

**HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE**  
Minutes of Meeting  
June 6, 2023 at 6 pm  
Kenosha County Administration Building

**Committee Members Present:** Supervisors Stock, Stocker, Kubicki, Gentz, Geertsen, Nedweski and Yuhas

**Youth-In-Governance Present:** Madison Tongco

**Youth-In-Governance Excused:** Sona Hawkins

**Staff Present:** John Jansen, Rebecca Dutter, Kari Foss, Dustin Feeney, Lori Plahmer, Zasmine Lewis and Clara Tappa

**Others Present:** Tami Rongstad, Supervisor Bashaw, Guida Brown, Veronica King

1. **Call to order / Roll Call.** The meeting was called to order at 6 pm by Chairman Stock. Roll call was taken.
2. **Citizens Comments:** Michelle Sandberg - Office address is 6103 39<sup>th</sup> Ave, Kenosha, WI. Executive Director of the Hope Council. Mission of the Hope Council is to reduce the impact of substance use disorders in our community by providing education, prevention, intervention and referral services. Prevention education is our focus. They work closely with the Division of Health. When she first heard of the Prevention Education Specialist position she was intrigued. It is difficult to find prevention money. Most money is directed towards treatment efforts. Tangible things you can see and feel and touch and count. Prevention is impossible to measure. You cannot measure something that didn't happen. It is hard to quantify the work they do at times. Hope Council has a robust tobacco prevention program in place. Adding a funded position that could focus on opioids or any other prevention efforts would be a huge benefit for the youth in our community. As a bonus if this position was housed at a non-profit it would cost less. It's just the reality of our world right now that a non-profit can do what a government agency can and cannot do and they can do it cheaper and they can start right now. Michelle went through the pay grade for Kenosha County for this position at \$120,000 annually. She ran some numbers and thought this position through Hope Council could be housed between \$79,000 - \$84,000. The savings could be money put back into the program to help offset the costs. She would like the Hope Council to be considered for this position.

Citizens Comments is closed.

3. **Chairman's / Committee Members / Supervisors / YIG comments:** Supervisor Stock wanted to welcome everyone to his first meeting as chairman. If anyone has items that they would like to put on future agendas to please email them to him. He will meet with Director Jansen to discuss.

Supervisor Yuhas wanted to introduce one of the new Youth in Governance, Madison Tongco. Introductions were made of all the Supervisors.

Supervisor Nedweski wanted to welcome Supervisor Stock as chairman. She wanted to update this committee on a resolution that we passed not long ago asking for an increase in child support and she wanted to report that it was submitted today. She is hoping to have an update by the next meeting.

4. **Approval of Minutes – February, April and May 2023**

Supervisor Geertsen made a motion to accept the minutes from February 7, 2023. Supervisor Nedweski seconded. All in Favor. **Motion carried unanimously.**

Supervisor Kubicki made a motion to accept the minutes from April 5, 2023. Supervisor Yuhas seconded. All in Favor. **Motion carried unanimously.**

Supervisor Yuhas made a motion to accept the minutes from May 1, 2023. Supervisor Kubicki seconded. All in Favor. **Motion carried unanimously.**

5. **Resolution for the appointment of Veronica King to serve on the Commission on Aging and Disability Services (COADS) –** Rebecca Dutter introduced the resolution of Ms. King with her experience and knowledge which brings so much to the Commission. Veronica was given the opportunity to tell the committee about herself and the years of experience she brings. Supervisor Nedweski asked Ms. King what inspired her to put in her application for this particular commission and what do you hope to bring to the table on aging and disability. Ms. King hopes to bring

her years of experience and knowing the Kenosha Community. Working with all different populations she is hoping to bring her well rounded experience to help in any way she can. Supervisors Kubicki and Nedweski thanked her for volunteering her time to serve on the commission.

Supervisor Gentz made a motion to accept this appointment, Supervisor Kubicki seconded. All in favor. **Motion carried unanimously.**

6. **Resolution for the appointment of Dustin Feeney to the position of Director of Workforce Development** – Clara Tappa and John Jansen presented the resolution. Clara went through Dustin's resume with Kenosha County. He will be succeeding Nina Taylor and will have a salary of \$92,000. Dustin was given the opportunity to introduce himself to the committee.

Supervisor Gentz asked where the salary of \$92,000 fit into the spectrum with the comp and class study. Ms. Tappa stated that it is currently an E10 position and will become an E 12 on July 2, 2023. Supervisor Gentz asked if it was within the new paygrade so he will not get an increase in July. Where does this fall with the new paygrade. Ms. Tappa stated it would fall in with all the other directors.

Supervisor Nedweski stated that Dustin does come with a wealth of knowledge which has been an asset on the state level, and she will be voting for this appointment.

