

WASHINGTON COUNTY HUMAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT (HSD)
BOARD OF DIRECTORS

March 12, 2009

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, Jim Core, Sarah Follett, Rick Gundrum, Carol Puerling, Jane Schultz, Paul Ustruck, 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, Jim Strachota, Kay Thuecks

Review of Minutes: D. Berchem made motion, S. Follett seconded, to approve the HSD Board minutes from the February 19, 2009, meeting as distributed. Carried.

Financial Update: An HSD budget surplus of \$151,037 will be returned to the County General Fund as of the 2008 financial closing. HSD also made the required 2008 Family Care contribution.

The Financial Work Group is continuing to develop a combined HSD chart of accounts to be used this summer in preparation for the 2010 budget.

Potential Impact of State Budget Shortfalls: The Governor's proposed budget for 2010 includes a cut of 14% for the newly developed Department of Children and Families. This cut, along with several factors, would result in a funding decrease of \$396,577 for Children and Families next year. If these proposed budget reductions occur, locally a number of programs would need to be eliminated totally or increased County tax levy would be needed to make up for the shortfall.

A letter protesting these funding reductions will be sent to the Governor's Commission on Juvenile Justice and Wisconsin legislators from Washington County HSD and request that the Governor conduct further studies prior to making the cuts in the budget for CY's 2010 and 2011.

Approval of Department Structure: A general departmental theme is coordination and cooperation between units to effectively and efficiently provide services.

ACCESS AND OUTREACH--This unit is made up of Family Intake and Acute Care Services. In addition to the current staff, Access and Outreach is proposing one full-time Mental Health Technician whose primary duties would be to monitor psychiatric placements in hospitals and the State Mental Health Institutes and to be the liaison with the courts.

BEHAVIORAL HEALTH--Many of the individuals served in the Behavioral Health area also receive services in other areas of the HSD and the community. Behavioral Health is recovery oriented, working toward personal safety, management of symptoms and the hope of living full and productive lives. It provides a wide range of services.

(Board Member D. Berchem left at 9:30 a.m.)

CHILDREN AND FAMILY--One role of this unit is to provide ongoing supervision services to children and families in the community by monitoring safety, holding families accountable to care for their children and holding juveniles accountable for their actions in the hope that this will prevent future issues in those families and future generations.

Another role is the provision of alternate care services such as foster care, treatment foster care, corrections and other residential services along with coordination among other providers, schools and the court system. An Alternate Resource Unit would work to return children to the community while working with parents to be more proactive and to promote community interaction.

ECONOMIC SUPPORT--This area determines residents' eligibility for support services and is comprised of adult and family units. There has been an increased demand for services recently. Under the recommended structure, five current clerical support staff and supervisor working on the Third Floor would become part of the Economic Support unit. The five clerical support staff as well as the current Energy Assistance workers would be re-classified as Economic Support Assistants.

OFFICE ADMINISTRATION--This area would be made up of current staff from both the Second and Third Floors under the proposed plan. Logistically, currently two reception areas would need to be operated; but the general reception function would be brought into the Office Administration unit. This unit would be responsible for the support needs of the entire department.

G. Young made motion, C. Puerling seconded, to approve the Human Services Department structure as presented. Carried.

Approval of County Staffing Ordinance Plan: The proposed changes would be effective April 1, 2009, and reduce the number of HSD staff on the County Ordinance from 146 to 137. Several position titles would change and four positions would be upgraded. Job descriptions would change accordingly.

Motion made by J. Core, seconded by R. Gundrum to approve the HSD-related revisions to the County Staffing Ordinance as presented. Carried.

Task Force Appointments: Brett Bowlus and William Smith have applied for membership on the Behavioral Health Task Force.

S. Follett made motion to approve new Behavioral Health Task Force members Brett Bowlus and William Smith; R. Gundrum seconded. Carried.

The next HSD Board meeting is scheduled to begin at 8:30 a.m. on Thursday, April 16, 2009.

Flyers on the forum on Monday, March 16, regarding Family Care in Washington County were disseminated previously; and anyone interested is invited to attend.

Information on the Wisconsin County Human Service Association conference to take place on May 6 and 7 was distributed. Board members interested in attending should contact Jim Strachota.

Motion made by G. Young, seconded by P. Ustruck, to adjourn. Carried. Meeting adjourned at 10:35 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.