

Ashland County Health & Human Services Board Meeting

Virtual (Zoom)

November 15, 2023 at 4:15 p.m.

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

Members Absent: Laura Kruse (excused)

Others: Terry Barningham, Tasha McFadden, Liz Szot, Jerry Esala, Amy Picchiatti, Kelly Maday, Dan Grady, Val Levno, Amber Erickson, Scott Griffiths, Melody Grande, Lisa Bradley, and telephone number 715-209-0288 (no name given when asked)

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by C. Campbell at 4:18 PM.

ROLL CALL

George Bussey – here
Clarence Campbell – here
Richard Huber – here
Matt MacKenzie – no response (arrived in person at 4:18 PM)
Laura Nagro – no response (joined via Zoom at 4:30 PM)
Dr. Koeller – here
Dr. Horning – here
Laura Kruse – no response (excused absence)
Joy Hinrichsen – here

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of the September 2023 Board Meeting were reviewed.

Dr. Horning made a motion to approve the September 2023 minutes. Seconded by Dr. Koeller. Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

2023 YEAR-TO-DATE EXPENDITURES

A. Erickson referred to the report available in the meeting packet and reviewed Year-To-Date expenses. There will be less grants and more levy for the last three months of the year. Children and adult in subcare expenses were not paid in September (they were paid in October) so it will be more noticeable on the next report. T. Barningham reviewed the

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document Cost of Children in Subcare and noted the decrease starting in June as compared to last year. T. Barningham stated that the end of this year should be less than last year with only two months remaining for the year. T. Barningham reported that the adult out of home care costs have gone up dramatically in the last two months, so the savings in children subcare will be realized on the adult side. T. McFadden added that we are seeing more complex situations with adults that are being placed on emergency detention which then increases the cost. Dr. Horning asked if we should have a third box added to the report showing the adult out of home care costs, especially when trying to explain being over budget. T. Barningham stated that the information used to be on the report and the Fiscal Department will work on adding that information back to the report. T. Barningham agreed that the information would be helpful to identify trends and patterns. G. Bussey asked about the Total and Actual columns on the Overall Summary sheet. A. Erickson clarified that on the Overall Summary sheet, the Budget column is the whole amount for the year (12 month budget) and the Actual column is the year to date costs (9 month costs).

SPARK/IGNITE PROGRAM UPDATE

S. Griffiths stated that they are running 4-5 nights each week with SPARK with an average of about 40-45 kids per night. They have quite a few new 6th graders while retaining many high school kids, this allows for a nice broad age range. S. Griffiths also reported that they started a new Peer Mentorship Program. Youth from the IGNITE Program developed and ran the 6th Grade Orientation this year. The IGNITE Program was launched at the beginning of the school year in partnership with the school district using a school district grant to provide a Project Based Alt Ed program during the school year. C. Campbell asked if students need to attend school in the morning to be eligible to attend the afternoon IGNITE session. S. Griffiths replied that is the goal, however it is not 100% as they are continuously looking for ways to improve school attendance and engagement on a regular basis. M. MacKenzie asked if there was a way to expand the SPARK program so having more kids is not a problem. S. Griffiths stated that transportation and physical space continue to be a challenge with more kids, and reminded the group that the goal of the program is to have relationships with the kids. With the current grants and budget in place, Scott stated that he is willing to have a conversation but does not currently see where the additional capacity would come from. M. MacKenzie summarized that he was looking for ways to allow for continued success with an already successful program. Dr. Horning asked about the length of the IGNITE grant and what has been the feedback from the school. S. Griffiths reported that his contacts at the school have provided positive feedback so far, and the grant ends September 2024. C. Campbell inquired about transportation for the IGNITE kids. S. Griffiths stated that their staff contracts with BART as volunteer drivers, which allows them to use BART vehicles for transportation.

PUBLIC HEALTH UPDATE & PARKS PROJECT REPORT

L. Szot provided an update regarding influenza season, numbers are significantly down this year for the in-school setting (198 children this year versus 378 last year versus 322 the year prior). For Public Health Clinics (drive-thru, walk-ins, private businesses, etc.), 218 people have received the flu vaccination versus 324 last year. L. Szot stated that if anybody is

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looking for a flu vaccine, please send them our way. L. Szot provided an update on the Parks Project referring to the meeting packet that includes updated pictures of the playground equipment. G. Bussey asked if there are swimming facilities at any of the playgrounds. L. Szot stated that Gordon Lake is available with a new pavilion that has bathroom facilities. T. McFadden stated that Gordon Lake does not offer swimming lessons at this time. A. Erickson stated that Mellen School may be offering swimming lessons next summer.

