

WASHINGTON COUNTY HUMAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT (HSD)  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS

December 16, 2010

Meeting called to order at 9:34 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, Mary Goeman, Rick Gundrum, Jane Schultz, Paul Ustruck

MEMBER EXCUSED: Carol Puerling

MEMBER ABSENT: Gregory Young

GUEST: Dan Laurent, Youth & Family Project

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

Review of Minutes: M. Goeman made motion, S. Follett seconded, to approve the HSD Board minutes from the November 18, 2010, meeting as distributed. Carried.

Youth and Family Project: D. Laurent presented historical and programmatic information on the Youth and Family Project in Washington County. Human Services provides financial support for some of the programs, and many people are served in both County and Youth and Family Project programs. The Youth and Family Project has been successful in securing funding from outside sources also. Discussion followed on the importance of prevention programs to lessen or eliminate the need for additional services later in life for many people.

2010 Financial Update: This report includes data through October 31, 2010. Emergency detention and inpatient costs continue to be a concern, and any over-runs in that area will be covered by the HSD Fund Balance. There is \$1,463,000 of County funding remaining for the year. Staff believes we are within 2% of our original budget.

Individual Placement and Support (IPS) Grant: This was one of three grants awarded in Wisconsin to assist mentally ill persons locate, secure and maintain competitive employment in the community. The Threshold is the fiscal agent for the one-year \$51,500 grant; and additional funding currently in the HSD employment services budget will be used to supplement this program. This Threshold employee will have office space at Community Treatment Services and Workforce Development to enable better communication and coordination in the provision of services to 20 to 25 individuals at one time. The Positive Image Center is donating space for a support group for those with employment concerns.

Children in Need of Protection and Services: Child Welfare Services, and who is currently responsible to provide them, were explained by M. Bloedorn. Washington County HSD, County Attorney and District Attorney staff have discussed possibly having the County Attorney's Office represent HSD in the entire flow of CHIPS cases to create a seamless system, especially in cases involving Termination of Parental Rights (TPR). This issue will be brought to the HSD Board again early next year.

Approval of Psychiatry and Psychology Contracts: HSD currently has six psychiatrists and two psychologists on staff as independent contractors rather than County employees. Two-year contracts with two of the psychiatrists, Guy Lord and Erik Knudson, and the psychologists, William Drankiewicz and Karen Tucker, are due for renewal. Following brief discussion, J. Core made motion, R. Gundrum seconded, to approve entering into two-year renewal contracts with the doctors as presented. Carried.

Director Report: J. Strachota reported on negotiations with the Labor Association.

2010 Accomplishments: In the Access and Outreach area, telephone intake for child abuse and neglect cases has expanded to include Acute Care Services staff, making intake available at all times.

As presented previously in the meeting, being awarded the IPS grant is significant for Behavioral Health. Securing Community Recovery Services certification allows the use of funding sources other than the County for several specific services, freeing up the County funding to assist others. Washington County also received notification that it is sixth in the State in engaging adolescent females in treatment.

In the Accounting/Billing area, there are sound budgets in place for 2010 and 2011. Also, development of a paperless, electronic billing system is moving forward.

There has been a significant reduction in the use of out-of-home placements for children in 2010. The Children and Families division has received surveys back with a 97% satisfaction rate. This area has also filled 28 Children's Long Term Services Waiver slots, and three children have been placed in treatment foster homes.

A number of staff have been cross-trained in the Economic Support area, and 690 more energy assistance cases have been processed over 2009 figures.

The HSD Policy and Procedure Manual is current.

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, January 20, 2011, to begin at 8:30 a.m.

Motion made by R. Gundrum, seconded by M. Goeman, to adjourn. Carried. Meeting adjourned at 10:46 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.*