

WASHINGTON COUNTY
HUMAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT (HSD)
BOARD OF DIRECTORS

October 20, 2011

Meeting called to order at 8:35 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.

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

MEMBER EXCUSED: Rick Gundrum

GUESTS PRESENT: Laura Edmundson, Parent; Michael Hoffman, Threshold Early Intervention/Birth to Three Services

HSD STAFF PRESENT: Karen Alt, Michael Bloedorn, Pam Frank, Debra DuFour, Jeanine Glass, Stephanie Gudmunsen; Sandy Hoefert, Mike Marlett, Ruth Reines, Angela Schickert, Jill Stimart, Jim Strachota

Review of Minutes: Motion made by J. Schultz, seconded by S. Follett, to approve the HSD Board meeting minutes of September 15, 2011, as distributed. Carried.

Birth to Three: Michael Hoffman, Early Intervention Services Director, explained that this is a long standing federally mandated program at The Threshold. The program works with children under the age of three years qualifying for services with developmental delays or disabilities, providing them with occupational, physical and speech as well as in-home therapies. Programming also includes education for the families. Washington County and the United Way fund a significant portion of this program. This program worked with 253 children in 2010. When the children near three years of age, they are transitioned into services in their local school districts for services if needed.

Laura Edmundson indicated that the in-home speech and physical therapies her 2-1/2 year old son has been receiving are invaluable resources to her son and family.

(MEMBER PRESENT: Carol Puerling arrived.)

Children's Long Term Support: J. Glass and P. Frank explained that the children served are developmentally or physically disabled or have severe emotional disturbances or any combination and can be in the program through 22 years of age. Services provided to these children are those that are not covered by private insurance, and service providers must be approved by the State. Service plans have to relate to need, not want. Many of the children would be institutionalized if not for these programs keeping them in their own homes and living up to their full potential. There are currently 28 children participating in the State Children's Long Term Support (CLTS) Medicaid Waiver program and another ten local match participants.

Children's Mental Health Services: S. Gudmunsen and M. Marlett explained that children who are diagnosed with mental health disorders and needing longer term, more intensive and comprehensive services are referred to children's mental health services through the Community Treatment Services program. If they did not receive these services, many of these children could potentially be institutionalized. Types of services provided include: a case manager to help families navigate all services and supports available to best meet children's needs; a child and family therapist providing in-home and in-school individual and family therapies, most of which are in the community; and an adolescent (nine to 18 years old) Dialectical Behavioral Therapy program with individual and group therapies. Referrals can come from a number of sources, including schools, law enforcement, Lifespan, Acute Care Services and community providers.

Juvenile Intake: Services relating to truancy, juvenile intake and juvenile justice were described by R. Reines and J. Stimart. In Washington County, a truancy committee meets twice a year to share information and is composed of representatives from local school districts, courts (municipal and circuit), schools, community service providers, law enforcement (including school liaison officers) and County HSD. Some of the challenges in these areas are: how each school district interprets truancy; cultural differences; disabled and/or unemployed parents; unreliable transportation; alcohol and other drug abuse issues in the household; child abuse and neglect concerns; social issues; poverty; enabling parents; little or no structure in the children's home lives; and poor parenting skills. The Washington County system is attempting to combat truancy and juvenile issues by working to provide collaborative, coordinated, preventative wraparound services to younger children/students (preferably those in elementary school) exhibiting possible emerging issues before they become too problematic and requiring more services and supports later in life. It is hoped that at-risk children can receive assistance to help them remain in school, get an education and become productive citizens in society. Discussion followed on mentoring opportunities for children, virtual schooling and academic versus hands-on learning styles.

Keeping Kids Alive in Wisconsin: As M. Bloedorn presented, the State has given county Health Departments lead responsibility to develop and implement programming and information sharing related to child health, safety and protection to help prevent child deaths through the use of child death review teams in each county. Other county departments involved are the Sheriff's Department, the Medical Examiner's Office and HSD. A proposed joint resolution will be prepared, reviewed by the County Attorney and presented to the County Board for approval in 2012.

2011 Financial Update: As of the September 30, 2011, financial report, there is \$3,340,578 or 33.71% of County funding remaining for HSD. The Family Care contribution for 2011 has been paid, and other revenues are at or above budget for the year. It is expected that a fund balance policy will be complete early next year.

The Wisconsin Counties Human Services Association conference is taking place on December 1 and 2 at the Mead Inn in Wisconsin Rapids. Contact HSD staff if interested in attending.

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The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, November 17, 2011.

Motion made by P. Ustruck to adjourn; J. Schultz seconded. Carried. Meeting adjourned at 10:30 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.