

**Ashland County Health & Human Services Board Meeting
September 20, 2023 at 4:15 p.m.**

Members Present: Clarence Campbell, Dr. Matthew Horning, Laura Kruse, Laura Nagro, Dr. A.A. Koeller, George Bussey, Richard Huber, Matt MacKenzie, Joy Hinrichsen

Members Absent: None

Others: Terry Barningham, Amber Erickson, Elizabeth Szot, Tasha McFadden, Amy Picchietti, Valerie Levno, Jerry Esala, Scott Griffiths, Kelly Maday, Dan Grady, Lisa Bradley

CALL TO ORDER

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

ROLL CALL TAKEN

Clarence Campbell – here
Dr. Horning – here
Laura Kruse – here
Laura Nagro – no response (joined later via Zoom at 4:19 PM)
Dr. Koeller – here
George Bussey – here
Richard Huber – here
Matt MacKenzie – here
Joy Hinrichsen – here

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of the June 21, 2023 Board Meeting & Annual Public Hearing were reviewed.

<p>Laura Kruse made a motion to approve the June 2023 minutes. Seconded by Dr. Koeller. Motion carried.</p>
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PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

2023 YEAR-TO-DATE EXPENDITURES

A. Erickson reviewed the financial report in the meeting packet that represents expenditures and earned revenue through first half of the year. A. Erickson reported that overall year to date expenditures and earned revenue is at 52% of the annual budget compared to last year at 53%.

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PLACEMENT COSTS

T. Barningham reviewed the handout in the meeting packet and stated that A. Erickson estimated costs for the remainder of year for out of home court ordered placements. The county is funding approximately \$500k+ that the state will not fund. M. MacKenzie asked what would constitute a delinquency in this case. T. Barningham and J. Esala explained. CHIPS and JIPS are also in need of protection. T. Barningham explained approximate costs for various types of facilities. T. Barningham reported that regular foster care, treatment foster care, and kinship are better financial options. J. Esala stated that the county has been working diligently for permanent placement.

2024 BUDGET REVIEW & APPROVAL

A. Erickson reviewed the budget proposal in the board packet and stated that a first draft of the budget was presented at the Finance Meeting. Consultants suggested to deduct 3-5% from wages to compensate for when the county does not fill positions right away. Less COVID grants are coming in. First draft of the budget was just under \$1.4 million, but after the changes, we are now at \$589k overmatch. With history over the past few years, it is hard to know, but T. Barningham and A. Erickson feel comfortable with the \$1 million in that line for just the Children's Unit. The budget also includes the increased costs for Corp Counsel.

Dr. Koeller made a motion to approve and send the 2024 ACHHSD Budget to the Finance Committee. Seconded by Laura Kruse. Motion carried.

OVERDOSE FATALITY REVIEW TEAM FINDINGS/OPIOID SETTLEMENT

L. Szot referred to the List of Approved Opioid Remediation Use handout under Written Materials in the meeting packet. L. Szot stated that transitional housing is essentially non-existent, especially for females. T. Barningham stated that many people who are served generally come out of homes that do not learn good life skills. A warm wrap-around approach is preferred, a small 2-bedroom home is ideal and would likely increase the probability of the person succeeding. It is requested that transitional housing be considered when determining settlement funds. D. Grady stated that the Sheriff's Department was also looking at some of this money for treatment of addicted inmates, and suggested that this issue also needs to go to PPLE for discussion. L. Nagro stated that she thinks we need to pull in other groups and do this as a regional effort, to pool funding and create a good plan. Pat Nemec has a board and money. M. MacKenzie asked if there are any local options for transitional housing, L. Szot replied that the people are usually transported out of the area.

Matt MacKenzie made a motion to recommend use of Opioid Settlement funds for transitional housing/support for opioid users after treatment. Seconded by Laura Kruse. Motion carried.

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PUBLIC HEALTH UPDATE

L. Szot provided an update on the Parks Project. The playgrounds will be up before is snows, except Mellen may be delayed due to the delivery arriving in December. Flu clinics scheduled for all school districts starting Oct 3rd. Also providing flu shots at senior meal sites, drive-thru and walk-in clinics, private local businesses, and county offices (courthouse and highway). COVID19 vaccinations will be distributed differently this year, as they are now privatized. The Bridge Access Program will still allow Public Health to provide COVID vaccine for un-insured, under-insured, or if a person's insurance does not cover vaccines. We must now go to our primary care provider, Walmart, Walgreens, etc. RSV vaccine is available at area clinics. L. Szot advised that state codes have been updated and she will need to adjust fees in future, approximately May 2024. R. Huber asked if this is the new COVID vaccine, L. Szot replied that it is. L. Szot stated there is a mass advertising effort with other counties, several of the school districts, as well as the clinics and hospitals.

2024 PROPOSED MEETING DATES

T. Barningham pointed out the list of potential meeting dates in 2024, which are the 3rd Wednesday of February, April, June, September, and November. This will be an election year, it was noted that the April 17th meeting might not be feasible. T. Barningham stated that the other meeting dates proposed for 2024 are: February 21st, June 19th (Public Hearing), September 18th (Budget), and November 20th. D. Grady confirmed that the election will take place April 2nd, so the new County Board will take their oath on April 16th. D. Grady confirmed that he could have HHS appointments ready since it is an Administrator appointed committee, so it was agreed to keep the April 17th Board Meeting on the list.

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.

- List of Approved Opioid Remediation Uses
- On-call Pay in Northern Region
- WCHSA Executive Board Packet
- WHEAP report

J. Esala referred to the second item, On-call Pay in the Northern Region. J. Esala stated that Ashland is well below other counties, and the rate of pay has not changed since 1997. L. Nagro requested that any written materials associated with an agenda item be included with the agenda item.

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BOARD MEMBER UPDATES/AGENDA ITEMS

G. Bussey stated that the Counties Association has an annual meeting this week and related that down state there was a huge amount of discontent with Public Health and the misinformation during the first two years of COVID. T. Barningham stated that Ashland County has had an extremely supportive Board overall, which was very helpful. G. Bussey asked if the State Department of Public Health has been helpful with County Public Health Departments. L. Szot replied that there is some help with some items, as outlined in the State Statutes. L. Szot stated that the regional level is quite helpful, which is based out of Rhinelander.

R. Huber asked if we have any data on active COVID cases in Ashland and Bayfield County, L. Szot responded that most tests are conducted at home so we do not have accurate statistics. D. Grady stated that free COVID kits are available at covidtest.gov. G. Bussey asked about sanitation system general surveillance. T. Barningham and L. Szot confirmed that we are still receiving wastewater management reports.

L. Kruse asked if there could be more discussion at the next meeting regarding the on-call wages. L. Kruse stated that 25 years of no change to the on-call wages is a concern. L. Kruse is asking the Board Members to have a discussion and perhaps forward something on to the Finance Committee.

G. Bussey stated that we need to toot our own horn and asked about the beaches. L. Szot reported that there were very few beach closures this summer and very limited reports of swimmer's itch. L. Kruse stated that \$1 upfront in prevention saves \$7 in cost down the road, increasing awareness might help especially when taxes are increased.

OTHER BUSINESS

J. Esala further added that L. Szot worked with Memorial Medical Center and other area agencies to coordinate a virtual 5K to help stop overdose. L. Szot advised that the NARCAN machines have been re-stocked indicating that people are taking the kits.

NEXT MEETING DATE

November 15, 2023 at 4:15 pm at Sanborn Building.

<p>Motion to adjourn by Richard Huber. Seconded by Laura Kruse. Motion carried and meeting was adjourned at 5:21 PM.</p>

Recorded by Lisa Bradley