OPIOID SETTLEMENT STAKEHOLDER GROUP/MAT GRANT UPDATE

T. Barningham reported that we had the opportunity to help the Sheriff's Department with their initiative to do medication-assisted treatment for inmates who are addicted. T. Barningham further stated that we (mostly Liz) wrote a grant for the jail to apply for a significant amount of funding to assist with this program. We will find out in December if funding will be received. T. Barningham reviewed the findings from the Overdose Fatality Review Team, recommending 1-2 bedroom family homes to do a wrap-around approach as people are coming out of treatment. L. Szot further elaborated on the OFR Team and described the participants of this group, as well as the process in which they evaluate the facts and information about an overdose fatality. T. Barningham requested that the OFR Team be appointed as the Stakeholder Group to make recommendations to the full Board.

Rich Huber made a motion to request the Overdose Fatality Review Team be appointed as the Stakeholder Group to discuss and determine the best use for the county opioid settlement funds. Seconded by Dr. Koeller.

M. MacKenzie asked which budget will hold the money, and what are the requirements that come with it? T. Barningham replied that the Stakeholder Group would not have the final say, they would be making recommendations to the full Board. D. Grady confirmed that the money is in a nonlapsing account in the general fund. T. Barningham offered to re-send the Allowable Uses for the Opioid Settlement Funds to M. MacKenzie.

Motion carried.

L. Nagro asked who was all on the committee, T. Barningham and L. Szot reiterated the members of the OFR Team. L. Nagro requested a list of all the committee member names and titles in an effort to collaborate with other counties. T. Barningham and L. Szot reminded the group that not all counties have an OFR Team. T. Barningham stated that once Ashland County has recommendations, based on what those needs are, they can always reach out to other counties.

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STAFFING UPDATES

T. Barningham reported there have been quite a few changes with turnover:

- Hired new Case Manager in Children’s Unit
- Replaced a person in Family Services
- Replaced Jean Tyndall who retired from Public Health
- Adult Drug Court grant has been renewed for 4 years, hiring a Coordinator
- Replacing a Service Facilitator
- Replacing a Dementia Care Specialist
- Replacing a CLTS Manager
- Val Levno (CCS Administrator for both Bayfield and Ashland County) will be retiring in May 2024, we have started recruiting

ON-CALL EMPLOYMENT WAGES

T. Barningham stated that it was requested at the last Board Meeting to put this topic back on the agenda for today’s meeting. T. Barningham further stated that the recommendation is to put a work group together of affected departments for On-Call Employment Wages. Since there may be other departments within the county that have on-call, the recommendation is to form a countywide committee to present any recommendations to the Executive Committee.

George Bussey made a motion to recommend to the County Executive Committee to form a countywide committee to look at On-Call Employment Wages for affected departments. Seconded by Dr. Horning.

Matt MacKenzie asked if the Executive Committee might come up with a possible solution rather than form a committee. It was agreed that it was within the Executive Committee’s role, and they could do that instead of forming a committee. Laura Nagro stated that it would be nice if the Executive Committee would include the Fiscal Consultants on any discussion. Dan Grady stated that Mike and Steve could be involved in that.

Motion carried.

APPROVE DATCP LICENSING FEES

L. Szot reported that DATCP has updated a couple of the statutes, specifically ATCP 78.08 and ATCP 76.06. L. Szot further explained that this update expanded on the classification of recreational educational camp license categories, as well as the classification of pool license categories. Previously recreational educational camps were just one classification, there wasn’t any differentiation depending on the complexity and what services were offered. Same as for operation of pools or public swimming, everything was under one classification. With the new updates, size and complexity are now being considered. L. Szot requested that

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a new fee schedule is needed to go along with the new updates. M. MacKenzie asked if we need to hold a public hearing before any fees are changed. L. Szot replied that a Public Hearing was held last time the entire fee schedule was increased, however she would leave that to the discretion of the Board. R. Huber asked if we just have to accept the changes since it is already decided by the state. L. Szot replied that because it is a change in the fee structure, we would have to approve the fee structure.

Matt MacKenzie made a motion to schedule a Public Hearing for the Updated DATCP Licensing Fees at the next HHS Board Meeting, and if successful, move it on to the full Board for final approval. Seconded by George Bussey.

M. MacKenzie requested that L. Szot notify anybody affected by the new fee structure and that a Public Hearing will be held at the next HHS Board Meeting.

Motion carried.

