



BOARD MINUTES

WRIGHT COUNTY HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES BOARD
WRIGHT COUNTY GOVERNMENT CENTER, BUFFALO, MN
February 12, 2018

Christine Husom, District 1
Darek Vetsch, District 2
Mark Daleiden, District 3
Michael Potter, District 4
Charles Borrell, District 5

Date Approved: March 12, 2018

I. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Wright County Health & Human Services Board met in regular session at 1:30 P.M. with Husom, Vetsch, Daleiden, Potter, and Borrell present.

STAFF PRESENT:

Jami Goodrum Schwartz, Director
Kimberly Johnson, Financial Services Manager
Christine Partlow, Business Manager
Sarah Grosshuesch, Public Health Director
Lisa Spencer, Office Manager II
Diane Erkens, Social Services Supervisor
Chad Miller, Social Services Supervisor
Jill Marzean, Social Services Supervisor
Karen Jorgensen-Royce, Public Health Supervisor
Jan Paumen, Collection Officer
Michele Raymond, Collection Officer
Shelley Stotko, Collection Officer
Noami Blomberg, Secretary

OTHERS:

Mona Trebesch, Mental Health Advisory Council Chair
Erva Hance, Mental Health Advisory Council Member

II. MINUTES APPROVAL

Daleiden moved, second by Husom, to approve the January 22, 2018 Minutes. Motion carried.

III. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Remove two items from the New Staff Introduction. Absent: Matthew Sickler and Whitney Ledesma.

Husom moved, second by Borrell, to approve the agenda as amended. Motion carried.

IV. NEW STAFF INTRODUCTION

Valerie Steele, Kinship and Foster Care Recruitment Case Aide in Licensing & Resource, Social Services effective February 5, 2018.

V. CONSENT AGENDA

A. Letter of Support: Functional Industries S.E.E.K. Grant

Daleiden moved, second by Potter, to approve the Consent Agenda. Motion carried.

VI. REGULAR AGENDA

A. Social Services/Public Health/Financial Services

1. RESOLUTIONS:

- a. [HHS 18-03](#) – Resolution to Accept January 2018 Donations
Daleiden moved, second by Potter, to approve HHS 18-03. Motion carried 5-0 on a roll call vote.
- b. [HHS 18-04](#) – Resolution to Proclaim March 2018 as National Social Worker Month
Borrell moved, second by Husom, to approve HHS -04. Motion carried 5-0 on a roll call vote.

2. NEW APPLICANT FOR THE HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES ADVISORY COMMITTEE (HHSAC)

Goodrum Schwartz presented Terri Sandbach's (District 1) application to the HHS Board and requested approval. .

Action: Husom moved, second by Daleiden, to approve Terri Sandbach's membership application to the Health and Human Services Advisory Committee. Motion carried.

3. [MENTAL HEALTH ADVISORY COUNCIL \(MHAC\) REPORT ON UNMET NEEDS \(Mona Trebesch, Erva Hance\)](#)

Trebesch presented the mental health unmet needs as discussed and reviewed in the MHAC meetings last year.

Housing and homeless resource continues to be an area of concern in Wright County.

Trebesch reported that Medicare clients receive inadequate mental health services due to the lack of professionals providing services for Medicare recipients in Wright County. MHAC recommended that Medical Assistance offer higher reimbursement rates to encourage provider participation and to attract specialists in the field.

Husom stated that the legislators are looking into the mental crisis and the lack of beds in treatment facilities. On January 30, 2018, the Wright County Board adopted Resolution 18-14 to support the AMC Mental Health Bonding Resolution as one of the legislative priorities for Minnesota counties in 2018.

Action: Daleiden moved, second by Husom, to receive the MHAC Unmet Needs Report. Motion carried.

4. PRESENTATION: [FAMILY PLANNING SPECIAL PROJECTS GRANT \(Sarah Grosshuesch\)](#)

Grosshuesch gave highlights on the FPSP grant proposal that MDH was awarded for years 2018-2022. Wright County Health & Human Services proposed that the Agency continue its current outreach services such as providing STI cost-related services to incarcerated individuals, educational outreach and awareness on family planning and unintended pregnancy, increase referrals, and others.

Action: Daleiden moved, second by Husom, to approve HHS' request to continue its Family Planning Special Projects. Motion carried.

Recommendation: Potter requested for a follow-up report to the Board on the grant. Potter said that he is still waiting for the Super Bowl sex trafficking report from the State. Daleiden would like to see the statistics on incoming pregnant women and STI inmates and develop an evaluation plan that reflects how the grant was utilized.

