

## **Minutes of the Combined Health & Human Services Board & Committee**

**Thursday, September 15, 2016**

Co-chairs Paulson and Howard called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m.

**Committee Members Present:** Supervisors Christine Howard (Chair), Robert Kolb, Duane Paulson, Jeremy Walz, Chuck Wood and Bill Zaborowski. Darlene Johnson arrived at 1:01 p.m.

**Board Members Present:** Supervisors Duane Paulson (Chair), Bill Zaborowski, Robert Kolb and Christine Howard, and Citizen Members Michael O'Brien, Vicki Dallmann-Papke, Jeffrey Genner and Tim Whitmore. Citizen Member Mary Lodes arrived at 1:04 p.m. **Absent:** Citizen Member Dr. Steven Kulick.

**Also Present:** Chief of Staff Mark Mader, Legislative Policy Advisor Sarah Spaeth, Health & Human Services Director Antwayne Robertson, Health & Human Services Deputy Director Laura Kleber, Child and Family Services Manager Lisa Roberts, Lutheran Social Services Director of Child and Family Services Missy Kueht-Becker, Birth to Three Program Manager Linda Wetzel, Intake and Shared Services Manager Kathy Mullooly, Shared Services Supervisor Vicki Smith, Social Worker Madi Prange, Economic Support Supervisor Aina Bromberek, Human Services Supervisor Kerrie Mazeika and Aging & Disabilities Resource Center (ADRC) Manager Mary Smith. Recorded by Mary Pedersen, County Board Office.

### **Committee Agenda Items**

#### **Approve Minutes of 8-11-16**

MOTION: Paulson moved, second by Zaborowski to approve the minutes of August 11. Motion carried 6-0.

Johnson arrived at 1:01 p.m.

#### **Advisory Committee Reports**

Zaborowski, newly elected chair of the Aging & Disabilities Resource Center (ADRC) Advisory Committee, said they heard a presentation by Federated Library Director Connie Meyers on the Bridges Library System. Also, Mary Smith was promoted to ADRC Manager, replacing recently retired Luann Page.

#### **Schedule Next Meeting Date**

- 10-6-16 (all day)

Lodes arrived at 1:04 p.m.

#### **Executive Committee Report of 8-15 & 9-12**

Howard said the Executive Committee, at their last two meetings, discussed the upcoming budget process and discussed and considered capital projects.

## **Board Agenda Items**

### **Approve Minutes of 7-15 & 8-11**

MOTION: Whitmore moved, second by Howard to approve the minutes of July 15 and August 11. Motion carried 9-0.

## **Items For Discussion And Consideration**

### **Overview of Birth To Three (combined)**

Roberts, Wetzel and Kueht-Becker were present to discuss the Birth to Three Program and informational brochures and program statistics were distributed. Roberts said the program is both federally and State mandated. Because it is considered an entitlement program, staff are required to seek out children who may be eligible for these services and wait lists are prohibited. Roberts went on to explain the eligibility requirements. In some counties this program is contracted out and in others it is administered with county workers. Roberts said the County has collaborated/teamed with Lutheran Social Services (LSS) for over 20 years. Becker explained Birth to Three, the State's early intervention program, uses evidence-based practices for infants and toddlers with disabilities or developmental delays and their families. Becker said drug affected infants is a big problem and Roberts noted all children reported for child abuse or neglect are tested for Birth to Three. Becker explained the program and services provided in detail. Becker advised as of June 30, 2016 there were 385 children enrolled in the program. This compares to 538 in 2015 and 516 in 2014.

Wetzel indicated the program has several funding sources including federal funds, county tax levy, medical assistance, private insurance, and parental cost share (based on 200% of poverty and caps at \$150 per month). LSS also conducts fundraising events for mandated non-core services being careful not to supplant. She noted years ago health insurance deductibles were around \$150 but are now typically \$8,000 to \$12,000. Any deductibles not covered are absorbed within the program. Also, medical assistance reimbursements are less than the actual cost of services. The staffing level at LSS has decreased to minimal levels. While the program is a highly recognized program by the State, they face many funding challenges. Answering Lodes' question, Becker said staff turnover this past year is partly due to a 1.5% salary increase over the last five years but the staff that remain are very passionate in their work and feel this is a mission. Responding to Zaborowski's question, Roberts said the State decreased funding in 2010 and efforts to increase funding since then have fallen through. There have been multiple meetings with the State to discuss concerns and according to the State, there is a lack of federal funds and any additional funds must come from the counties. Roberts said there is an approximate \$90,000 budget deficit this year and a \$140,000 deficit next year for Birth to Three. This is one sub group of a larger budget and while she has been able to pull funds from other areas over the years, they are at a critical point. Robertson said as a department, they work collectively to support various programs but they often struggle to come up with a balanced budget. The department's deficit was around \$1.7 million when they began preparing the 2017 budget. Wetzel said it has become very difficult for LSS to continue absorbing any more costs. Roberts noted it would cost more for county workers to administer the program.

