

WRIGHT COUNTY
HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES BOARD
MINUTES
February 8, 2016

1:30 P.M. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE.

The regular meeting of the Wright County Health & Human Services Board was called to order at 1:35 P.M., Monday, February 8, 2016, by Chairperson Daleiden.

MINUTES: Approval of Minutes of January 25, 2016.

Action: The Minutes were moved for approval by Potter, seconded by Husom. Motion carries unanimously.

AGENDA:

Action: The Agenda was moved for approval by Potter, seconded by Borrell. Motion carries unanimously.

ROLL CALL:

Members Present:

Christine Husom - District 1
Mark Daleiden - District 3

Michael Potter - District 4
Charlie Borrell - District 5

Members Absent:

Pat Sawatzke - District 2

Staff Present:

Jami Goodrum Schwartz, Director
Michelle Miller, Social Services Manager
Diane Erkens, Social Services Supervisor
Carol Schefers, Public Health Director
Kimberly Johnson, Financial Services Manager
Aggie Gunnerson, Secretary

CONSENT AGENDA

1. Social Services Payments Abstract – \$130,439.26

Action: Motion by Potter, seconded by Husom, to approve the Consent Agenda. Motion carries unanimously.

REGULAR AGENDA

ADMINISTRATIVE PAYMENTS:

Action: Motion by Potter, seconded by Husom, to approve the Administrative Payments in the amount of \$52,418.34; 100 vendors; 23 transactions, subject to audit. Potter brought to Board's attention payment to Cummings Power, in St. Paul, for repair of WOW Van generator. Daleiden mentioned two places that may do repairs – Quality RV Sales/Repairs in Monticello and Camping World in Rogers. Schefers will have staff check them out. Motion carries unanimously.

SOCIAL SERVICES/PUBLIC HEALTH/FINANCIAL SERVICES:

1. Presentation – Unmet Needs. (attachment – Unmet Needs Report)

Goodrum Schwartz said annually the Mental Health Advisory Council provides to the County Board unmet mental health needs. This is required under MN Statutes 245.466, subd. 5.

Erkens said report is on behalf of the Mental Health Advisory Council. She reviewed the unmet needs listed in report 2015-2016.

a. Day Treatment level of care being taken out of school systems due to DHS and MN Dept. of Education reimbursement changes. Adding a level 4 therapeutic support program in its place.

MAWSECO Buffalo location contacts with Village Ranch to provide the therapy services.

Erkens said this is at Cornerstone Program, at the Wright Technical School. They have a therapy component outside of the school day at that location. Borrell asked why can't services be provided at the school? Erkens said DHS and MN Dept. of Education changed the way that reimbursement worked; if provided within the school day that is double billing. The school could provide the services but would not be reimbursed. Erkens said we met with Representatives, educators, providers, community members, etc. on this, so they were aware of this prior to it ending. Husom asked how this affects the therapists from the Mental Health Center that are in schools now. Erkens said it is a different service than co-located therapists. Central Minnesota MHC contracted with MAWSECO to provide the DT services, those therapists were relocated. This does not affect co-located therapists in the schools; that is a different funding source and remains in effect. Borrell said are they being consistent – looking at Cornerstones – if someone goes to the schools and sees a counselor and is being paid by the State, and the school is still getting paid for that school day. Erkens said day treatment is group-provided service and the therapy service that is co-located is an individual service.

- b. Increased waiting times in ER's due to lack of inpatient beds around the State. There continues to be an increase in need of inpatient care, including young children 7-8 years old.

Erkens said they have continued to close more, and not opening places. Daleiden said this has been and issued talked about at the County DHS Partnership. Goodrum Schwartz said our MACSSA group has talked about this, it is a known issue but solution is in years coming.

- c. Mental Health services in the jail system are needed.

Erkens said the majority of inmates have mental health concerns that are not being addressed. Daleiden mentioned Star & Tribune article about the State of MN having to rent beds from us because they don't have enough space; they looking at place in Appleton; they say the County is not a good place to put State people because the counties do not have the mental health services the State does. Why is the State allowing this to happen in the State jails and not in the County jails?

- d. Too much distance between Wright County and crisis services headquarters, makes clients wait too long for services. Update – Crisis did add two staff in Monticello office. CMMHC was also awarded a crisis expansion grant in early 2016.

Erkens said they now have a person to respond to crisis calls (2 people) on an ongoing basis. They were also awarded a Crisis Expansion Grant for 2016. Potter asked where was it located before? Erkens said in St. Cloud - travel time for some clients could be 2 hours/round trip (farthest point Delano), plus 2 hours to meet with the family, that's 4 hours that staff would be on a call where they couldn't respond to anybody else in the four-county area. Goodrum Schwartz said there were staffing issues – staff who answered crisis line could not leave unless someone else was there, sometimes they would wait a day or two to go out to the crisis. Erkens said children and adults were ending up in the ER or hospitals, instead of the crisis services going out and mediating and preventing the crisis from going further. Goodrum Schwartz said the Monticello office serves both Wright and Sherburne counties.