Supervisor Kubicki made a motion to accept this appointment, Supervisor Nedweski seconded. All in favor. **Motion carried unanimously.**

7. **Resolution to modify the Division of Aging, Disability and Behavioral Health Services 2023 budget for a grant: The Independent Living Supports Pilot** – Rebecca Dutter introduced the resolution that we that we were elected to receive. The goal is to meet the needs of people in the community over 60 years old. They do need to have a disability, be in a long-term care program and cannot be in a long-term care facility. We are hoping to help 500 people. The income guideline is \$300% of federal poverty level or \$42,000 per year. Household income does not matter, it will be individual income. Everyone can use \$7,200 and they have twelve months to use it. It can be used on care, wheelchair ramps on a home, an adaptive vehicle, financial management. It is pretty wide open. Family members can be hired to supply services. Ms. Dutter stated that they are hoping to have two staff to do this work. It would be contracted from Professional Services Group (PSG). The state is the fiscal agent for this money and reimbursement comes from there. The grant is for \$432,000.

Supervisor Geertsen asked what the primary grant is, the #1 program we provide. Rebecca stated that most of the time this clientele will not qualify for other programs. These are the hardest people to serve. ADRC will do the enrollment

Supervisor Yuhas asked how we get the word out? Rebecca stated that the state has done a marketing plan, but they cannot roll that out yet. Officially starts on July 10, 2023.

Chairman Stock asked how they reimbursement process works. Does someone get a quote, for example for a ramp and it is submitted to the state? Rebecca stated that yes, it will go directly to the fiscal agent and they will make the decision and payment sent directly to vendor. Chairman Stock also asked if it was an online application. They can come in to see a caseworker but can certainly do at home.

Supervisor Nedweski made a motion to accept this resolution, Supervisor Stocker seconded. All in favor. **Motion carried unanimously.**

8. **Resolution to modify the Division of Aging, Disability and Behavioral Health Services 2023 budget for a new position: Community Prevention and Education Specialist** – Kari Foss stated that we have a unique opportunity. We were approached by a School Resource Officer last fall saying our school is in desperate need of help because of substance abuse and mental health issues of students. Incoming freshman's have more behavioral health issues than any other grade in high school. How to protect themselves when they have heard of tragedy. Then there is the opioid settlement dollars. These opportunities do not come along often. Spend money to save lives. The main goal of the new position is to work in schools and to constantly be looking for other grants and opportunities to expand and supplement the program. Kari stated that Botvin life skills training which is nationally proven to reduce

drug abuse and violence. There are many tiers to the program within school grades. We currently have DARE at our elementary schools. Kari stated that there are 4 components – Prevention, Intervention, Treatment and Recovery. This is solely on prevention.

Supervisor Gentz asked if we are looking for a big salary? Kari stated that it would be between \$68,000-\$95,000.

Supervisor Nedweski asked if the intention is to have this be a county employee or would it be a contracted position? Kari stated that the position would be a county employee to continue the partnership with the Division of Health, the opioid task force, law enforcement. What data is being collected for grade levels? Could we start in the middle schools?

Supervisor Stocker asked what is the average of success? Kari stated that she does not know as there is no prevention in the middle schools or high school. Supervisor Stocker asked where the numbers were coming from. Kari stated these are national stats.

Supervisor Geertsen asked if we could put discussion of the settlement dollars on a future agenda. Mr. Jansen stated yes.

Supervisor Nedweski asked if we train the person then they go into the school to train staff. Kari stated that this person needs to be flexible and nimble. Supervisor Nedweski said that high schoolers do not have education. There are 70 citations given out per day and this is a huge problem right now. Concerned that one position is not enough and would like one per school, but this is a good start.

YIG Maddie said she has noticed a lot more vaping and alcohol by her peers.

Chairman Stock asked if this was the best use of the money with no job description. Kari did pass around the job description. He would like reports back to measure impact.

Supervisor Gentz said this is a no brainer and this resolution needs to be passed.

Supervisor Geertsen made a motion to accept this resolution, Supervisor Nedweski seconded. All in favor. **Motion carried unanimously.**

9. **Presentation – Updates on Opioid Programs** – A motion was made by Supervisor Gentz to table this presentation to our next meeting as time would not allow to hear this meeting. It was seconded by Supervisor Geertsen. All in favor. **Motion carried unanimously.**
10. **Any other business as authorized by law:** July meeting will take place on July 5, 2023.
11. **Adjournment** – Supervisor Kubicki made a motion to Adjourn. Supervisor Geersten seconded. All in Favor. **Motion carried unanimously.** Meeting adjourned at 7:26 pm.

*Full audio of the meeting is available at [kenoshacounty.org/ArchiveCenter/ViewFile/Item/6846](https://kenoshacounty.org/ArchiveCenter/ViewFile/Item/6846)*

Respectfully Submitted,

Kathy Duberstine, Senior Administrative Assistant  
Department of Human Services - Office of the Director