

WASHINGTON COUNTY HUMAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT (HSD)  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS

October 15, 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. Introductions were made.

L. Borman congratulated Carol Puerling on being appointed to serve on the 2009/2010 Wisconsin Counties Association (WCA) Health and Human Services Steering Committee.

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

MEMBER ABSENT: Donald Berchem

GUEST PRESENT: Tom Bergerud, The Threshold, Inc.

HSD STAFF PRESENT: Karen Alt, Michael Bloedorn, Debra DuFour, Jeanine Glass, Sandy Hoefert, Sandy Potter, Layne Sampson, Angela Schickert, Shana Schloemer, Jim Strachota, Kay Thuecks

Review of Minutes: R. Gundrum made motion, J. Core seconded, to approve the HSD Board minutes from the September 17, 2009, meeting as distributed. Carried.

Trauma Informed Care: L. Sampson, CTS Psychiatric Social Worker, and S. Schloemer, Mental Health Specialist/Crisis Intervention, explained that trauma informed organizations, programs and services are based on an understanding of the vulnerabilities or triggers of trauma survivors that traditional service delivery systems may exacerbate, so that these programs and services can be more supportive and avoid retraumatization. The HSD, following the State's lead, is adopting this philosophy in its services and will have training available for all staff and Board members on January 14 and 15, 2010. Another training will target local service and treatment providers, consumers, schools, law enforcement, other interested persons, etc. More information will be available soon.

Child Advisory Committee and Waiver Services: A variety of voluntary programs that are part of the HSD Children and Families division were described by Jeanine Glass, Family Services Supervisor. Next year, the number of children supported with financial waivers will increase from three to 28. The waivers will give us options that may help reduce the need for and continuation of out-of-home placements of children. Handouts listing prospective members for the Children's Advisory Committee were distributed.

Motion made by C. Puerling, seconded by S. Follett, to approve membership for the Children's Advisory Committee as listed. Carried.

Impact of Family Care on The Threshold: Copies of the 2008 Threshold Annual Report were distributed. T. Bergerud described the services provided at The Threshold for the citizens of Washington County. Jobs, vocational opportunities and sub-contract work continue to be challenging to obtain and maintain. Some non-traditional positions have been developed. The Threshold is cautiously optimistic about Family Care. Clients are being served, and the quality of care seems to be consistent. Some concerns have emerged with regard to what is in the best interests of clients, processes, growing pains, staff turnover at the managed care organizations (MCO's), having two MCO's covering Washington County, providing a meaningful transition from agency- to community-based employment, client under-employment while in Family Care, etc. The State seems to be advocating a switch from agency-based employment to integrated employment in the community; however, this is not always feasible and the best for some of the clients. Updates will be made to the HSD Board on a periodic basis with regard to these concerns.

(MEMBERS PRESENT: C. Puerling left the meeting at 10:10 a.m.)

Energy Assistance Program: The regular Energy Assistance benefits are available to assist with heating costs from October 1 through May 15 each year. However, Hartford and Slinger do not participate in the Energy Assistance Program. S. Potter explained some of the services and benefits provided which include furnace/boiler repair/replacement, weatherization (weather-stripping, insulation, etc.), a one-time payment toward the cost of heating a home, etc. Eligibility for this program is based on a number of factors including household size, income and energy costs. Emergency services can be provided if a residence does not have heat or residents have received a disconnect notice from their energy vendor. In non-emergency cases, proactive information on reducing fuel costs, counseling on budgeting and money management and assistance to clients in working with vendors on making payments and developing co-pay agreements can also be provided. For the first two weeks, crisis allocations of \$16,307 have already been paid, leaving a balance of \$29,003 for the rest of the 2009 to 2010 heating season in Washington County. Changes at the State and Federal levels may be of concern as the heating season progresses.

Best Practice--Death Notification: A best practice relating to the death of a client, including reporting requirements and notifications, staff debriefings, internal administrative panel reviews, staff assistance with client groups and contacts with family members and the media, was distributed and explained by M. Bloedorn.

G. Young made motion, R. Gundrum seconded, to approve the Washington County Human Services Department Death of a Client Best Practice as written and to approve its distribution to all HSD staff. Carried.

Psychiatry Coverage: Arrangements have been made to hire Stan Birnbaum, an Advanced Practice Nurse Prescriber (APNP), for 28 hours per week, and Wess Vogt, M.D., a Psychiatrist, for 12 hours per week. Milo Durst, M.D., a Psychiatrist currently working in CTS and Lifespan, has agreed to the post of HSD Clinical Director and will supervise the APNP. These changes will increase the number of psychiatry hours a minimum of 12 hours per week at no additional cost.

Status of 2010 Budget: L. Borman discussed the progression through the budget process of the 2010 budget proposed by the HSD Board to the County Administrative Coordinator and Finance Committee. The final step is presentation to and consideration by, along with the entire County budget, the full County Board on November 5.

The next meeting of the HSD Board is scheduled for Thursday, November 19, 2009, beginning at 8:30 a.m.

Motion made by J. Schultz, seconded by J. Core, to adjourn. Carried. Meeting adjourned at 10:58 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.)