- e. Emergency crisis foster care beds – CMMHC crisis team may use at times for children in crisis. The funding was discontinued. To our knowledge, CMMHC did not apply for any grants to cover the costs of this program.

Goodrum Schwartz said this funding is fluid; funding streams change all the time.

- f. Families without resources and just needing support. Law Enforcement continues to get calls like this. Perfect example of when they would call the Outreach Worker. Approved to hire Adult Outreach Worker April 2016. Buffalo Hospital was also approved to hire an In-reach Worker beginning April 2016.

Erkens said the In-reach worker will work with “frequent flyers,” client that go to hospitals frequently, and they would consult with our Outreach Worker who know of appropriate services/resources. She gave an example of homeless person in the community, Law Enforcement is called and meets with person, the person has a mental illness, and then the Outreach Worker would be contacted. Borrell said Law Enforcement should be responding to this, not Social Services. Goodrum Schwartz said Law Enforcement visits with the person, calls the new Outreach

Worker to see if there are services for person. This is short-term transitional – we will be able to send someone to meet with them, provide resources and do not need to open a case. Borrell said family should be the first avenue to go. Goodrum Schwartz said some people have cut themselves from those supports; this will be early intervention. At our next Board meeting, we will have a presentation on transitional housing. Borrell said what can we really do. Husom said if person has mental health issues and is in danger to themselves or others, we will be put on a 72-hour hold. Borrell said how will worker help without Law Enforcement taking person to jail. Erkens said worker will provide services without case management, give them an Adult Mental Health Resource Guide, and list of services/providers to help them remain in their home. Goodrum Schwartz said person may not listen to family and may listen to the worker that comes out and talks to them and has some resources – this is an assessment and getting person on the most direct path to prevent costly interventions down the road. Erkens said we would assess person and link them to services, call the provider, we wouldn't do therapy but link them to provider, assist person to set-up appointments, or a follow-up call arranging transportation for them or reminding them of appointment coming up. People don't know resources to call, it's getting information to adults not receiving our services currently.

- g. Limited providers for early childhood ages 0-5. CMMHC continues to have a difficult time hiring Mental Health Professionals with this specialty.
Erkens said we are seeing more children cases in this age range. Borrell said we are always saying “mental health issues.” At the Safe Schools meetings, mental health issues are behavioral problems. There might be mental health issues, where person might have anxiety or depression. What kind of issues do 5 years olds have? Erkens said a common example is child dealing with grief, any traumatic event requiring therapy; play therapy could be used. Husom gave an example; she spoke with mother whose son committed suicide; he had a lifetime of depression, and it becomes more obvious when he was a teen. The mother said the signs were there when child was young; you don't think your young child is depressed, some people recognize it and others don't.
- h. CMMHC Annandale Intensive Residential Treatment Services closure in 2015.
Erkens said they lost 16 beds for clients transitioning from the hospital back to home. Service is no longer available in our County.
- i. Transportation for children in the summer time continues to be limited.
Erkens said children needing to go to therapy that is limited especially for children with behaviors and parents are working. Daleiden said Trailblazer hasn't solved those any of those issues. Erkens said if the person is traveling in the community, that could work, and the person isn't behavioral and can get on the bus by them self. Husom said Trailblazer is transporting more children, in Buffalo, than adults.
- j. Supportive Transitional Housing is a need for clients with mental health history who may have a poor rental history or criminal history.
- k. Tele-psychiatry has improved access, however more medication prescribers are needed.

Borrell said, like with item j, there gets to be a point where you have to help yourself. Daleiden said there are some people incapable of helping themselves; that's the problem. Goodrum Schwartz said this is putting out the need and we are seeing it as a gap. We are not saying we need to fill that gap but as a Board you should be aware of it.

- 2. Board Ratification to Amendment to PH-DOC Maintenance & Support Agreement. (attachment)
Scheffers said a year ago the Board signed the Ratification for PH-DOC Maintenance/Support Agreement as part of the Co-op, saying that we agree and support it. That agreement ends in March 2016. This amendment is to have Agreement run through 2018. The amounts of money has changed – basically an inflation amount plus 1%. MN CCC and Xerox have signed the Agreement. It has gone to our users groups and is now going to the counties to sign the Ratification.
Action: Motion by Husom, seconded by Potter, to accept the Ratification. Motion carries unanimously.

