

WASHINGTON COUNTY HUMAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT (HSD)
BOARD OF DIRECTORS

March 18, 2010

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: Donald Berchem, Les Borman, Rick Gundrum, Jane Schultz,
Paul Ustruck

MEMBERS EXCUSED: Jim Core, Sarah Follett, Carol Puerling, Gregory Young

GUEST PRESENT: Herb Tennes, County Board Chairperson

HSD STAFF PRESENT: Karen Alt, Michael Bloedorn, Stacy Burmeister, Debra
DuFour, Sandy Hoefert, Sandy Potter, Ruth Reines, Angela
Schickert, Kay Thuecks

Review of Minutes: R. Gundrum made motion, J. Schultz seconded, to approve the HSD Board minutes from the February 18, 2010, meeting as distributed. Carried.

Human Services Lobby Day: L. Borman, C. Puerling, M. Bloedorn and J. Strachota spoke with seven local State legislators or their aides on March 4 regarding human services issues in Washington County and Wisconsin. One issue discussed is a proposed bill which would mandate a change in the age of juvenile court jurisdiction back to 17 from 18. This change would impact several County departments with increased services and funding needs that are not included in their budgets. An estimate to facilitate this change would be \$660,264 annually for the Washington County HSD alone.

A number of concerns relating to Family Care were presented including waiting lists, payments to providers, the multiple steps required for service approval, placements at mental health facilities, the Washington County Family Care payment for the next two years and Family Care financial stability and audit.

Division Reports:

ACCESS AND OUTREACH--Programmatic and statistical information on the Acute Care Services (ACS) Unit for 2009 was presented. ACS took over after-hours intake duties in 2009, and 2009 was the first year without a local behavioral health unit. Collaboration between local law enforcement and ACS continues. Also, ACS can match client needs and funding sources with a particular behavioral health facility due to an increase in the number of contracted inpatient service providers available.

BEHAVIORAL HEALTH--The 1915(i) Waiver application submitted by Washington County has been approved. For 2010, this will be used for services to nine persons. The funding that would have been used for those individuals is now available to expand services to others. The possibility of developing another transitional living setting in a former West Bend boarding house for persons with mental health issues is being examined. Also under consideration is the development of an intern program that would benefit both Lifespan service delivery and the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee social work graduate students. The HSD would provide the space, clients and 3,000 hours of clinical supervision for the students in exchange for 18 months of therapy services by the students with no financial obligation from Washington County. The County Attorney's office is assisting HSD staff, and the hope is to have a program in place sometime in May. Statistical data on the Patient Assistance Program in 2009 was presented.

CHILDREN AND FAMILIES--Satisfaction surveys are mailed out on all delinquency and child abuse and neglect/child welfare cases per individual social worker as they are closed. All surveys that are returned are reviewed by HSD social work supervisors. The average rate of return of these surveys is 45 to 55 percent. Examples of blank surveys along with any written comments returned were distributed, and 2009 statistical information was explained.

ECONOMIC SUPPORT--Reports of statistical information on the Energy Assistance and Badger Care programs were presented. Energy Assistance crisis benefits are now limited to a once-annual payment to energy providers of approximately \$300 per eligible household, with consumers making partial payments and setting up payment plans with providers in conjunction with the assistance from Washington County. Emphasis is placed on families with children, disabled persons and the elderly.

2009 Financial Closing: Other than the year-end audit, the 2009 Washington County financial books are closed. With the County Board's recent approval of the set amount of the fund balance, the required payment made to Family Care and upon receipt of prior year revenues, the HSD will return \$513,093 to the County General Fund for 2009.

Capital Improvements: The office space, approximately 18 offices, for Economic Support staff has not been updated since 1992; and several staff members have medical concerns. An estimate of \$27,000 has been received to remodel this area. Because the Capital Project Improvement Plan is due May 17 to the Administration Department, which is before the next HSD Board meeting, approval of this plan and appointment of a sub-committee to review HSD capital improvement needs is requested.

Motion made by P. Ustruck, seconded by R. Gundrum to accept the capital improvement request as presented. Carried.

R. Gundrum, P. Ustruck and D. DuFour volunteered to serve on a sub-committee to review the entire HSD remodeling and capital improvement plan prior to submission of a plan May 17, 2010, to the Administration Department for consideration by the County Executive Committee.

Psychiatry Coverage: May 3 is the target date for Kathleen Trott, M.D., to begin working in HSD as a staff psychiatrist in the Lifespan, ACS and Jail programs. She is currently scheduled to work 24 hours per week on Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays.

Consideration is underway to create a special class of contracted employees, for psychiatrists only, eligible to purchase the County health insurance effective January 1, 2011.

J. Schultz made motion to accept the psychiatry coverage plan as presented; D. Berchem seconded. Carried.

Deputy Director Report: Updated copies of the list of HSD Board of Directors were distributed and the rotation schedule and terms explained.

Copies of updated staff assignments by division were distributed.

M. Bloedorn reported that he is involved in providing information for the Human Services Day portion of the Leadership program for local entrepreneurs.

A decision was made to cancel the April HSD Board meeting as there are currently no pressing matters needing consideration. The next Board meeting is scheduled to begin at 8:30 a.m. on Thursday, May 20, 2010.

Motion made by J. Schultz, seconded by P. Ustruck, to adjourn. Carried. Meeting adjourned at 10:13 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.