

**Ashland County Health & Human Services Board Meeting
Community Service Programs
September 17, 2019 4:15 p.m.**

Members Present: Clarence Campbell, Dr. Matthew Horning, Laura Kruse, Joyce Kabasa, Matt MacKenzie, Charles Ortman, Dr. A.A. Koeller, Bill Metzinger, Joan Haukaas, Laura Nagro

Excused: Ron Lockwood

Unexcused: None

Others: Terry Barningham, Peter Herlevi, Clark Schroeder, Laura Compton, Jenni McBain, Val Levno, Scott Griffiths, Emily Hanson

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by C. Campbell at 4:15 p.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of the June 2019 Board Meeting were reviewed.

Dr. Koeller made a motion to approve the June 2019 minutes. Seconded by J. Kabasa. Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

STAFFING UPDATES

- Pam Stadler and Debbie Bertelson retired on 8/1/2019. Natalie Rooni started in the Fiscal Unit on 9/13/2019.
- Tami Tolliver has resigned as the Economic Support Unit Supervisor. Melanie Connors, a seasoned ES worker and long-time employee, has taken over the position.
- Cyndi Zach has given her resignation effective 1/3/2020.
- Ron Lockwood has resigned from the Board, as he has moved to Hudson, WI.
- Clark Schroeder is the new County Administrator – he was introduced to the Board.

CY2020 BUDGET REVIEW & APPROVAL

P. Herlevi reviewed the budget proposal in the board packet:

- The budget is normally created in close consultation with the County Administrator, but because he just started that was unable to happen. There may be changes to what we have proposed.
- The total county request from the levy is approximately the same as last year.
- With the Community Service Programs being their own HHS Unit, their costs will be less.
- The Child Support Unit has retired two long time employees, resulting in a decrease in their budget.
- The Children & Families Unit, and the Adult Unit, are both going to receive extra State funding in 2020.

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J. Kabasa made a motion to approve the 2020 ACHHSD Budget as presented and send it to the County Administrator, who will then send it to the Finance Committee for approval. Seconded by C. Ortman. M. MacKenzie abstained. Motion carried.

2019 YEAR TO DATE EXPENDITURES

- The board packet financial report represents expenditures and earned revenue through July 2019 (60% through the year).
- Overall year to date expenditures and earned revenue is at 48% of the annual budget, with levy spending at 28% of the annual levy budget.
 - Vendor invoices are generally paid the month following the month of service. There have been some delays in billing crisis interventions.
 - Levy spending is “back-loaded” in any given year, as available grant and program funding is spent first.
 - Out-of-Home care in the Children & Families Unit is going better than expected so far, though the Adult Unit costs are currently increasing.
 - The Community Services Programs are 100% state funded.
 - Considering these items, year to date spending appears to be in line with the 2019 budget.

CCS/CSP TRANSITION UPDATE

Val Levno reported that the programs are currently contracted with 8 agencies and are in the process of contracting with another 5. There are currently 46 individual providers who assist clients in their home, in the community, with medications, finding employment, therapy, etc. There are 74 total clients, with 14 admissions since August, and 5 more referrals being processed.

J. Kabasa asked about the homeless people that are currently “living” in the pavilion at the park behind the Bretting Center. It was reported that this issue is going to be brought up at the next City Council Meeting. L. Compton discussed the Adult Unit’s interaction with the homeless individuals; they have been contacted and offered services, but it is ultimately their right to refuse those services and none of them have requested help.

BRIGHTER FUTURES/YOUTH JUSTICE GRANT UPDATES

Scott Griffiths reported that throughout the 8 weeks of the BFI’s summer program, there were an average of 16-18 youth per day involved. The program has outgrown the Bretting Center, so they are now looking at the Presbyterian Church on Vaughn Avenue to rent. It was discussed that they are trying to intertwine both grants; they are trying to get the kids that are involved with Youth Justice involved in the SPARK program. There is progress being made regarding starting an after school program down county – Butternut, Glidden and Mellen. It was reported that a Youth Advisory Committee is going to be started. M. MacKenzie thanked Scott and his staff for doing such a great job with what started as a small idea.

WHEAP FINAL REPORT FOR 2018

T. Barningham reported that the current WHEAP season is coming to a close, and the new season starts on October 1. All the available funds for WHEAP (outreach, benefit, crisis, etc.)

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have been utilized. 880 residents applied for energy assistance from October 2018 to May 2019; of the 880 household who applied 836 received a benefit. Total benefits paid out for the heating season was \$579,919. 38 households received furnace repairs from the Ashland County Weatherization Program, and 14 furnaces were replaced.

UNFORESEEN COSTS OF CHILD WELFARE (VIDEO)

V. Levno played a video summarizing the unforeseen costs of child welfare.

BOARD MEMBER RECRUITMENT

Ron Lockwood has resigned from the Board, as he has moved to Hudson to be closer to his son. There is currently an ad in the paper advertising the vacancy. We will accept applications until we find a qualified member. Laura Nagro was welcomed, as she is a new board member and this is her first meeting.

FORENSIC INTERVIEW ROOM GRANT

J. McBain explained that they have struggled for over 5 years looking for a nice/comfortable place where forensic interviews can take place. Children are not comfortable having to go to the jail for this type of meeting. Ashland County received a \$6,000 grant to fund the items to develop a great space, which will be located in the Community Support Programs building.

2020 PROPOSED MEETING DATES

A list of potential meeting dates was in all Board packets; it was reviewed and accepted.

EBD MEDICALLY NEEDY INCOME LIMIT INCREASE

The Elderly, Blind and Disabled medically needy income limit has been \$591.67 for many, many years; an increased limit has finally been approved. The new limit is \$1040.83, which will help many individuals qualify for increased care.

CHILD CARE CERTIFICATION – DCF ADMIN. RULE 202

T. Barningham reported that the State is make some rule changes for DCF Admin. Rule 202 so that is more desirable to be a licensed childcare provider. Ashland County currently has 24 – 27 daycares.

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 Performance Snapshot
- Adult Inpatient Costs
- WCHSA Executive Board Meeting Minutes – August
- DCF Update for WCHSA Executive Board – 9/5/19
- DHS Update for WCHSA Executive Board – 9/5/19

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BOARD MEMBER UPDATES/AGENDA ITEMS

None.

OTHER BUSINESS

M. MacKenzie asked if there was a sharps container to dispose of needles at the park behind the Bretting Center where the homeless people are staying. L. Compton stated that there is one at the Bretting Center, but she will talk with Public Works to see if there can be a secure one placed closer to the park.

APPROVAL OF BILLS

<p>Dr. Koeller made a motion to approve the bills presented. Seconded by L. Kruse. Motion carried.</p>

NEXT MEETING DATE

November 20, 2019 at 4:15 pm: Sanborn Center

The meeting adjourned at 5:54 p.m.

Respectfully recorded by Emily Hanson.