

WASHINGTON COUNTY HUMAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT (HSD)
BOARD OF DIRECTORS

April 16, 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 Vice-Chairperson R. Gundrum, who read the open meeting statement.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Donald Berchem, Jim Core, Sarah Follett, Rick Gundrum, Carol Puerling, Jane Schultz, Paul Ustruck

EXCUSED: Les Borman, Gregory Young

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

Review of Minutes: S. Follett made motion, D. Berchem seconded, to approve the HSD Board minutes from the March 12, 2009, meeting as distributed. Carried.

Final Approval of Human Services Staffing Ordinance: The staffing pattern presented to and approved by the County Administrative Committee represents a 7% reduction in full-time equivalent staff positions and no additional cost. Following discussion, a fiscal note will be added to the draft prior to sending it to the County Finance Committee and finally to the County Board for approval.

P. Ustruck made motion, C. Puerling seconded, to approve the draft ordinance to amend the Human Services Department staffing plan as presented. Carried.

(GUEST PRESENT: Herb Tennes, County Board Chairperson, arrived.)

Family Care Revisited: Since the implementation of Family Care in Washington County one year ago, 540 individuals have been transferred from CCSA and DSS to a Family Care managed care organization (MCO); and 142 other people have come off of the waiting list, with over half having a Family Care plan. The Aging and Disability Resource Center (ADRC) is also monitoring the Family Care program and MCO's.

Two separate forums on Family Care in Washington County, one for providers and one for consumers, were held on March 16. Representatives from the two MCO's and the County fielded questions and listened to comments and concerns expressed. Having two MCO's operating in the County has been a source of confusion for all involved, and there is an appeal process available to consumers. Also, results and feedback from written surveys completed by providers and consumers will be shared with the MCO's.

Board members encouraged continuation of public forums and surveys of the Family Care program and the MCO's to evaluate progress and effectiveness.

Quality Service Review Recommendations: Twelve Child Welfare cases were examined during a weeklong review by State representatives reviewing records and conducting 105 interviews. Preliminary information from that review was shared with Board members. The next step is the action plan process for the future which involves identifying, planning and implementing improvement plans. The major areas identified for improvement are: outreach and engagement; case transfer process; family teamwork; and planning change process in the area of natural supports. C. Puerling was thanked for her assistance in discussions with local judges.

Current Needs and Usage of Inpatient Services: Statistics on the number of behavioral health days utilized by the County in a number of facilities in 2008 and the first quarter of 2009 were shared. Child inpatient days are included in these statistics but are not currently a County expense; however, if the Governor's proposal is approved, these costs would be passed on to counties as of July 1, 2009. For the first three months of 2009, that amount would have been approximately \$35,000. Discussion followed on progress and improvements made with law enforcements and some facilities and setbacks with other facilities. This is a continually evolving process working toward everyone's satisfaction and the best, most effective services for those in need.

Director Report: The written report was disseminated and explained by J. Strachota on the topics of: HSD Annual Report to be presented to the full County Board in May; the County Administrative Committee's approval of a contract with an architectural firm to study County property, including the Public Agency Center; questions on the possibility of HSD receiving some funds from the Federal Budget Stimulus package; the outside auditors looking at HSD information this week; and working with the County Finance Department on the development of new HSD financial systems.

The next HSD Board meeting will be held on Thursday, May 21, 2009, beginning at 8:30 a.m.

Motion made by P. Ustruck, seconded by J. Core, to adjourn. Carried. Meeting adjourned at 10:43 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.