Lodes expressed concerns for the budget deficit and the possibility of LSS being forced to discontinue services. After further discussion, Howard suggested a letter be sent to our State legislators advising them of the crisis and requesting additional funding.

**Overview of After-Hours Program (combined)**

Mullooly, Smith, and Prange were present to discuss the after-hours program at the Health & Human Services Department for child protective services and juvenile court intake matters. Smith indicated licensed social workers are available to take calls after 4:30 p.m. and on weekends and holidays for a 24/7 staffing program. Smith said this pilot program began in July of 2015 and staff are able to respond at a moment's notice. The program is successful and staff have served 765 families to date. She noted 60% of the after hour calls came in between 4:30 p.m. and midnight. In 2016, 157 calls were juvenile justice matters and 312 were for child protective services. Without the third shift position, they would not be able to fulfill this State and Federal mandate. When the third shift worker is not involved with crisis work, they are assisting the Access and Shared Services units with day shift child protective services duties and foster care licensing, which is also State mandated. She noted it takes around 35 hours to license one foster family and assistance by the third shift worker is helpful. Since the pilot began, staff have seen increased collaboration and communication across all of the child welfare divisions and staff meet monthly to perform case reviews and ensure services are working.

**Overview of Medical Assistance (MA) – Adult Unit (combined)**

Mullooly and Bromberek were present to discuss this item. Bromberek said this unit determines medical assistance eligibility for the elderly, blind, and disabled population. Each year about one-third of the caseload, which currently totals about 3,000, are individuals who live independently in their home and are below established income limits. Around 200 are for the Medicaid Assistance Program which has higher income and asset limits. Also, about 3,000 are for Long Term Care which involves institutionalized residents in nursing homes, hospitalizations lasting more than 30 days, and for those who can stay in their home as part of the Community Waivers Program, which is much less expensive than institutionalization. Mullooly invited board and committee members to tour the call center which responds to phone calls and determines eligibility.

**Approval of Appointments at the Mental Health Center (board)**

Lewis requested the appointments of Isha Salva, MD and E. Rackley Ivey, MD for psychiatry be approved. Both have been fully vetted, approved by various committees, and have passed background and reference checks.

MOTION: Genner moved, second by Dallmann-Papke to approve the appointment of Isha Salva, MD for psychiatry. Motion carried 9-0.

MOTION: Whitmore moved, second by Lodes to approve the appointment of E. Rackley Ivey, MD for psychiatry. Motion carried 9-0.

**Overview of ADRC – Adult Protective Services (APS) (combined)**

Smith and Mazeika were present to discuss this item. Smith advised the County's APS budget is about \$2 million, much of which is tax levy. There is one supervisor and eight social workers to investigate referrals pertaining to adults at risk, about 500 cases each year. APS cases/ investigations can involve a financial investigation, incompetency, protective placements, developmental disabilities, brain disorders, dementia, physical, emotional, or sexual abuse, etc. Cases such as self-neglect or hoarding are referred to an ADRC worker. Mazeika discussed the State Statutes, including Chapters 55 and 46, which mandate how services are provided and could include Watts reviews, guardianships, and protective placements.

MOTION: O'Brien moved, second by Howard to adjourn the board meeting at 2:43 p.m. Motion carried 9-0.

**State Legislative Update**

Spaeth said the state is still in recess and will return in 2017. The Wisconsin Counties Association (WCA) recently released their 2017-2019 state budget priorities. Three that involve Health & Human Services includes transferring jurisdiction of 17-year old offenders back to juvenile court (the County agrees with this concept but has fiscal concerns), a \$6.8 million increase for child welfare/protective services (caseloads have increased 30% and are more complex), and there is a bill to allow county health departments to merge. In addition, State department budgets were due to the governor today.

MOTION: Johnson moved, second by Kolb to adjourn the committee meeting at 2:51 p.m. Motion carried 7-0.

Respectfully submitted,

Robert L. Kolb  
Secretary