

WASHINGTON COUNTY HUMAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT (HSD)
BOARD OF DIRECTORS

June 18, 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: Les Borman, Jim Core, Sarah Follett, Rick Gundrum, Carol Puerling, Jane Schultz, Paul Ustruck, Gregory Young

MEMBER ABSENT: Donald Berchem

GUEST PRESENT: Carol Biersack, Slinger Housing Authority

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

Review of Minutes: C. Puerling made motion, G. Young seconded, to approve the HSD Board minutes from the May 21, 2009, meeting as distributed. Carried.

Housing Authority Update and Direction: M. Bloedorn gave a brief history of County interest with Housing Authorities and updated the Board on contacts made with other counties. He indicated that Robin Reshel from the Hartford Community Development Authority requested a correction to the HSD Board meeting minutes of January 15, 2009, on Page 1, to the paragraph entitled "Proposal Regarding County Housing Authority". Instead of "Joining the three current HA's (Hartford, Slinger and West Bend) into a Washington County Housing Authority...", she requested it be changed to read: "Designating one of the current HA's as the lead agency...".

Motion made by R. Gundrum, seconded by J. Schultz, to approve a correction as stated. Carried.

Following further discussion, motion made by P. Ustruck, seconded by S. Follett, to indicate that the HSD Board is not interested in pursuing a Washington County Housing Authority. Carried.

Hebron House, the Youth and Family Project, Friends of Abused Families and HSD are pursuing a stimulus funding grant in the amount of \$284,000 to assist with local housing issues. This grant will help address various housing issues and assist individuals with financial support to gain access to housing. Discussion followed.

Impact of State Budget for 2010: For 2010, HSD staff is anticipating a reduction of a total of \$362,557 in comparison to 2009 funding amounts. The loss of funding is a direct result of Federal reductions and the State budget deficit. The County has indicated it will not provide for any cost of living employee wage increases for 2010 and asks that departmental budget proposals and requests be realistic in light of the current nationwide economic recession.

Consideration of Fund Balance: Before Family Care, HSD utilized prior year funds to offset expenses in current years. In 2009, HSD has received prior year funds that are not allocated in the 2009 budget. We have also found our role is less than expected in the disability area, so those funds are also available. Given the serious financial shortfall we are facing, the request is to establish a fund balance account and use these prior year revenues to address budget reductions. The fund balance account would be used to insure no deficit in any budget year and pay for services such as out-of-home placements and inpatient services. Without establishing this account, we would see a dramatic service reduction in prevention programs, non-mandated services and staffing levels. This concept has been explained to the County Finance Director, who indicated her support. The HSD Board, Finance Committee and County Board all have to approve establishing a fund balance account.

G. Young made motion, J. Core seconded, to approve the development of a fund balance account from 2009 into 2010 as described. Carried.

This item will be presented to the County Finance Committee in July so that it can be included in the 2010 budget process.

2010 HSD Budget Guidelines: Copies of the proposed guidelines were distributed and explained.

C. Puerling made motion to approve the 2010 HSD Budgeting Guidelines and Funding Principles as written; S. Follett seconded. Carried.

Public Hearing Summary: Copies of a brief summary of comments made at the June 10 HSD Public Hearing and copies of letters received were distributed and discussed. In response to comments and concerns expressed regarding Family Care services, letters from HSD staff have been sent to the local managed care organizations, Care Wisconsin and Community Care. Discussion followed.

The next HSD Board meeting is scheduled for 8:30 a.m. on Thursday, July 16, 2009.

Motion made by R. Gundrum, seconded by G. Young, to adjourn. Carried. Meeting adjourned at 10:23 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.