

Waukesha County Board of Supervisors

**Minutes of the Health & Human Services Committee and Board
Thursday, March 17, 2022**

Chairs Dondlinger and Nelson called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m.

Committee Members Present: Supervisors Timothy Dondlinger, Jeremy Walz, Joel Gaughan, and Ted Wysocki. **Absent:** Jim Batzko and Steve Whittow.

Board Members Present: Supervisor Larry Nelson and Citizen Members, Mary Baer, Christine Beck and Mary Berg, and County Board Supervisors Christine Howard and Duane Paulson. **Absent:** Vicki Dallmann-Papke, Mike Goldstone and Robert Menefee Jr.

Also Present: Legislative Policy Advisor Alex Ignatowski, Chief of Staff Sarah Spaeth, Health & Human Services Director Elizabeth Aldred, Public Health Officer/Manager Ben Jones, Administrative Services Manager Randy Setzer, Accounting Services Coordinator Kristen Tranel, Health & Human Services Deputy Director Lisa Roberts, Public Information Officer Linda Wickstrom, Clinical Services Manager Kirk Yauchler, Accounting Services Manager Danielle Igielski, Financial Analyst Michelle Czech, and Senior Financial Analyst Alex Klosterman.

Committee Agenda Items

Approve Minutes of February 22

MOTION: Walz moved, second by Gaughan to approve the minutes of February 22. Motion carried 4-0.

Next Meeting Date

- March 31

Legislative Update

Ignatowski gave an update on redistricting, a state staffing request by the District Attorney's Office, and a report on road and GTA funding options. He noted the legislature is done with their work for the session. The EV charger bill is dead although they did pass a bill to increase workers compensation payments. Ignatowski also highlighted that we will be holding a meet and greet with Waukesha County legislators to discuss HHS policy issues.

Board Agenda Items

Approve Minutes of February 24

MOTION: Howard moved, second by Paulson to approve the minutes of February 24. Motion carried 6-0.

Advisory and Standing Committee Reports

- Baer gave an update on the Public Health Advisory Committee.

- Berg gave an update on Mental Health Advisory Committee.

Next Meeting Date

- April 21

Future Agenda Items

- Parity Law Regarding Mental Health Insurance Coverage

Motion to allow Secretary Gaughan to Approve the Final Set(s) of Committee Minutes on Behalf of the Committee (Committee)

MOTION: Walz moved, second by Wysocki to allow Secretary Gaughan to approve the final set(s) of committee minutes on behalf of the committee. Motion carried 4-0.

Pandemic Recovery Report (Board and Committee)

Aldred, Jones and Roberts were present to discuss this item. Roberts highlighted efforts of the Department regarding contact tracing, testing, education and vaccination. Jones explained that we went from about 1,300 cases a day in January to about 30 cases a day. The Department is continuing to track school outbreaks. The CDC has a new model system to help local governments assess the spread of COVID in their community. Waukesha is currently in the "Green" status. The next highest status is "yellow", followed by "red."

Ordinance 176-O-124: Modify The Department Of Health And Human Services 2022 Budget To Transfer And Appropriate Additional Expenditures Funded By The American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Provided By Federal Centers For Disease Control And Prevention Through The Wisconsin Department Of Health Services For Continued Covid-19 Pandemic Response (Committee)

Jones and Tranel were present to discuss this ordinance which modifies the 2022 Health and Human Services budget to appropriate \$716,500 of additional expenditure authority in the Special Purpose Grant Fund and increases general government revenue of \$716,500 from Public Health American Rescue Plan Act (PH-ARPA) funding. This ordinance also transfers \$459,279 of existing budget authority and PH-ARPA revenue from the Public Health Division General Fund to the Special Purpose Grant Fund.

PH-ARPA can be used for pandemic response, mitigation, and recovery, and the 2022 adopted budget included \$459,279 for a partial-year of funding for these efforts, with a plan to monitor conditions during the year and request the use of additional funds during 2022 if evaluation warranted it. Staff indicated that it is still necessary to continue these efforts with the additional \$716,500 and will shift COVID-19 case investigation and contact tracing efforts to higher-priority prevention and response activities that require fewer temporary staff, in alignment with new recommendations by the Wisconsin Department of Health Services. The County will now focus on contacting individuals who are 70 and older who are not affiliated with a long-term care facility. The additional funding will be used for temporary staff, software, and interdepartmental technology and communication charges.

The 2022 adopted budget originally assumed that the PH-ARPA funding would be accounted for in the Public Health-General Fund budget. The staff managing the funding recommend that these funds be transferred to the Special Purpose Grant Fund to simplify the accounting and reporting of these

funds on a project basis, as that fund was intended to facilitate. This ordinance results in no direct tax levy impact.

MOTION: Gaughan moved, second by Walz to approve Ordinance 176-O-124. Motion carried 4-0.

Annual Report (Mission, Vision, Values) (Board and Committee)

Aldred, Roberts, and Wickstrom were present to discuss this item. Aldred and Roberts discussed highlights from each division and what to look forward to in the future. Wickstrom talked about the Department's work on strategic planning. Aldred gave credit to her team for the work they do every day.

MOTION: Gaughan moved, second by Walz to accept the Health & Human Services Annual Report on behalf of the committee. Motion carried 4-0.

MOTION: Howard moved, second by Baer to accept the Health & Human Services Annual Report on behalf of the board. Motion carried 6-0.

MOTION: Walz moved, second by Wysocki to adjourn the committee meeting at 3:09 p.m. Motion carried 4-0.

MHC Sustainability Plan (Board)

Aldred, Roberts, and Yauchler were present to discuss this item. Aldred discussed current census trends at the Mental Health Center. She explained the center could qualify for Medicaid reimbursement if the County lowered the total number of beds to 16. She indicated that if they can go forward with 16 beds, one of the two wings of the center could be converted to a crisis stabilization facility. Crisis stabilization would create flexibility for treating patients and create a lower cost option in some situations.

Wysocki encouraged Aldred to request what she believes is necessary to provide these services for the community. He said he believes that those who should be diverted to mental health services are being sent into the criminal justice system instead.

Yauchler highlighted the positive outcomes that are possible through crisis stabilization.

MOTION: Paulson moved, second by Baer to adjourn the board meeting at 3:16 p.m. Motion carried 6-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Joel R. Gaughan

Joel R. Gaughan
Secretary