

**Ashland County Health & Human Services Board Meeting
Virtual (Zoom)
September 21, 2022 at 4:15 p.m.**

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

Excused: None

Unexcused: None

Late: Matt MacKenzie

Others: Terry Barningham, Peter Herlevi, Elizabeth Szot, Natasha McFadden, Melanie Connors, Val Levno, Amy Picchiatti, Scott Griffiths, Kelly Maday, Dan Grady, Lisa Bradley

CALL TO ORDER

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of the June 2022 Board Meeting were reviewed.

M. Horning made a motion to approve the June 2022 minutes. Seconded by A. Koeller. Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

BRIGHTER FUTURES/YOUTH JUSTICE GRANT - JOB DESCRIPTIONS/POSITIONS

S. Griffiths provided an update regarding grants, job descriptions, and positions. Scott reviewed staffing needs and a proposal for job description changes and wage changes. T. Barningham offered to answer questions about the job descriptions and recommended to see what the completed wage study will show. T. Barningham also added that it is very important to maintain good quality staff, and she supported moving some of the positions to full time with benefits. Additional conversation was had, S. Griffiths confirmed all positions under discussion were all 100% grant funded. L. Nagro recommended that all wage increases for the county happen at the same time. T. Barningham suggested moving this forward to Executive Committee, L. Nagro stated she would like to wait and have it all put in a scale, the Executive Committee is due to review the wage study tomorrow at 9:00 AM.

M. Horning made a motion to forward the request to the Executive Committee for the positions pending the wage study. Seconded by R. Huber. Motion carried.

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OVERDOSE FATALITY REVIEW TEAM FINDINGS

E. Szot reviewed the findings and stated that one area identified as a gap in services, and that being after-care/transitional housing. A request was made for a designated amount of funding from the Opioid Settlement Funds. This amount would be designated to the development of local transitional housing, within Ashland County would be great. Development of 1 or 2-bedroom adult family homes, with priority given to female residents since more of the current transitional housing is available to males. This would give new mothers an alternative (transitional housing) rather than returning to their previous environments (which does not set them up for success). T. Barningham clarified that rather than make this an action item, it was decided to make it informational so the Board could consider this when deciding what to do with the settlement funding. L. Nagro suggested to D. Grady that perhaps we could set up some sort of regional task force to group fund with nearby counties (Bayfield, Price, etc.). D. Grady stated that he would bring it up during their Monday meeting.

CY2023 BUDGET REVIEW & APPROVAL

P. Herlevi reviewed the budget proposal in the board packet and a discussion transpired. P. Herlevi noted that the wage study may change all of the numbers, however he presented three different scenarios. The different scenarios were based on 0% wage increase, 4.5% wage increase, and 8.6% wage increase. At the 0% wage increase, HHS is showing \$177,225 less in debt levy compared to 2022. At the 4.5% wage increase, HHS is showing \$86,053 less than 2022. P. Herlevi reminded everyone of the temporary funding in Public Health of \$125,000. He stated if that goes away, then we are flat or requesting a little bit more at a 4.5% wage increase. The third scenario at 8.6% wage increase would result in \$20,351 less in levy than 2022, however again keep in mind the \$125,000 temporary funding in Public Health. P. Herlevi noted that this would translate into roughly a \$100,000 increase in levy if you take out the COVID funding. P. Herlevi stated that this is where we stand today on the budget, however it may change after tomorrow and what the Board decides for raises. L. Nagro had a question about more budget detail. P. Herlevi offered to share additional details if anybody is interested.

<p>A. Koeller made a motion to approve and send to the Finance Committee, the 2023 ACHHSD Budget. Seconded by G. Bussey. Motion carried.</p>

2022 YEAR-TO-DATE EXPENDITURES

- P. Herlevi reviewed the board packet financial report that represents expenditures and earned revenue through July 2022.
- P. Herlevi reported that overall year to date expenditures and earned revenue is at 52% of the annual budget, with levy spending at 30% of the annual levy budget. P. Herlevi further summarized the following:
 - We struggle with out-of-home placements, it is difficult to predict court ordered placements (e.g. how many placements, what level of service is required, etc.).
 - Adult Services should be pretty close to budget.
 - ADRC is not going to be a problem, we should be at or below the levy request.

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- Community Service Programs (CCS & CSP) will be substantially below the levy request.
- Economic Support for Ashland County is expected to come in right around or below budget.
- Public Health is anticipated to come in significantly below the levy budget due to quite a bit of funding through COVID-related items.
- Child Support is expected to be over our requested levy budget. Part of the funding that Child Support receives is based on certain performance metrics. The performance revenue piece comes on a lag, and now the performance revenue is lower due to certain requirements being suspended during the pandemic.
- Children and Families Services have some kids placed in very expensive placement facilities and will likely cause higher costs for the year. P. Herlevi offered an educated guesstimate that this unit will likely be over the levy request by roughly \$200,000. Since out-of-home placements are out of our control, this number is just an estimation. T. Barningham provided additional comments regarding the difficulty in placing youth that have past/present behavior problems. A discussion followed regarding a significant increase in youth justice cases being referred. T. Barningham commented that the criminal behavior among youth appear to be much more dangerous involving weapons, and it seems to correlate directly with the pandemic. T. Barningham offered good news, the school district reported that the school year started off much better this year versus last year. L. Nagro offered additional insight regarding LaCrosse County HHS working with the school district, they found diagnoses increasing in ADHD, Autism, etc.
- As before, P. Herlevi offered to provide additional information to anybody interested.