3. Basic Sliding Fee Child Care overspending.

Johnson said in Financial Assistance Services we provide child care assistance. There are three kinds of child care: MFIP-DWP, Transitional Year and Basic Sliding Fee. The first two are funded by the State by pass-through dollars. The Basic Sliding Fee is an allocation that we receive. With the Sliding Fee, if we overspend, the County is to cover the cost. Goodrum Schwartz said once a client goes on the program, we can't take them off and they can move from one place to another. This is the first time in 20 years we have overspent our allocation. We had at one point projected a \$200,000 overspending. Johnson said in 2015, it was identified that the Basic Sliding Fee Child Care Budget may exceed our allocation. We created a child care waiting list. The waiting list started the end of May, however, the cost continued to increase. In October, the spending leveled off. We included \$50,000 in the Budget to offset the overspending. At the end of the year, we consulted with other counties; they indicated that they delay their payments (counties have 30 days to pay vendors). We sent a letter to providers that we were going to delay payments by one week; resulting in \$25,000 of 2015 spending paid out in January 2016. Based on information from DHS, we are responsible for \$26,791. Johnson said now we have reviewed the numbers and know the average cost per family and child. This year, we will know if we need the waiting list and how many people we will allow on. Potter said while Scott and Wright are even in populations, their numbers double ours; how do we find a correlation between the two. Goodrum Schwartz said there are a couple of things: the administrative costs (stays the same - we will always pay \$39,000). The allocation was a base line and changes based on your spending and whether or not you have a wait list. If you spend all dollars and have a wait list, you will likely receive a higher allocation the following year. If you spend between 90-100% of your allocation in a given year, you can carry-over the excess into the next year. If you're at 89% or below, it goes back to the other counties. We got an allocation for the coming year of \$50,000 higher than last year. Daleiden said Scott doesn't have a required match. Borrell asked what amount do we pay the day care centers in Wright County; is it \$919,000. Johnson said it is \$925,705. Goodrum Schwartz said some went to day care centers, some to unlicensed homes. Borrell said when you subsidize costs, the day care centers still charge what market will bear. Goodrum Schwartz said out family care centers rate is low; \$2-3/hour. Providers fall into different categories and the State sets the rate. Borrell said do they submit schedule on what they will charge. Goodrum Schwartz said a lot of the centers will not take our clients because the pay is too low. The income guidelines for the Child Care Assistance Programs are above poverty level. This is for the working family, who have low income, and the cost of day care is exorbitant. This is a good program because it keeps people in the work place. We do not pay all the cost, the parent pays the difference. Johnson said the cost represents 1,403 families and 2,334 children. The average cost is \$660/month; and the average cost of child is \$307/month. Borrell said Commissioners received calls from day care centers to pay bill; they can't do without paycheck for one week. Goodrum Schwartz said in the past, we paid them within a couple of days. Johnson said we did make a change this year, when the provider submits bill, they get paid the following week. Borrell said we need to watch this, if this is a \$200,000-\$300,000 hit that is substantial. Goodrum Schwartz said we want be on target and will make it work. We may open up the waiting list for 50 families. Some of those families may have made other arrangements. Borrell said he appreciates the work you are doing.

ADMINISTRATION:

1. Health & Human Services Advisory Committee Bylaws. (attachment)

Goodrum Schwartz requested this Board approve changes to the Committee's Bylaws. She reviewed changes made.

Action: Motion by Potter, seconded by Husom, to approve the Bylaws. Motion carries unanimously.

2. Health & Human Services calendar.

Goodrum Schwartz said the Agency was unable to get enough wall calendars from the Klein Bank this year. Johnson looked into this and got a bid from Edgewood Marketing, in Buffalo, for \$3.00/calendar as compared to about \$10.00/calendar from Home Depot. Goodrum Schwartz said she took the calendar to the County's Leadership Team, and that Lee Kelly may have calendars made for the entire County. Staff will no longer get monthly calendars as they have electronic means to a calendar. Daleiden suggested customizing calendars to indicate when County offices are "closed." Johnson said the cost will go down

if more calendars are ordered.

3. Director's Comments.

Goodrum Schwartz referred to letter from Miller to DHS regarding the work we were doing with Praxis. Miller said former Commissioner Rose Thelen approached us on being a national Praxis test site for domestic violence and some tools that they had developed. We agreed to do this. We also partnered with Rivers of Hope, Public Health, and Court Services. Jessica Nelson was the lead, Marianne Charbonneau was also very involved, as well as a number of our staff. DHS responded to our letter thanking us for our work and effort put into it; and the report we sent along with the letter will be used in one of their work groups. Thelen and Charbonneau have been asked to be on the Child Maltreatment Domestic Violence Response workgroup. Goodrum Schwartz read a portion of the DHS letter and applauded Miller and her team for working on this, and said their efforts will pay off for families facing domestic violence.

Our Child Protection Grant Allocation is the same amount for next year (\$467,000 for the six child protection positions). For this year, we will make one of the 10% withholds but may not get the second 10% withhold. Many counties are not making one or both withholds. She has heard the State may rethink how they distribute those funds. Miller said Jessica Nelson is making sure it is not a data entry error and that data is correct in order to hopefully draw down the other 10% withhold. Goodrum Schwartz said sometimes the way things are reported, if coded wrong, will impact our numbers negatively. The sixth position has not been filled yet.

The next regular meeting will be held at 1:30 P.M., Monday, February 22, 2016, in the Commissioners Room, at the Wright County Government Center. Chairperson Daleiden adjourned the meeting at 2:49 P.M.