

HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE
Minutes of Meeting
October 7, 2008
Kenosha County Administration Building

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

Staff Present: John Jansen, Bob Riedl, Mark Witeck, Ron Rogers, Laurie Staves, Wayne Kreuger, Cindy Johnson

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by Ed Kubicki, Chairperson.

2. Citizen's Comments - None

3. Approval of Minutes - 9/2/08

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

4. Approval of County Executive Appointment as follows:
John T. Jansen as Department Director of Human Services

MOTION to approve the appointment of John Jansen by Jeff Gentz, seconded by Jennifer Jackson.

Discussion:

Bob Riedl said that the County Executive picks his team of department heads and is requesting confirmation of his appointment to replace Dennis Schultz.

Terry Rose asked Mr. Jansen what difference or changes will he make from the way it was done under the prior director. John Jansen said he will be going back to the DHS divisions to lay out a strategic plan - where they see themselves in 5 years and 10 years. Are we maximizing our dollars to serve our clients? He has an open door policy. We have nothing to hide.

Jennifer Jackson was interested to know the County's relationship with Gateway as it pertains to education for the WIA program clients. Can the expense be broken out per student? Mr. Jansen said he was sure this could be done. We have a good relationship with Gateway and will report back with this information. Ms. Staves confirmed that we do have these figures.

Ms. Jackson asked, 'In this economic climate, will you meet all of your goals?' Mr. Jansen replied that we certainly will be able to meet the needs of our clients. We will try to figure out how to do it best with the money we have. It will be difficult, but we have the right people in place.

Mr. Rose requested that any problems or issues be brought to this committee and to the County Board. An example is the W-2 Program benefit deficit. We would rather know about these issues up front so we can prepare for them.

Dick Kessler and Ed Kubicki said that Mr. Jansen has been doing a very good job as Interim Director.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY, with Andrea Vagnoni and Jaron Arbet also voting 'yes'.

Ronald L. Rogers as Division Director of Children and Family Services

MOTION to approve the appointment of Ron Rogers by Dick Kessler, seconded by Jeff Gentz.

Discussion:

Mr. Rose asked if the higher crime rate is more serious that it used to be. Ron Rogers said that John Jansen pointed us in the right direction. To deal with the increased delinquent children, we are trying to get more creative with our gang prevention activities. We are trying to keep our community safe, trying new initiatives. We initiated the Court Pilot Program where kids and parents are consolidated under one judge for all cases. Judge Wilk has agreed to continue that program. We are trying to form more of a team to turn kids around.

Mr. Rogers said that the collaborative spirit in Kenosha among non-profit agencies is better than none. They work toward what is best for the child and family. There is a willingness to do what's necessary. He will keep that moving forward.

Ms. Jackson asked about the caseload sizes. Mr. Rogers replied that workers in Juvenile Court Services each have 30 - 40 cases, and Child Welfare workers have 18 - 20. Child Protective Services fluctuates. It could be 12-15, or 2-3, and then right back up there. We don't have much worker turnover. We pay well and they stay. Other counties are turning over 45% - 50% per year. We don't have anything like that. Most of our workers have been here 6 years or longer, and some have been here over 20 years. A couple of workers have left to raise their family.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY, with Andrea Vagnoni and Jaron Arbet also voting 'yes'.

Mark J. Witeck, M.D. as Kenosha County Medical Examiner

MOTION to approve the appointment of Mark Witeck by Jeff Gentz, seconded by Terry Rose.

Discussion:

Mr. Rose said that Dr. Witeck did a very good job when he was the Medical Examiner for Kenosha County before. He has no questions.

Jeff Gentz asked if Dr. Witeck foresaw any problems with the layout of the hospital building for the morgue. Dr. Witeck replied that he actually did not have much choice in the move. There are some problems arising. Funeral directors need to get the bodies there, and if we are out on a call that will be difficult to arrange. We are not in the hospital yet. Everything is supposed to be done next week. We have a staff of 3 full-time and 6 part-time. I don't know who negotiated with the hospital. We are moving our equipment to the hospital now. It's hard at this point to know what problems might arise.

Mr. Gentz requested that Dr. Witeck return when he is settled in at the hospital and let us know how it's going. Dr. Witeck said he'll probably return in 2 months.

Bob Riedl added that Brown County has the same set-up that we will have at Kenosha Hospital, and they have offered to come down and help us with this.

Ms. Jackson requested that when Dr. Witeck comes back that he tell us how his response times are working out. A family down the street from her said the Medical Examiner's office was more than caring and had good things to say about Dr. Witeck.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY, with Andrea Vagnoni and Jaron Arbet also voting 'yes'.

5. Health: Resolution Adjusting the 2008 Budget to Reflect the Award of the Forensic Scientific Improvement Grant

MOTION to approve by Jeff Gentz, seconded by Dick Kessler.

Discussion:

Wayne Kreuger, Fiscal Manager of the Health Division, explained that they received grant funding in the amount of \$95,000 from the National Institute of Justice. They had received this same grant 2 years ago and have received it again. This amount will be split between the Medical Examiner's office (\$46,415), Kenosha Police Dept. (\$16,325) and Health Division (\$32,260). This involves a great deal of training to utilize the equipment we have. Part of this funding will be used to develop a data management system for the Medical Examiner's office to improve quality of statistics and tracking, which is all done manually now.

MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY, with Andrea Vagnoni and Jaron Arbet also voting 'yes'.

6. Pre-Natal Health Care Update

John Jansen distributed a summary handout that was e-mailed to him today by Jason Helgerson at the State. This lists by dates the actions taken by the State. On 7/25, they held a meeting and agreed to look into Dr. Zelko's caseload. At a town hall meeting held by Secretary Timberlake on 8/1, it was brought up. On 9/5, the 2 hospitals were brought together for a meeting and both acknowledged that Dr. Zelko had a large percentage of the MA deliveries. On 9/25, a phone conference was held. They will convene again in October to discuss further. Mr. Helgerson has been overseeing this concern through his Madison. The State is working on this issue with the hospitals and will include us when they need us.

Cindy Johnson, Health Division Nursing Director, stated that WIC provides referrals to Health. We have received 740 referrals, and over 100 people have been in our Pre-Natal Program. We help women access a doctor. The State is looking at streamlining the process so women can see a doctor faster. The State is also looking at putting an HMO enrollment specialist in Kenosha to intervene.

Mr. Gentz asked Mr. Jansen to keep this committee updated on this issue.

7. Such Other Business as Authorized by Law - None

8. Committee Members Comments

Ed Kubicki congratulated all County Executive appointees and welcomed Dr. Witeck back to Kenosha County. He also mentioned that Tom Lois, Veterans Service Director, is retiring after 21 years with the County. An open house is being held on Oct. 24th at the Job Center. Please stop by and wish him well.

9. Adjournment

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

Respectfully submitted,

Sharon Davis
KCDHS Secretary

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