

HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE
Minutes of Meeting
August 1, 2023 at 6 pm
Kenosha County Administration Building

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

Committee Members Excused: Supervisor Nedweski

Youth-In-Governance Present: None

Staff Present: John Jansen, Rebecca Dutter, Kari Foss, Lori Plahmer

Others Present: Tami Rongstad, Supervisors Gaschke and Bashaw

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:** None.
3. **Chairman's / Committee Members / Supervisors / YIG comments:** None.
4. **Approval of Minutes – June 6, 2023**

Supervisor Geertsen made a motion to accept the minutes from June 6, 2023. Supervisor Stocker seconded. All in Favor. **Motion carried unanimously.**

5. **Resolution to approve the appointment of Zach Rodriguez to serve on the Kenosha County Board of Health –**
Supervisor Geertsen made a motion to postpone this resolution until the next regular meeting as Supervisor Rodriguez had a conflict with work. Supervisor Stocker seconded. Discussion.

Supervisor Gentz will be voting against the motion. He feels that we have enough information and have served with him that we can vote this evening.

A Roll call vote was requested – Voting to postpone the appointment (Aye) – Supervisors Geertsen, Stocker and Stock. Voting against postponing (nay) – Supervisors Gentz, Kubicki and Yuhas. **Motion failed.**

John Jansen introduced the resolution stating that Supervisor Rodriguez would be filling the spot that was occupied by Supervisor O'Day.

Supervisor Geertsen made a motion to approve the appointment of Supervisor Rodriguez to serve on the Board of Health. Supervisor Stocker seconded. Discussion.

Supervisor Gentz stated that Public Health is a crucial piece to the county's function right now and based on what he has seen from Supervisor Rodriguez he does not feel that he is a fit for the Board of Health and won't be supporting it.

Supervisor Yuhas will not be supporting this appointment. In the last six months she has seen Mr. Rodriguez be combative and argumentative with Department Heads and staff when they are presenting their reasoning as to why something has happened the way it has and because it does not fit into his realm of reality. He has become very vindictive, mean and unprofessional. She cannot support a supervisor with that type of temperament on the Board of Health.

A Roll call vote was requested – Voting to approve the appointment (Aye) – Supervisors Geertsen, Stocker and Stock. Voting against the appointment (nay) – Supervisors Gentz, Kubicki and Yuhas. **Motion failed.**

6. **Resolution to approve the appointment of Daniel Gaschke to serve on the Racine Kenosha Community Action Agency -** John Jansen introduced the resolution of Supervisor Gaschke to serve on the RKCAA which is a requirement for this agency to have a county board supervisor on.

Supervisor Geertsen made a motion to accept this appointment, Supervisor Yuhas seconded. A roll call vote was requested. All Supervisors aye. **Motion carried unanimously.**

7. **Resolution to approve the appointment of Kari Foss as Director of Aging, Disability and Behavioral Health Services-** John Jansen introduced the resolution. We believe that Kari possesses the qualities and characteristics that we are looking for in a director.

Kari gave an overview of her qualifications for this position.

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

8. **Presentation – Update on Opioid Programs –** Rebecca Dutter had a power point presentation. Kari Foss and Lori Plahmer were also in attendance for any questions.

Rebecca started with toxicity deaths. For 2022 there were 57 deaths with some still pending and 44 of those involved opioids.

Prevention-over the last couple years they have implemented a lot of prevention. Outreach events, human services on the go and they have partnered with law enforcement to hand out flyers. They created the Community Prevention and Education Specialist who just started on July 31, 2023. That will be focusing on children and starting prevention earlier. We can start normalizing this conversation about drug use and overdoses. They will also do a lot more community engagement.

The Behavioral Health Resource Center at Kenosha Human Development Services (KHDS) has been rebranded to be able to answer the questions that the community has on where to go for help and provide prevention services. People do not always want to talk to someone but come in to grab a flyer. There is also someone there for them to talk to if they want it immediately.

Rebranded resource flyer in English and Spanish. This is also available on the web and on the Facebook pages.

Partnered with Kane Communications to do some marketing around behavioral health but also opioids. They will be creating a YouTube channel. Spreading the word on what can happen if you take something that is laced with something else.

Kenosha Opioid Response Initiative (KORI) – response and treatment. Still doing a lot of Narcan training. There have been 5 overdoses in one week and in the same week 8 lives were saved from Narcan.

Future opportunities – to be able to respond real-time to overdoses. Milwaukee is able to do it because of a large grant. Having a peer support specialist to be able to connect immediately when the overdoses is happening. Behavioral health walk-in clinic. Substance abuse screenings called SBIRT. Everyone is who admitted to the KARE Center will have a screening done. Would like to expand peer support. Just recently the opioid abatement panel put in a request to fund peer support training. Narcan Vending machines which is expanding treatment.

Supervisor Gentz said thank you. He loves the prevention piece and strongly suggests that we move in the direction of the behavioral health walk in. How can we get on board with peer support program? This is a huge piece for this. Kari Foss stated that we already have 14 people that would like to be a certified peer support specialist of the 18 spots we have. Supervisor Gentz is also supportive of the community prevention and education specialist which will focus on prevention programs for school age children.

Supervisor Gentz would like a quick brief report on the SAMHSA grant. Lori Plahmer stated that we just closed year 2 on July 31, 2023. The first goal was to get people trained in Narcan. The goal was 700 per year. Year 1 we trained 1,323 people and year 2 we trained 1,676 people. The second part of the goal was the Kori team. There was a slow uptake on the and Lori stated that they did not have the right people in place to move that along quicker. A goal of

the KORI team is to connect with individuals and talk to them about safety. They go out two days a week. They have a lot of recovery materials. They have not let up with Narcan training. Kenosha Police Department is now fully trained and carry Narcan.

Supervisor Kubicki asked if someone is calling the information line are they being connected with a live person? During business hours they are but then it goes to Crisis. They have asked them to expand the hours for a live person, but staffing problems is causing issues.

Supervisor Stock stated he saw a lot of QR codes in the book. Are we able to get a report? Kari stated that we have access to a utilization report.

Supervisor Stock asked if the marketing firm or someone could do a video walk through of the Job Center so people will know where to go for services. Kari stated that with the YouTube channel they do have someone walking into the resource center.

Opioid settlement dollars – Rebecca stated that total funds received was \$1,733,922 in 2022 with interest of \$39,849 as of 6/30/23= \$1,793,771. An additional \$375,000 is still expected in 2023. Money approved was for the new position and for the peer support training specialist in Kenosha County. We have no idea what other money will come in. Some of the settlement is on a 9-year basis, some are longer. There is no time limit on spending the money. One settlement we have for 19 years. Kari stated that we should be spending money to save lives.

The process of using settlement dollars is if panel gets a recommendation they will vote on if it, if it passes it goes to the County Executive and then the county board.

9. **Any other business as authorized by law:** None

10. **Adjournment** – Supervisor Geertsen made a motion to Adjourn. Supervisor Kubicki seconded. All in Favor. **Motion carried unanimously.** Meeting adjourned at 6:58 pm.

Full audio of the meeting is available at kenoshacounty.org/ArchiveCenter/ViewFile/Item/6876

Respectfully Submitted,

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