

HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE
Minutes of Meeting
May 2, 2023 at 6:00 pm
Kenosha County Administration Building

Committee Members Present: Human Services Committee Chair Amanda Nedweski. County Board Supervisors Geertsen, Gentz, Kubicki, Stock, Stocker and Yuhas.

Youth-In-Governance Present: Eric LaMere

Staff Present: John Jansen, Director- Department of Human Services, Rebecca Dutter, Director- Aging and Disability Services.

1. **Call to order/ Roll Call.** The meeting was called to order at 6:00 pm by Human Services Committee Chair Nedweski. Roll call was taken.
2. **Citizens Comments:** None.
3. **Chairman's / Committee Members / Supervisors / YIG comments:** Chairman Nedweski encouraged the submission of meeting agenda topics to be emailed to her directly. She stated Human Services Committee Meeting time will remain at 6:00 pm, except for special exceptions. A longer presentation may start earlier for the sake of not running into the County Board Meeting. She will try to keep the length of meetings between 45 minutes and 1 hour. She asks that meeting time be kept in mind when suggesting a meeting topic.

Supervisor Gentz made a request for the next meeting agenda to include the following: Brookside, a financial update, details on the number of beds and Medicare/Medicaid changes, in order that the Committee members can be informed of these details. He requested an update on Opioids and suggests an update from the Task Force and the Medical Examiner to provide information on Opioid deaths as well as what we are doing in terms of prevention. He also requested an update on the Health Director Position, who is filling it and what they are doing. He suggests bringing them in. He would like information on the SAMHSA grant numbers, such as whether we've been hitting measurables and if we're in line to receive another one.

Supervisor Stock described a conversation he had with a constituent concerning the Human Services of Kenosha County in general. He questions the feasibility of creating something within the County website for Community Members in need of help. He suggests a survey or series of questions that would direct someone to the correct department(s) based on their individual needs, in particular, for people with overlapping issues. He provided an example which was presented to him in which a Community Member needed help dealing with multiple issues but was diverted in a back-and-forth manner to different departments and phone numbers. Supervisor Stock explained he attempted to navigate the County Website himself to get a better understanding of being in the shoes of someone seeking assistance and found the website to be very confusing. He suggests something similar to a flow chart that could more adequately direct a person in need of help to the correct County Department, making services easier to access. He suggests the Committee work on this in the long-term future. John Jansen provided feedback explaining efforts currently underway to beef up the resource center which is run by Kenosha Human Development Services. He mentioned current plans to better market available resources. In response, Supervisor Stock requested an online option be implemented to facilitate the obtaining of these resources as well. Human Services Committee Chair, Nedweski remarked on the Racine County Website which is currently utilizing a pilot program that focuses more on

Mental Health and seems to have a good streamlining process. She can inquire about the potential of more counties being implemented into the model.

Supervisor Geertsen inquired as to whether any updates may be available concerning State Budget items being recently released, specifically updates regarding the Innovation Fund and Elimination of Personal Property. He questioned if any of the changes may affect our Human Services operations or funding. Chairman Nedweski stated that although there was a series of press conferences recently, she would caution that the Senate has not yet decided on this as there are still details being ironed out.

4. **Approval of minutes- March 7, 2023:** Supervisor Geertsen moved that we approve minutes from the March 7, 2023 meeting. Supervisor Stock seconded. All in Favor. Motion carried unanimously.
5. **DADBHS annual report- Rebecca Dutter** - Presentation well received by all.

Supervisor Geertsen asked if we still have Falls Prevention Training going on. Rebecca provided feedback explaining that Part of our Falls Prevention Program offers several evidence-based classes which are funded by the Older Americans Act.

Supervisor Stock asked if the new building would allow for an appropriate Senior Dining Center to host meals. Rebecca explained that there is a potential for this, looking further into the future with this, funding would need to catch up with those plans.

Supervisor Geertsen questioned, in terms of Behavioral Health, what is the spending budget and what is the levy budget. Rebecca stated that the Budget for Behavioral Health for 2022 was \$11,764,000 and the Levy is approximately 3.25 million. Supervisor Geertsen asked where the Hope Council fits into this. Rebecca stated that although the Hope Council is somewhere we refer people to, the Hope Council operates primarily off of money collected from people who are court ordered into the DUI program.

Supervisor Yuhas questioned of the 16 beds at the Care Center, are they consistently full and what is the average bed occupancy? Rebecca stated that the beds are not consistently full and this year the occupancy rate has been running around 10. Supervisor Yuhas asked how long the patients are staying in care on average. Rebecca stated that the stay is typically 3-5 days. Supervisor Yuhas asked if there is enough staffing at the Care Center, in which Rebecca replied that they report back to her is that there is enough staffing to staff at capacity. Supervisor Yuhas asked what the schooling or training qualifications are for their CNA's? Rebecca stated that the staff are not CNA's, they are called Technicians. She explained that the Technicians do not need any special qualifications or be licensed, and a high school diploma is fine. She explained they have to have some type of a mental health background. Supervisor Yuhas asked what the Technicians rate of pay is. Rebecca stated the wage as \$17.00 or \$18.00 per hour.

Supervisor Gentz asked to be walked through what a Crisis contact looks like. Rebecca stated there is a wide range of scenarios. It could be a suicidal person in which a crisis worker is immediately dispatched. It could also be a "warm call" whereas a person calls who is not suicidal but having a difficult time and needs a listening ear. Other scenarios include responding to Emergency Departments when called by Law Enforcement to screen someone for 51 Detention. She explained there is a wide range and that the Crisis line has become a catch all for all scenarios and the current goal is to walk this back and boost the resource center. Supervisor Gentz commented that the Website provides no index, no way to go, and inquires as to whether

it's an option to partner with IT or a phone call line that is better broken down. He feels we have great talent in the departments but there must be a better way to have a table of contents to prevent confusion within our community.

6. **Lake Behavioral Hospital Update- Rebecca Dutter** - Update well received by all. Rebecca explained that the Lake County Project is ready to go, pending a signature from the Lake County Sherriff. Corporation Council is working with Lake County Sherriff's department to continue to iron out all the details. It will hopefully be done this month.
7. **Any other business as Authorized by law:** Supervisor Geertsen requests a status update on the Brookside House. John Jansen provided an update stating that Public Works received the keys to the house on Friday 4/28/23 and did a walk-through. They reported that the house is in great shape. There are a few items remaining in the building which will likely be donated to other agencies. Supervisor Geertsen requested that care goes into ensuring that assets there are being properly handled. It was discussed that plans for the house is to eventually demo it.

John Jansen stated there will be at least 2 resolutions coming in June. One regarding the Grant received by the Kenosha County Department of Aging, Disability and Behavioral Health Services. The second is regarding the first movement on the settlement dollars, there is a recommendation for a position. He suggests it may be a good time to have a presentation to update the Committee.

8. **Adjournment:** Supervisor Stock made a motion to adjourn, seconded by Supervisor Yuhas. All in favor. Motion carried unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 6:57 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kriste Sretenovich, Senior Administrative Assistant

Department of Human Services – Division of Children and Family Services

Audio is available online for the full meeting at

<https://www.kenoshacounty.org/ArchiveCenter/ViewFile/Item/6827>