

HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE  
Minutes of Meeting  
September 2, 2008  
Kenosha County Administration Building

Committee Members Present: Ed Kubicki, Jeff Gentz, Dick Kessler, Terry Rose, Jennifer Jackson, Jaron Arbet

Committee Members Absent: Andrea Vagnoni (excused)

Staff Present: John Jansen, Adelene Greene, Ed Kamin, Laurie Staves, Frank Matteo, Cindy Johnson

Others Present: Mike Lill, Co Bd Suprs. Rob Zerban, Dayvin Hallmon, and Shavonda Marks, Joe Potente-Kenosha News

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:35 p.m. by Ed Kubicki, Chairperson.

2. Citizen's Comments -

Mike Lill, Assistant Director of the Racine-Kenosha Community Action Agency, said that he is a member of Kenosha County's Emergency Services Network. New poverty statistics came out a week ago. We need to better address this issue. The poverty level was 7.5% in 2000, and in 2007 it was 12.2%; this is a significant increase. Children in poverty was 9.9% in 2000 and increased to 13.1% in 2007. How can the community better address poverty in Kenosha County? We need to try to do some community education and hold community discussions. Please join us in these discussions.

3. Approval of Minutes - 8/19/08

MOTION to approve minutes by Dick Kessler, seconded by Jeff Gentz. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

4. Pre-Natal Health Care

John Jansen distributed 2 handouts, stating that we want to share information on this topic with this Committee. It was stated at the meeting in March, which Mr. Jansen and Terry Rose attended, that a crisis was looming. The 5-page handout is a history of what has been occurring. Kenosha County has 2,100 births annually, of which 700 receive Title 19 MA. The MA reimbursement rate is less than the doctors' usual and customary charge. In December of this year, a doctor who has been taking 50% of the MA patients, will discontinue his practice.

Frank Matteo stated that in 1997, Healthy People Kenosha County-2010 was established. This is a 10-year strategic health plan. A sub-committee was also established on Access to Health Care. We have 80-90 members who meet on these committees, including representatives from the 2 hospitals, 2 members from the Kenosha Community Health Initiative, WIC, and the Community Health Center.

Mr. Jansen said that 2 HMO representatives will be talking about enrollment issues at a meeting tomorrow at the Job Center. We brought this issue to the attention of Karen Timberlake on Capital Day on 6/12/08.

Jeff Gentz asked how low the MA reimbursement rate was. Ed Kamin responded that all HMO's negotiate rates for all health plans, including the County plan. Mr. Jansen said that these are contracts the State has with the HMO's. The State has the authority to bring people to the table. We know what the problems are but the State needs to be sitting down with the HMO's and with the hospitals. Mr. Gentz asked if we could set up a meeting. Mr. Jansen replied that in March, the State said they would be doing this. We can call Karen Timberlake at the State to see if we can facilitate this in any way. The State is looking at pulling a meeting together on Friday, but we don't know the purpose of this. We will follow up on that and let you know.

Terry Rose said that he was surprised that the State hasn't set anything up yet, especially after they said at the March meeting they would. This is a hot topic. Aurora said this is a problem they want to address. Kenosha Hospital wants to question the problem and didn't know whose responsibility it was. They seem to be looking at someone to be pulling a meeting together. We should organize this meeting to include the 2 hospitals, this Committee, State people, Jack Waters, Health Division people, and HMO representatives. Care is being delivered very late and this is where the health care problems multiply.

Ed Kubicki said he would talk to Mr. Jansen about setting up a meeting convenient for all parties.

Jennifer Jackson said that at the August meeting, stumbling blocks were discussed. They can't get on an HMO, they can't get to and from appointments, doctors are leary about taking Title 19 patients, etc. Can we do something now in the short-term? Adelene Greene replied that anybody on Title 19 has access to free transportation so that should not be an issue. We have 8 vendors for them to choose from.

Cindy Johnson said we are starting to recognize some of the problems. A woman finds out she is pregnant. She comes to the Health Division for the pregnancy test, so she has proof of pregnancy. She then goes to the Division of Workforce Development and completes the application for assistance. It may take 2-4 weeks to get the MA card. Doctors want them to have a card before they will set the appointment, which could be another 2-4 weeks. She needs to choose an HMO (we have 6 of them). Every HMO has different doctors (not all are taking MA clients), and depending on which HMO has her primary doctor, she will go through a list of OB names (there are 30 OB doctors in town). This list is updated annually. One doctor in town is taking more of their fair share of these clients and this doctor is leaving Kenosha and will no longer practice in OB. Delivering 300 babies a year is a lot.

Mr Kamin said that if we can find a way to get them enrolled in an HMO quicker, they would be able to see a doctor faster.

Mr. Rose stated that most doctors are employed by Kenosha Hospital or Aurora. Very few are self employed. We need to sit down with these two decision makers.

Mr. Gentz said that we need to make this process simpler. They shouldn't have to wait 3 months into their pregnancy to see a doctor.

Ms. Johnson said that we had 600 referrals from WIC since January 1st. Only 100 of them have entered our program. We will have better data at the end of the year.

5. Such Other Business as Authorized by Law

Sharon Davis informed the committee members about 2 joint meetings that were being scheduled for Sept. 11th. A joint Finance/Human Services/Building & Grounds Committee meeting will be held at 6:00 p.m. to discuss a lease with Kenosha Hospital and the Medical Examiner. A joint Finance/Human Services Committee meeting will be held at 6:30 p.m. for an update on the DHS 2008 year end budget status. Mr. Kessler is unable to attend these meetings and will be excused.

6. Committee Members Comments

Ed Kubicki thanked all of the Department members for discussing this issue with the Committee.

Terry Rose requested that we invite Mike Lill to discuss the rising level of poverty in Kenosha County at a future meeting. Ms. Jackson agreed with Mr. Rose. Violence is tied to poverty. There is a relationship in rising crime and poverty.

7. Adjournment

It was moved to adjourn by Jeff Gentz, seconded by Terry Rose. Meeting adjourned at 7:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sharon Davis  
KCDHS Secretary

F:Sharon/HSCmin9-2