PUBLIC HEALTH GRANT

T. Barningham commended E. Szot for finding money for things needed, and then reported that security cameras were needed and the cost was much higher (\$16,000) than originally thought, and the ADA ramp outside the Health Department door is being replaced. E. Szot reviewed one of the ideas planned for will be a vaccination house, which will help facilitate drive-thru vaccination clinics as well as maintain temperature control for the vaccines and provide additional storage.

CCS/CSP MOVE TO SANBORN BUILDING

T. Barningham gave an update about the inspection completed for the building located at 514 West Main Street. She reported that the building was deemed unsafe and all personnel was moved to the 630 Sanborn building. T. Barningham stated that the Highway Department moved everybody, and Rachel worked tirelessly to make the move happen. The downtown building is closed at this point, and all members have been notified of the move. T. Barningham continued to report that the state did a virtual inspection of the Sanborn building and it passed with flying colors. D. Grady commented about the current estimate to fix the Main Street building could be around \$800,000 or more (which will be discussed by the Executive Committee at tomorrow's meeting).

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COMPLAINT POLICY UPDATE

T. Barningham reviewed direction given by the State of Wisconsin Department of Children and Families. She stated that we need to comply with their new policies and procedures for a complaint process. T. Barningham reported that she took their recommended model and made the appropriate changes for Ashland County. If approved, T. Barningham will submit it tomorrow as proof that we are in compliance.

L. Kruse made a motion to approve the Complaint Policy. Seconded by L. Nagro. Motion carried.

STAFFING UPDATES

T. Barningham stated that we continue to have turnover, and then provided a brief overview of the recent changes: 1) Melanie Connors will be leaving for a job with the state of Wisconsin. 2) Amy Picchiatti has been promoted internally to replace Melanie. 3) Pete Herlevi also tendered his resignation, his last day will be October 7th. Interviews for the Financial Manager are currently underway, hoping to make an offer this week.

ADDITIONAL CLTS/CST WORKER

T. Barningham reported that we received approval to hire another CLTS worker, which is fully funded between Children's Long Term Support and the Mental Health Block Grant.

RECRUITMENT/RETENTION ISSUES

T. Barningham noted that we lost many good supervisors to the state, and many of our positions have difficult duties that cause anxiety and secondary trauma. T. Barningham continued to report that we are not competitive in any way with the state and their benefits, as well as the surrounding counties. T. Barningham stated that the one thing that might help is to adopt what Bayfield County is already doing. She suggested that we award one week of paid vacation upon hire, and then advance up to two weeks of paid vacation after one year of employment. T. Barningham requested that the Board approve the request to follow the same Vacation Schedule as Bayfield County and then advance the request to the Executive Committee. D. Grady noted that he agreed with T. Barningham and planned to bring this request to the Executive Committee. R. Huber clarified that this would be for all Ashland County employees, D. Grady confirmed. Additional conversation transpired regarding which positions might be most affected, the amount of new-hire training costs, and the amount of additional work placed on existing co-workers when a position becomes vacant/re-filled.

L. Kruse made a motion to approve the request to follow the same Vacation Schedule as Bayfield County. Seconded by G. Bussey. Motion carried.

PUBLIC HEALTH – COVID 19 AND OTHER UPDATES

E. Szot was unavailable due to technical difficulties. T. Barningham reported that formal lab tests are still showing significant levels of COVID, as well as OTC positive results.

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2023 PROPOSED MEETING DATES

T. Barningham pointed out the list of potential meeting dates, which are the 3rd Wednesday of February, June, September, and November (with special consideration given to Veteran's Day, Thanksgiving, and the hunting season). L. Nagro asked why we do not have a fifth meeting. T. Barningham stated that we could add one extra meeting, for a total of five for the year. L. Kruse agreed that one more meeting would be helpful. D. Grady commented that this committee can decide on any number of meetings. C. Campbell suggested that this item be postponed to November's meeting agenda. All agreed. No motion required.

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
- Income Maintenance Performance Snapshot
- WHEAP Benefit Payments
- WCHSA Executive Board Packet

BOARD MEMBER UPDATES/AGENDA ITEMS

L. Nagro suggested collaboration on data collection between HHS and Sheriff's Department to assist people quicker (e.g. elder population calling 911 when experiencing problems with food, medical appointments, etc.). M. MacKenzie recommended that we explore some sort of ordinance directed against people who are targeting elderly or cognitively challenged people with any kind of scheme (phone or direct contact). E. Szot added that Public Health will be providing flu season vaccinations, visiting senior meal sites, all of the schools are scheduled for vaccinations, as well as a COVID vaccination clinic and/or by appointment. E. Szot reported that the CDC has classified us as medium-activity level at this point in time, and we continue with a high level of transmission based on the numbers.

OTHER BUSINESS

None

NEXT MEETING DATE

November 16, 2022 at 4:15 pm: Location to be determined.

<p>Motion to adjourn by L. Kruse. Seconded by R. Huber. Motion carried and meeting was adjourned at 6:07 p.m.</p>
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Respectfully recorded by Lisa Bradley.