

WASHINGTON COUNTY HUMAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT (HSD)  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS

January 20, 2011

Meeting called to order at 8:30 a.m. in Room 1023 of the Public Agency Center, 333 East Washington Street, West Bend, Wisconsin, by Chairperson L. Borman, who read the open meeting statement.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Les Borman, Jim Core, Sarah Follett, Mary Goeman, Rick Gundrum, Jane Schultz, Paul Ustruck, Gregory Young

MEMBER EXCUSED: Carol Puerling

GUESTS PRESENT: Kathy Christenson, Family Promise of Washington County; Dennis Myers, County Board Supervisor; Herb Tennies, County Board Chairperson

HSD STAFF PRESENT: Karen Alt, Michael Bloedorn, Debra DuFour, Sandy Hoefert, Ruth Reines, Angela Schickert, Jim Strachota, Kay Thuecks

Review of Minutes: M. Goeman made motion, R. Gundrum seconded, to approve the HSD Board minutes from the December 16, 2010, meeting as distributed. Carried.

Financial Report: Based on the financial report ending November 30, 2010, HSD has \$722,011 or 7.36% of County funding remaining for the year. The final closing date for the 2010 County books is February 18, 2011. HSD anticipates using some of the Fund Balance to cover the costs of the Family Care adjustment and higher than budgeted inpatient expenses.

Family Promise of Washington County: As explained by its Executive Director, Kathy Christenson, this non-profit organization in Washington County began serving homeless families on September 27, 2010, providing over 1,000 nights of shelter to seven families comprised of 30 individuals, 19 of which are children. There are 20 churches in the Interfaith Hospitality Network which provide many volunteers committed to helping homeless families, financial support, meals and temporary, overnight shelter at various rotating sites throughout the County to qualifying families. To date, the average length of stay has been 43 days.

Homeless Summit: This meeting was held recently bringing together a variety of provider agencies to facilitate dialogue regarding the provision of emergency housing and other needed services to homeless individuals and families in Washington County. Data presented indicates that many of the homeless are children, some of whom end up in the foster care system. This group is challenged as to how to heighten awareness of this growing issue through identifying the problem, develop systems to collect like data to ensure accurate information and statistics, organize and coordinate services and determine the County's role. Discussion followed on possibly working with a Community Action Program (CAP) agency, such as the Manitowoc County CAP, which could generate funding for homeless projects in our County.

More information will be provided to County Board Supervisors on this topic and, in particular, on CAP. Future meetings will include inviting representatives from law enforcement and other agencies such as the Red Cross, Salvation Army and St. Vincent-DePaul.

2010 Review of Triangle Services: The number of emergency detentions done in Washington County has been decreasing, from 382 adults and 90 children in 2004 to 199 adults and 32 children in 2010. D. DuFour presented information on facilities contracting with Washington County to provide inpatient psychiatric and detoxification services, including strengths and weaknesses of each.

As R. Reines explained, 2010 marks the first full year of HSD assuming the roles of Custody and Court Intake in the areas of Children in Need of Protection and Services (CHIPS) and Juvenile Justice for Washington County. Statistics for 2010 were presented. Training and support of staff, continuing to work with the legal system and referral sources, utilizing placement resources effectively, coordinating with behavioral health service resources and building voluntary and community resources are vital.

S. Hoefert explained preliminary statistics on expenditures for out-of-home care for children in 2009 and 2010. These figures indicate being on target, with a remaining balance of \$2,020 out of a budget of \$1,308,217 in the areas of regular and treatment foster care, group care, residential treatment and State Corrections services. The number of children served is about the same from 2007 to 2010. HSD continues to pursue reimbursement through waiver program revenues for several children.

County Staffing Ordinance: HSD updated its County Staffing Ordinance in May of 2009. J. Strachota explained the current staffing pattern and the need for flexibility to provide 24/7 departmental operations. Several open positions are due mainly to the switch to Family Care and the transition of Juvenile Intake to HSD. The vacant positions are included on the ordinance but are not funded in the current budget.

2011 HSD "To Do" List: Due to the length of the meeting, this item was tabled.

The next HSD Board meeting is scheduled for 8:30 a.m. on Thursday, February 17, 2011.

Motion made by G. Young, seconded by M. Goeman, to adjourn. Carried. Meeting adjourned at 11:12 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Paul Ustruck, Board Secretary  
Karen Alt, Recording Secretary

*Copies of all non-privileged material pertinent to this meeting are available at HSD offices.*