

**Ashland County Health & Human Services Board Meeting
Sanborn Center
March 13, 2019 4:15 p.m.**

Members Present: Clarence Campbell, Matthew Horning, Joan Haukaas, Joyce Kabasa, Matt MacKenzie, Ron Lockwood, Ken Wheeler, Dr. Koeller

Excused: Charles Ortman, Laura Kruse, Bill Metzinger

Unexcused: None

Others: Terry Barningham, Jeff Beirl, Peter Herlevi, Cyndi Zach, Jenni McBain, Kelly Maday, Laura Compton, Dar Neff, Mike Cashman, Emily Hanson

CALL TO ORDER

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

J. Kabasa made a motion to move items #6 and #15 on the agenda to be discussed after item #3. Seconded by M. MacKenzie. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of the November 2018 Board Meeting were reviewed.

Dr. Koeller made a motion to approve the November 2018 minutes. Seconded by J. Kabasa. Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

BRIGHTER FUTURES INITIATIVES GRANT

Mike Cashman discussed the packet he provided regarding the objectives, outcomes and strategies of the Brighter Futures Initiatives Grant.

COMPREHENSIVE COMMUNITY SERVICES

T. Barningham summarized the CCS program issues the County has been having with New Horizons North (NHN). She reported that an agreement couldn't be made regarding the 2019 contract, as NHN wanted 100% of the State interim rate, which is just an average rate for the State as a whole. Generally, rural areas are much less expensive than metro areas such as Dane County and Milwaukee County. NHN's costs averaged about 78-85% of the State Interim rate and there was no justification given for the requested 100% other than it would increase cash flow and allow NHN to build a 5% profit/reserve. NHN's costs rose dramatically in a short period of time, but the services provided did not increase corresponding to costs, and NHN could not give a reasonable explanation of why their costs had risen. NHN sent a letter with an ultimatum to both Counties that they be allowed to bill at 95% of the interim rate or the Counties should consider this their 30-day notice to cease services as of March 2nd 2019. Because of the notice given by NHN to cease services, arrangements were initiated to take the CCS Program in-house. NHN then reached out to the Counties and wanted to renegotiate. Bayfield and Ashland Counties met with the NHN Board and expressed multiple concerns, and NHN agreed to make all of the changes that the Counties have been requesting for over a year, along with some newer changes the Counties

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thought needed to be implemented. There is now an agreement to stay with NHN until April 30, 2019 at which time the counties will reassess the partnership. Terry explained that the letter that was written for the paper by a participant in the CCS Program was sent to her prior to publication and Terry responded immediately and corrected all the inaccuracies of the letter, but the writer chose to publish it without any corrections.

PUBLIC HEALTH PRESENTATION/ORIENTATION

C. Zach gave a video presentation regarding the duties and the staff of the Public Health Department.

STAFFING UPDATES

- Darlene Neff is retiring from the Child Support Unit as of April 2019; Kelly Maday will be the new Supervisor of that unit and is currently shadowing Dar.
- Amy Picchietti has been promoted to Lead Worker with the NIMC.
- Liz Szot is back from maternity leave making the Public Health Department fully staffed.
- Heather List is the new ADRC Director; the ADRC is still looking for a Dementia Care Specialist.
- Kerrie Ferrando has been hired to help Griff Nordling and the Children's Unit with legal paperwork.
- Tammy McPherson, Public Health Nurse, was hired in November to replace Becki Nelles.
- Breanna Deragon and Valerie Dietrich have been hired to work with children in Youth Justice programs.
- Jill Bucholz, Child Support, will be leaving on March 20, 2019.
- Tami Tolliver will be resigning as of April 9, 2019.
- Two Child Support positions will need to be filled, which may have a trickle-down effect within the agency.

J. Beirl explained that the Aging Unit Board has terminated their Director. The County may take over the Aging Unit, but Jeff would like to see it kept separate for funding reasons.

YOUTH JUSTICE INNOVATIONS GRANT

J. McBain updated the Board on the Youth Justice Innovations Grant. She stated that they are working on the "Youth Wellness Center" which is a program where youths will be court ordered to be involved in activities that will be held at the Bretting Community Center.

CHIPS/LEGAL SERVICES GRANT

J. McBain explained how Kerrie Ferrando is helping the Children's Unit social workers with legal documents that need to be filed for permanency of children that are placed in out-of-home care.

STAFF DEVELOPMENT DAY(S) – TRAUMA INFORMED CARE

T. Barningham stated that the agency received a grant for Trauma Informed Care training and offered 4 training dates for free for local service providers.

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2018 YEAR-TO-DATE EXPENDITURES/EOY PREDICTION

P. Herlevi reported that through December, the Children & Families and the Adult Units were both over budget. As in previous years, this overage is due to out-of-home care costs. The C&F Unit is less over budget than they were last year. All other units were at or below their budgets.

T. Barningham reported that there is an additional \$15 million in the Governor's Budget for Children and Family Aids, though WCHSA is asking for \$30 million.

FACE-TO-FACE CONTACTS

J. McBain summarized the letter from the State that was included in the board packet commending her unit for their 88.08% increase in completing and documenting caseworker contacts for children in out-of-home care.

ADRC UPDATES

L. Compton reported that Heather List is the new ADRC Director in our area. The ADRC is still in search of a new Dementia Care Specialist. As reported in previous meetings, the reallocation of ADRC funds is still being worked on.

BUILDING REMODEL

T. Barningham reported that the contractors are on their last phase of the remodeling project, which is actually two weeks ahead of schedule. The final moves are planned for March 28.

TEXT MESSAGING POLICY

T. Barningham explained that many of our clients have phones with few minutes available to them but unlimited texting. Therefore, we would like to put a texting policy in place to provide security to our clients and staff. The policy was reviewed.

Dr. Horning made a motion to approve the Text Message Policy as written. Seconded by M. MacKenzie. Motion carried.

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
- Children & Family Access Statistics
- Income Maintenance Consortia Performance Snapshot
- Adult Inpatient Costs
- Potential Savings from MH Crisis Diversions
- WHEAP Updates
- WI Counties Association's Standpoint on Birth-to-Three Funding
- WI Counties Association's Standpoint on Children and Family Aids Allocation Increase
- WI Counties Association's Standpoint on Income Maintenance Administration Allocation
- Caseload Standards for Child Protective Services

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- Wisconsin Children's Long-Term Support Council
- Position Paper on Standardization of BH Case Management Rates
- DCF Update for WCHSA Executive Board – 2/7/19
- DHS Update for WCHSA Executive Board – 2/7/19

BOARD MEMBER UPDATES/AGENDA ITEMS

J. Beirl reported that the Governor is pushing for 17 year olds to go back into the juvenile system. This would pertain to first time non-violent offenders only, so that would be a very small number of youths which would only amount to minimal costs to the County.

OTHER BUSINESS

None

APPROVAL OF BILLS

<p>Dr. Koeller made a motion to approve the bills presented. Seconded by J. Kabasa. Motion carried.</p>
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NEXT MEETING DATE

April 17, 2019 at 4:15 pm: Sanborn Center

The meeting adjourned at 5:27 p.m.

Recorded by Emily Hanson