

WASHINGTON COUNTY
HUMAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT (HSD)
BOARD OF DIRECTORS

April 21, 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. L. Borman announced that Greg Young will no longer be able to attend HSD Board meetings due to conflicting times with this meeting and his new employment. Les also said that Jim Spindler, a former County Board Supervisor and CCSA Board Chairperson, passed away recently.

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

MEMBER EXCUSED: Gregory Young

GUEST PRESENT: Herb Tennes, County Board Chairperson

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

Review of Minutes: Motion made by M. Goeman, seconded by C. Puerling, to approve the HSD Board meeting minutes of February 17, 2011, as distributed. Several questions were asked and answered updating topics in those minutes. Motion carried.

Financial Update: Based on the February 28, 2011 financial report, HSD's remaining County funding of \$8,438,744 is on target for this point in the year. A. Schickert indicated that Schenck and Associates, the County's independent auditors, will be in Washington County next week to examine financial and other materials from various County departments, including HSD.

Report on Homeless Summit: The first Washington County Homeless Summit to promote awareness and provide education was held recently, with about 125 people in attendance of all ages and from all walks of life. There were several speakers, along with a panel discussion of local providers assisting those who are homeless. Over 400 homeless individuals in Washington County were turned away last year due to not enough housing options.

Future agenda items for the Homeless Summit include the following: 1) the current location of Hebron House can house only 12 individuals, but the former Restat building was offered as a new site that could accommodate even more. The City of West Bend Planning Commission has included this issue for its May 3 meeting; 2) a need for more transitional housing following a stay in a homeless shelter has also been identified; and 3) a determination as to the possible need and feasibility for a single Housing Authority in Washington County.

Potential Impact of 2011-13 State Budget: Handouts were distributed. Discussion followed on the State's proposal to transfer the provision of income maintenance administration from counties to the State and how this change could impact Washington County as a whole, particularly HSD, and individuals needing this assistance. The Wisconsin Counties Association is proposing an alternative plan for regional county provision of services. Washington County would be in a region that includes Ozaukee, Waukesha and possibly Sheboygan Counties. The State's proposal was presented in February and is to be implemented as of May, 2012. C. Puerling indicated that this very controversial issue has been discussed by the State Committee on Human Services and that the State plan could be very devastating and costly to counties.

The Family Care program will be capping enrollment at the number of participants as of June, 2011, and reinstating a waiting list for community services. Those individuals needing services would contact the County who could be court-ordered to provide services. This is due to the fact that State law was never changed regarding Family Care's responsibility for services, leaving it to remain counties' responsibility. At issue, however, is the fact that infrastructure and funding are no longer in place to provide these services at the county level.

State and Federal aid received for Medical Assistance, Badger Care, Senior Care, Youth Aids and other State and Federal grants are continually being reduced at the same time the State is prohibiting local governments from increasing any property tax rates for the next two years. For example, in the area of Youth Aids, Washington County's allocation has been reduced by 10% or \$140,000 to provide community programming and placement of children. Also, the State rate charged to counties for stays at juvenile correction facilities has increased.

Other topics of discussion included cross charges from other County departments, expectations from other outside sources that HSD provide services that those sources had provided in the past, how the County plans to allocate the savings it receives from the employee contributions to the Wisconsin Retirement System (individual departments or County) and the possibility that the County budget process include governing/advisory board review on a line-by-line basis.

Client Grievance Policy: Copies of the proposed revised client grievance policy and procedure were distributed and explained by K. Thuecks. In the past year, a number of client grievances were resolved at the informal level, five were resolved at the coordinator level and one has gone to the State level.

Motion made by J. Schultz, seconded by S. Follett, to accept the updated version of the Client Grievance Policy and Procedure as presented. Carried.

Update on Remodel Project: The total cost of remodeling various areas of HSD is \$130,845. This is paid for out of the audit settlement account set up several years ago, leaving a balance in that account of \$70,829. These changes address safety, security and public access.

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C. Puerling made motion to approve the remodel project and expenditures as described; P. Ustruck seconded. Carried.

Out of State Travel Request: One of the CTS psychiatric social workers is requesting that the County allow her to attend a five-day training in Massachusetts on Yoga Skill Building for Professionals, which she can use when working with people with mental health and relaxation issues.

After a discussion on the conditions and arrangements involved, J. Core made motion to approve this out of State travel request as described; P. Ustruck seconded. Carried.

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, May 19, 2011.

Motion made by S. Follett to adjourn; M. Goeman seconded. Carried. Meeting adjourned at 10:29 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.