

HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE
Minutes of Meeting
March 7th, 2023 at 6:00 pm
Kenosha County Administration Building

Committee Members Present: Human Services Committee Chair Amanda Nedweski. County Board Supervisors Jeffrey Gentz, Edward Kubicki, , Zach Stock, Tim Stocker and Monica Yuhas.

Committee Member Excused: Supervisor Dave Geertsen

Youth-In-Governance Present: Erika Bando

Staff Present: Ron Rogers, Director, Division of Children and Family Services and Pamela Condos, Division Manager, Division of Children and Family Services

Others Present: Chief of Staff Tami Rongstad, County Board Chairman Gabe Nudo and County Board Supervisor Brian Bashaw.

1. **Call to order/ Roll Call.** The meeting was called to order at 6:01 pm by Human Services Committee Chair Amanda Nedweski. Roll call was taken.
2. **Citizens Comments:** None.
3. **Chairman's / Committee Members / Supervisors / YIG comments:** None.
4. **Kenosha County DCFS-Child Protective Services: Safety, Permanence and Well-Being.**

Ron Rogers, Director, Division of Children and Family Services (DCFS), presented a Power Point presentation on Kenosha County DCFS Child Protective Services: Safety, Permanence and Well-Being. The slides provided a thorough and descriptive model of the practices of Kenosha County DCFS Child Protective Services. Protocols and procedures were outlined in detail beginning with the first point of contact and throughout the entirety of each case.

The presentation focused on information that must be gathered during an Initial Assessment (Investigation) of Child Abuse and Neglect. It included how the safety of children is assessed throughout the entire Initial Assessment and how Safety Plans are implemented when needed to protect children from further abuse. The presentation included the legal process that must be followed to place unsafe children in foster care. This includes the roles and responsibilities of Juvenile Court Intake Services, the District Attorney's Office, Public Defenders, Guardian Ad Litem and Juvenile Court Judges in this process.

The presentation discussed the role of the Ongoing Services Social Worker to determine the underlying problems that caused the child(ren) to be unsafe in their home and to assess the service needs of both the parents and the child(ren). This included a description of Permanency Planning for Children and the role of Service Providers and the County Social Worker to provide effective services and closely monitor the parent's involvement with services and parent's progress. The presentation focused on the Court's role in assessing case progress. This included descriptions of the indicators of progress that DCFS Workers and their Supervisors use and present to the Court when parents are making progress to achieve a safe home. The presentation emphasized the Court's role in overseeing this work and ultimately determining if children can be safely reunified with their parents. The presentation clarified that after children are reunified with a parent, the children and parents remain under a court order for 9 months to 1 year. During this time DCFS continues to monitor the children's safety and provide services to support the family.

The presentation briefly outlined the court process when parents do not make progress. This legal process usually leads to 2 separate court actions, a termination of Parental Rights and then children finding a safe permanent home through adoption.

Ron Rogers addressed questions from committee members throughout the presentation. Remarks by committee members included Supervisor Jeffrey Gentz who highly commended the work of Ron Rogers and DCFS staff, seconded by Supervisor Edward Kubicki. Human Services Committee Chair Amanda Nedweski extended words of gratitude to Ron Rogers for such a thoroughly detailed and educational presentation. This was seconded by Supervisor Zach Stock who also offered thanks for the comprehensive outline of details offered by Ron Rogers.

5. **Any other business as authorized by law:** None.
6. **Adjournment:** Supervisor Yuhas made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Supervisor Kubicki. All in favor. Motion carried unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 7:25pm.

Full audio of the meeting is available at <https://www.kenoshacounty.org/ArchiveCenter/ViewFile/Item/6711>

Respectfully Submitted,

Kriste Sretenovich
Sr. Administrative Assistant
Division of Children and Family Services