour raise, it would cost the County less than \$4,000 because most of the increased cost would be covered by Medicaid. Dan Grady asked Terry B. to put together a request for the increase with justification, and he will bring it to the Executive Board in March.

### **SUBSIDIZED GUARDIANSHIP BILL**

A bill was passed requiring the State to pay all subsidized guardianship placements. These are placements for youth with a family member of "like-kin" who is licensed as a foster home. These payments were previously made by the counties.

### **HHSD GRANTS**

T. Barningham reviewed an informational sheet that included all of the grants that have been brought into the agency. She wanted to give a shout out to all the managers who worked hard to seek out and get approval for the extra money they bring in – close to \$1 million.

### **WRITTEN MATERIALS**

The following written materials were provided to the Board. Please contact T. Barningham if additional information is desired or follow up at a Board meeting requested.

- Children in Substitute Care
- Income Maintenance Consortia Performance Snapshot
- WHEAP Benefit Summary
- IM Telework Survey Summary
- Northern Regional Crisis Grant Semi-Annual Report
- WCHSA Meeting Packet

### **BOARD MEMBER UPDATES/AGENDA ITEMS**

M. MacKenzie stated that the Board members will likely change after the April election, so he wanted to make sure there weren't any work items left hanging that should be taken care of. It was believed that there is nothing to tie up.

### **OTHER BUSINESS**

None

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**ADJOURNMENT**

**Dr. Horning made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by L. Kruse. Motion carried and the meeting was adjourned at 6:44 p.m.**

**NEXT MEETING DATE**

April 20, 2022 at 4:15 pm at TBD

Recorded by Emily Hanson