



BOARD MINUTES

WRIGHT COUNTY HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES BOARD

September 28, 2020

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

DATE APPROVED: October 12, 2020

I. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Wright County Health & Human Services Board met in regular session at 1:30 p.m. with Husom, Vetsch, Potter and Borrell present. Daleiden absent. Chairman Potter presided the meeting.

STAFF PRESENT:

Frank Petitta, Audio/Video Technician
Greg Kryzer, Assistant County Attorney
James O'Dell, Technology Supervisor
Jami Goodrum Schwartz, Director
Jill Pooler, Social Services Manager
Kari Willis, Assistant County Attorney
Kimberly Johnson, Financial Services Manager
Lee Kelly, County Administrator
Mason Coaty, Information Systems Specialist
Michelle Miller, Social Services Manager
Noami Blomberg, Administrative Specialist

OTHER:

Rhia Bornmann Spears, Attorney-at-Law

II. MINUTES APPROVAL

ACTION: Vetsch moved, Husom second, to approve the September 14, 2020 minutes. Motion carried

III. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Borrell requested to swap regular items 1 and 2 in the Regular Agenda to accommodate the child welfare presentation.

Goodrum Schwartz requested to pull item (a) from the Consent Agenda for further review/changes to the language. The agreement, however, needs immediate submission for board consideration at the next available board due to terms of the contract being related to the time-sensitive CARES Act funding. Potter recommended next week's board, providing ample time for a thorough review.

Vetsch moved to remove Item 1 under A in the Regular Agenda and table it for a future meeting, citing potential legal implications to the county due to a board member' being a probable witness in an open child protection case. **Husom seconded**, asking if the presentation is case-specific or not. Vetsch stated again that regardless of the presentation's content being specific or not, the timing is not appropriate due to a board member's special interest in an open hearing, possibly resulting to undue influence on the outcome of the ruling.

Borrell countered that this presentation is not specific to a case and only seeking ways to improve child protection.

Potter called on Assistant County Attorney Greg Kryzer to make recommendations how to proceed. Kryzer confirmed a pending child protection legal case involving a board member who is listed as a witness and stated he does not recommend that the presentation proceed, however, it is up to the Board's discernment. Best practice,

according to Kryzer, who acknowledged awareness of the generic nature of the presentation, is to table the item for at least a month.

Borrell, citing prior agreement to set up the meeting and considering the time incurred by Atty. Spears in attending today's meeting, did not agree with recommendation to postpone.

On Borrell's question for a timetable on the presentation, Vetsch recommended to wait at least 30 days from today, after any court ruling.

Chairman Potter accepted Kryzer's legal advice to table Item 1 (Child Protection Presentation) and wait after a court order is issued.

ACTION: Motion to strike Item (a) from the Consent Agenda and Item (1) under A from the Regular Agenda carried 3-1, with Borrell voting No.

IV. CONSENT AGENDA

- ~~a. APPROVE STATEMENT OF WORK (SOW) AUTHORIZING AVTEX FOR GENESYS CLOUD CONTACT CENTER INTEGRATION~~
- b. APPROVE 2021-01-01 TO 2024-12-31 METROPOLITAN COUNTY CONSORTIUM (MCC) AGREEMENT BETWEEN MCC COUNTIES FOR NON-EMERGENCY MEDICAL TRANSPORTATION (NEMT) SERVICES
- c. APPROVE 2020-01-01 TO 2022-12-31 DHS AND WRIGHT COUNTY GRANT CONTRACT AUTHORIZING COMMUNITY SUPPORT PROGRAM SERVICES

ACTION: Borrell moved, Husom second, to approve the consent agenda as amended. Motion carried.

V. REGULAR AGENDA

A. Social Services/Public Health/Financial Services

- ~~1. CHILD WELFARE PRESENTATION (ATTY. RHIA BORNMANN SPEARS, ASST. CO. ATTY. 15 MINUTES)~~

- 2. APPROVE REQUEST TO ACCEPT BCBS FUNDING FOR A REGIONAL DENTAL COORDINATOR (JAMI GOODRUM SCHWARTZ)

Goodrum Schwartz requested Board approval [or refer to the Personnel Committee] to accept Blue Cross Blue Shield's (BCBS) funding for a regional dental coordinator position to expand dental services and resources for MA clients in the four-county area. This is a three-year grant-funded program sponsored by BCBS with an annual budget of \$100K, subject to assessment for further funding after three years. Wright County, who will host and manage said position, will work with BCBS to outline the regional scope of duties.

The Board expressed concern about the county's hosting multiple grant-funded positions that may take a long time to be absorbed to attrition should grants end. Goodrum Schwartz stated that HHS managed many staff movements without issues and is diligent in tracking positions, and in the past has decided to wait to fill a position if there may be ramifications of losing future grant funding.

Questions arose whether this position is eligible to be contracted. Goodrum Schwartz stated that the BCBS terms are that it needs to be a county employee. Potter sought County Administrator Lee Kelly's advice if he has any concern. Kelly recommended to approve said request as the county has had precedents with positions like this.

Husom agreed to make the recommendations at today's meeting and **moved to approve** the request to hire a regional dental coordinator using BCBS funding. **Vetsch seconded**, pending adding a comment. Potter moved the motions forward and gave the floor to Vetch who commented that this solidifies Wright

County's long-sought support from legislation on accessibility to dental care for financially challenged constituents.

Borrell wants assurance that this hire is contingent on the grant availability, that the position should end when the grant ends. He also indicated that sending this request to the Personnel Committee gives more time to "iron out" underlying concerns. Vetsch posed questions for Borrell to clarify/confirm that he [Borrell] is not adding to the motion that the position be in a contracted status; Borrell confirmed, no, that he is merely stating his concerns, ensuring that the county be fair to its hires.

Goodrum Schwartz will ensure that BCBS is clear with their intention as to how and where the position will proceed after funding ends.

Potter put both first and second motions forward and motion carried 4-0.

Submitted by Naomi Blomberg, Administrative Specialist 1:55 p.m.