5. PRESENTATION: [HHS WRITE-OFF](#) (Lisa Spencer)

Spencer presented the 2016 and 2017 HHS debt write-off, requesting the Board's approval.

HHS' conversion to the WebAR software saved staff hours in processing payments while also speeding up revenue capture by allowing clients to pay online. Debts were identified to be written-off during the case by case conversion while transferring legitimate debts to the new system with the MA Estate Recovery claiming 25% of the write-off amount for 2016-2017.

Daleiden asked if the WebAR system increased the amount of collections. Goodrum Schwartz said no, but stated that the system saved administrative hours. Moreover, the pool of money that HHS is collecting from has diminished due to new regulations around collecting medical assistance from estates. She also cited an example of the State-mandated GRH (Housing Support) collection that the county is now required to collect despite not having any forthcoming incentive coming to the county. The goal, per Goodrum Schwartz, is to be vigilant in how much the Agency is collecting and where the money is applied.

Action: Husom moved, second by Daleiden, to approve the 2016 and 2017 debt write-off as presented. Motion carried.

6. 2017 4TH QUARTER FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Partlow reported that the Agency is at 97% revenue while expenditures are at 100% for the 2017 budget. Partlow cited different factors contributing to the budget shortfall: only 97% of revenues were collected for the full year, increasing OHP costs, decreasing waiver revenue. Another factor was a Provider Number issue in the State billing which was held over until late December 2017, with an approximately \$66K Cost Effective Insurance (CEI) reimbursement for December that did not reflect as received-revenue until in 2018.

Vetsch asked if the reason that the correctional facilities numbers are high is due to lack of foster care homes. Partlow reasoned that placements and the length of placements have increased due to the lack of home availability, kids have to be placed in facilities with higher costs. Partlow added that new recruitment worker will focus on this area.

Goodrum Schwartz reminded the Board that at budget time, HHS advocated for the placement budget to be moved out of the HHS budget on which she proposed to have a follow-up discussion.

Vetsch wanted to identify which part of the budget is Court Services versus HHS and how placements are impacted. Partlow stated that correctional placements from Court Services was 650K while HHS' was 533K, still significantly higher than what was budgeted for both areas.

Social Services Supervisor Diane Erkens added that children involved in human and sex trafficking and needing placements have increased, stating that these facilities are coded under the correctional line item, which, per Erkens, may have contributed to the increased numbers in the correctional placements. Daleiden requested to separate the correctional and the treatment facilities to define the actual expenses.

Recommendation: Identify the expenses that HHS controls and the expenses that are probation-mandated, how much are expended on correctional facilities being used as the only option and how much are legitimate correctional costs that are not tied to insufficient foster home placements.

Wright County transitioned to a "stand alone county" for the Income Maintenance Random Moment Time Study with a return rate of 50.5% in 2017 first quarter and 50.9% for the second quarter of actual income maintenance expenses. Revenue impact is attributed to what staff are selecting in their time study.

Social Services Time Study exceeded expectations by \$131K due to MnCHOICES but lost \$31K in the 2017 1st quarter due to program reduction by the State. Public Health received \$167K in MnCHOICES time study revenue.

CADI and Development Disabilities cases have increased but revenue has dropped. HHS moved the management of the social welfare payee to third party providers and also moved to a contracted case management to allocate staff time for social service case management for better client service, anticipating for increased revenue. Vetsch stated that a client in his district was initially concerned when his case was contracted out but reported back having received timely service.

Action: Borrell moved, second by Husom, to approve the 2017 4th Quarter Financial Report. Motion carried.

Daleiden asked how Wright County is compared to other counties with Targeted Case Management (TCM) reimbursement rates. Goodrum Schwartz stated that Wright County averages at \$700 per 'hit' compared to \$1,027 in counties of comparable size. Goodrum Schwartz stated that the much lower reimbursement rates are due to the minimal overhead cost, uncompetitive salary brackets, and high caseload size.

7. REQUEST TO CANCEL 02/26/18 HHS BOARD MEETING

Goodrum Schwartz requested to cancel the February 26, 2018 HHS Board Meeting, requesting that urgent items may be submitted to the County Board.

Action: Husom moved, second by Daleiden, to cancel the February 26, 2018 HHS Meeting. Motion carried.

B. ADMINISTRATION

1. DIRECTOR'S COMMENTS

WCHHS will proceed with the Employee of the Month (EOM) selection and the announcement of the two upcoming EOM candidates. Both nominees will then be introduced to the Board in its first monthly meeting the following month.

Potter requested that the Financial Assistance PowerPoint presentation and the Mental Health Unmet Needs Report be included in the "Thank You" letter to the legislators during the legislative priorities meeting on February 7, 2018.

The meeting adjourned at 3:02 PM.