

**Ashland County Health & Human Services Board Meeting
In-Person Meeting at 630 Sanborn Avenue, Oredock Room, Ashland
& Virtual (Zoom) Meeting
April 19, 2023 at 4:15 PM**

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

Absent/Excused: Laura Nagro, Joy Hinrichsen

Others: Terry Barningham, Liz Szot, Jerry Esala, Tasha McFadden, Amy Picchiatti, Kelly Maday, Dan Grady, Val Levno, Amber Erickson, Natalie Rooni, Kathy Schutte, Lisa Bradley

CALL TO ORDER

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

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of the February 15, 2023 Board Meeting were reviewed. G. Bussey suggested that the roll call vote on the City Ordinance Draft should be listed underneath the motion to table, not under the original motion to approve. T. Barningham confirmed that the minutes will be amended to move the roll call vote down under the motion to table.

G. Bussey made a motion to approve the February 15, 2023 minutes as amended. Seconded by Laura Kruse. Motion carried.

2022 END-OF-YEAR EXPENDITURES

A. Erickson shared her screen and reviewed expenditures up through 4/19. Overall, expenditures are approximately \$85,000 over the Levy. Placements in the Children & Families Unit significantly put expenditures over the Levy, while other departments were slightly under. A discussion took place regarding the definition of Levy. A. Erickson is looking forward to putting everything into one accounting system with Springbrook. M. Mackenzie requested that any unbudgeted and unexpected expenses are highlighted. T. Barningham stated that unexpected expenses are almost always exclusively out-of-home placements, which there is no control over. D. Grady requested that the updated report is added to the packet online.

Birthday wishes were given to Dr. Koeller by all.

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PUBLIC HEALTH UPDATE

L. Szot reported on flooding in the area. Public Health is offering reduced cost private well water testing kits at \$10 instead of the normal \$25. This will be available for approximately one month, or according to the flooding conditions moving forward. Data collection will be important for possible future grant opportunities. For a COVID update, there has been new information regarding the COVID 19 vaccines. Future discussions will take place at an FDA Advisory Committee Meeting coming up in June. Public Health is anticipating a vaccine vacation as the local vaccine hubs will be closing due to the unwinding of the public health emergency. The minimum order of vaccines will increase from 30 to 100, which means holding off on a vaccine order until Fall in an effort to minimize vaccine wastage. L. Szot reported case activity as 31 lab-confirmed cases in March, 14 confirmed cases in April so far. Public Health renewed their contract as a Narcan direct provider. Throughout the month of March, Public Health provided Narcan training to 24 staff members of the Ashland School District. Scheduling Narcan training with the Mellen School District is in the works. Public Health has partnered with the Wisconsin Well Woman Program and Marshfield Clinics again. The mobile mammogram unit is scheduled to be in Glidden tomorrow, hoping for a good turnout this year. M. Mackenzie complimented Public Health for having the foresight to look at wells and the flooding issue.

HUMAN SERVICES DAY AT THE CAPITAL

T. Barningham reported that she drove down to Madison with J. Esala and T. McFadden to meet with new legislators. Every year, they have this day for Human Services to decide which issues to focus on. T. Barningham referred to the attached literature available in the packet, and then provided a brief overview. Mental Health, Community Support Program, and Crisis Services were highlighted, as well as additional funding for Child Support and Birth to Three. J. Esala offered additional insights regarding the Kin-Like Program that the Governor is proposing to fund. T. McFadden concurred and noted that she too felt the legislators were engaged and receptive.

STAFFING UPDATES

T. Barningham reported that Rebecca Pupp has replaced Tia Smith in the Children Long Term Support and Coordinated Services Team position. Jessica Tapani will be replacing Sue Miller as Family Services Worker, Jessica starts tomorrow. Christine Sturtz will be replacing Heidi Hagen in Economic Support. Interviews are still being conducted for one additional CLTS/CST position.

COMMUNICABLE DISEASE ORDINANCE

L. Szot reviewed the edited version of the ordinance draft, which is included in the meeting packet. L. Szot highlighted the sections edited in response to questions surrounding enforcement and the appeals process of the ordinance. Discussion pursued about enforcement of a stayed order. L. Szot clarified that the Board would not take legal action, but

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rather refer violations to Corp Counsel. M. Mackenzie made a recommendation to include a provision for damages.