SUBSTANCE USE PREVENTION FUNDING/PRO-SOCIAL PREVENTION ACTIVITIES

T. McFadden provided an update regarding the substance abuse block grant funding, as well as supplemental substance abuse block grant funding and ARPA funds. T. McFadden explained that a certain percentage of the funds must be used on primary prevention, so last year they reached out to all of the school districts within the county to offer funding for any events that encouraged skill building, social engagement, etc. Tasha advised that this effort is already planned again for this year, as well as some financial coordination with the Bretting Center for various student activities. Dr. Horning asked how much funding is available each year. T. McFadden and T. Barningham replied that it is typically right around \$28,000 each year, and it comes with very specific limitations of how the funding can be used. M. MacKenzie suggested that summer programs (such as Art in the Park) are also targeted to use this funding. T. McFadden agreed and stated that she will definitely do that.

CHILD CARE CERTIFICATION PROCESS

T. Barningham stated that EverGrow Learning Center will be closing, and A. Picchietti wanted to remind members of the community about the child care certification program. A. Picchietti stated they are currently in the process of conducting outreach within the school districts, Ashland County Facebook, and local papers. This outreach is the same avenue for the WHEAP and Water Conservation Programs. Dr. Horning asked if Amy could elaborate on the why and when of the EverGrow situation. A. Picchietti stated that it is in the local paper and could not speak for EverGrow. T. Barningham reported that J. Hinrichsen commented in the chat box, the closing date will be December 1st. Dr. Horning asked if there was anything else that could be done as the Health & Human Services Board. J. Hinrichsen stated that she used to be on the Board for EverGrow and the biggest issue was lack of staff.

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WRITTEN MATERIALS

C. Campbell asked if anybody had any questions about the written materials in the packet:

- Northern Income Maintenance Consortium Performance Report
- WHEAP Payments & Services 11-2023
- WCHSA Executive Board Meeting Packet 11-02-23

R. Huber asked about the age being increased to 23 years old. T. Barningham clarified the age increase is specifically for those individuals in out of home care during the pandemic to ensure continuity of care, it is short term.

BOARD MEMBER UPDATES/AGENDA ITEMS

G. Bussey asked how the space requirements were going at the Sanborn building. T. Barningham replied that we are squeezed in like sardines and no room for storage, however there is a possibility of an Economic Support Specialist becoming remote soon. G. Bussey recalled a proposal for an outside storage building. T. Barningham stated that has been put on hold for now until the parking lot can be assessed for snow capacity levels during the winter months. R. Huber stated that a few people have asked about a nurse telling them they could be arrested or thrown in jail. T. Barningham and L. Szot clarified there was a newspaper article about the Communicable Disease Ordinance. The day the article was published, L. Szot called the newspaper editor and expressed her concern that the information was misrepresented. The paper issued a small editor's note to the online version. L. Szot spoke to the State Media Team and it was decided not to respond directly as it may add more fuel to the fire. M. MacKenzie brought up the issue of homelessness, and the population of those who are choosing to stay homeless. M. MacKenzie asked if there was something that could be done to help this population of people so it does not become a Public Health issue. J. Esala stated there is a shortage of affordable housing. M. MacKenzie restated that he is referring to individuals who simply do not want to secure housing, but rather squat in abandoned buildings. Dr. Horning asked if homelessness or housing insecurity should be put on the Health & Human Services agenda. L. Szot noted that many of the homes are being purchased by individuals outside the area and then flipped into short-term rentals, which continue to increase every year. L. Szot further stated that looking at the housing market versus short-term rentals, cause and effect, risk versus benefit, may be something to consider and potentially cap the number of licenses available in an area for short-term rentals. L. Nagro stated that some of the senior population at the homeless shelter are trying to find homes, but are having a hard time. L. Nagro agreed there are other issues, but stated that people are not able to get into housing quick enough so the homeless shelter stays full all the time. Dr. Horning stated that New Day has the same problem, they cannot get new clients in because existing clients cannot find housing they can afford. R. Huber also noted that it is difficult to hire qualified individuals because anybody moving into the area cannot find a place to live. C. Campbell stated that the school district and medical community struggle with the same issue. L. Nagro suggested that the 20 acres out on Farm Road could be a great place to build a housing development. L. Nagro further stated that it would be a good idea (as Health & Human Services) to encourage the County Board to think about putting some buildings out there, plus bus transportation

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could be provided since it is within the city limits. M. MacKenzie reiterated that he agrees there is a housing shortage, however he is referring to people living in the streets that have no desire to secure housing that they must pay for. It was agreed that this sounds like an agenda item. C. Campbell stated that this issue can be put on a future agenda for more discussion.

OTHER BUSINESS

None

NEXT MEETING DATE

February 21, 2024 at 4:15 pm. Location TBD

Matt MacKenzie made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Dr. Horning. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 5:39 PM.

Recorded by Lisa Bradley