C. Campbell confirmed no action taken. T. Barningham stated that the Communicable Disease Ordinance will be brought back for the next meeting.

UNIT UPDATES

Adult Services: T. McFadden provided an update for the Adult Unit and reported that many of the programs had waivers for in-person visits. All of those waivers are coming to an end. Adult Protective Services and ADRC will be returning to increased travel time, face-to-face visits, and in-person physical signatures.

Children & Families: J. Esala reported that the Children & Families Unit is happy to be fully staffed as of tomorrow. J. Esala explained the Permanency Hands Program and announced that 3 more Permanency Hands went up on the wall since the last Board Meeting. J. Esala gave an overview of the Child Advocacy Center and the multi-disciplinary team of individuals that have been working together for about the last year and a half. J. Esala stated that a focus has been on the ability to do forensic interviews with children. In addition to interviews, information and referrals are a great benefit of the Child Advocacy Center. J. Esala would also like to include a visitation center within the facility for supervised visitations, as well as have a member on the team to provide medical evaluations. A building has been identified in the Ashland area that might be a good fit, which would be hugely beneficial since the closest Child Advocacy Center is in Wausau. J. Esala concluded with a report about an uptick in the number of newborns removed directly from the hospital due to being drug affected.

Community Services Programs: V. Levno provided an update regarding record storage, as there is no space at the Sanborn building. It has been decided to scan the existing records to be stored digitally into a secured server. DVR helped find a person to scan the records, and Northwest CEP will be paying wages for 90 days. Highway Department has already delivered the first 40 boxes to be scanned, so this project is ready to go!

Economic Support: A. Picchiatti reported that as of the last week of March, DHS sent out approximately 785,000 renewals due to the public health emergency ending. Continuous coverage will remain active until the member's renewal date. On a positive note, A. Picchiatti explained there are some special allowances with FFM (Federally Facilitated Marketplace) for those who might be losing their Medicaid eligibility. The Caretaker Supplement renewals are also starting this month in April. The policy for drug testing will be resuming soon for convicted drug felons that receive FoodShare benefits. Ashland County has approximately 36 individuals that would be affected by this policy. Student eligibility will also resume back to the original rules prior to the public health emergency, however no date has been set yet. M. Mackenzie asked a question about fuel assistance and furnace replacements, A. Picchiatti referred to the written materials. Ashland County had approximately 814 households apply for

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energy assistance during this heating season. Disconnections have started, Ashland County has Crisis Funding allocated for qualified individuals if they need it.

Dr. Koeller excused himself to attend his Birthday Celebration.

WRITTEN MATERIALS

C. Campbell asked if there were any questions about any of the written materials. T. Barningham highlighted that that Biennial Budget Summary has been included this time.

- Biennial Budget Summary (WCA)
- Children in Substitute Care
- Ashland County Economic Support Benefit Distribution
- WHEAP Benefit Summary
- WCHSA Executive Board Packet

BOARD MEMBER UPDATES/AGENDA ITEMS

M. Mackenzie thanked the Health & Human Services staff and expressed appreciation for the time and effort given by the entire staff. Dr. Horning asked A. Erickson if it would be possible to see a township breakdown of where money is spent throughout the county. L. Szot offered a rough breakdown of population as follows: roughly 10,000 in the city of Ashland, 2,000 in Bad River, 200-300 living on the island, leaving approximately 3,000 people spread between all other townships of the county. R. Huber commented about the SPARK program concentrating in Ashland. T. Barningham clarified that the recent grant was obtained by the school district, not by the SPARK program. M. Mackenzie confirmed that an offer was made to all the school districts in the county, however Mellen and Glidden declined to participate. J. Esala mentioned that Mellen already has an existing after school program that is quite robust. A. Erickson reminded the group that she is on the Mellen School Board and highlighted that Mellen just received a grant to expand their existing after school program.

OTHER BUSINESS

None

NEXT MEETING DATE

June 21, 2023 at 4:15 PM. Location TBD

<p>M. Mackenzie and L. Kruse simultaneously made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by G. Bussey. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 5:46 PM.</p>

Respectfully recorded by Lisa Bradley