

HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE  
Minutes of Meeting  
February 3, 2009, 6:00 p.m.  
Kenosha County Administration Building  
Auditors Conference Room, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor

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

Staff Present: John Jansen, Adelene Greene, Laurie Staves, Jeff Wilson, Fran Petrick, Janet Schmidt, LaVerne Jaros

Others Present: Joe Potente (Kenosha News), County Board Supervisor Anita Faraone

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:02 p.m. by Chairperson Ed Kubicki.

2. Citizen's Comments - None

3. Approval of Minutes – 01/20/2009

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

4. Brookside Care Center Subsidy Analysis

Laurie Staves presented a report on the levy subsidies at Brookside Care Center as requested at the October budget meeting.

Mr. Kubicki asked about the increase of \$15 per day that is planned for private pay rate and how that rate compares to other similar facilities. Laurie responded a survey was completed last year comparing the 2008 rates at other facilities and our 2009 projected rate. The Brookside rate was in the mid range of facilities that were queried.

Mr. Rose asked about the decrease in levy from 2.9 million in 2002 to 1.3 million in 2009 and how this was achieved. Laurie responded it is a result of a number of things including increased Medicare census and increased private pay census.

Mr. Gentz expressed his appreciation of the increased financial responsibility of the facility but also asked for assurances that the quality of care is not compromised as a result of the fiscal responses. Both Laurie Staves and Fran Petrick assured him the quality of care is not being compromised.

Laurie stated the report will also be distributed to the Finance Committee.

5. Division of Workforce Development: Update on 2008/2009 W-2 Funding

Adelene Greene distributed a report on the projected 2008 W-2 shortfall. In August, the staff alerted the committee that the expected shortfall in the W-2 program would be approximately \$395,000. At that time, the committee asked John Jansen to send a request to the State asking for additional funds to cover the shortfall. The State responded in October that they would look at options. The State then completed its Deobligation/Reobligation of Benefits and awarded Kenosha County an additional \$101,446 in funding. In addition, efforts of staff to proactively work with families and get them into the workforce accounted for an additional \$93,500 reduction in the shortfall. The projected shortfall is now approximately \$200,000.

Mr. Kubicki asked how the \$93,500 savings was achieved. Adelene stated the Benefit Reduction Team meets regularly to review benefits and modify policies and programs to actively reduce benefits. The Real Work/Real Pay project has also helped offset this shortfall.

Mr. Gentz asked if this was the issue that triggered the request for a meeting with State officials at a previous meeting. John Jansen replied yes and stated the request was made with numerous State Officials. All invitees politely sent their regrets so no meeting occurred.

Mr. Rose stated that he is disturbed about this issue. He stated the previous Administration was aware of program changes in 2007 that would affect the 2008 program. He stated the committee should have been alerted upfront by Administration so policy decisions could have been explored. He stated Administration chose to keep that information from the committee. John Jansen replied he cannot comment on the decisions of the previous Administration. He stated he brought this to committee when the issue of the shortfall was discovered. He also reminded the group of his commitment to a transparent administration of Human Services and good communication with the committee.

Mr. Gentz stated that his experience thus far with the current Administration has been positive and open and he encourages this precedent to continue. He stated he will be disturbed if an issue of this magnitude becomes apparent after the fact in the future.

Ms. Jackson asked now that the shortfall is apparent, how will Human Services deal with the issue? Laurie Staves responded that the closeout of the budget is in process and the committee will be receiving that information when it is completed.

6. Resolution to Convert One Full-Time Economic Support Program Manager Position to Two Full-Time Economic Support Supervisor Positions

Adelene Greene is requesting that the recently vacated Economic Support Program Manager position is converted into two Economic Support Supervisor positions to better serve the current needs of the Division. Adelene noted that the Division lost one supervisor position in 2004 and with the additional training needs that have been brought in-house and currently conducted by one supervisor, the need for additional supervisory coverage is needed. Adelene noted that no additional levy is needed in 2009 and the additional cost will be covered with revenue.

Mr. Kubicki responded that two supervisors for the price of one is a good decision and he supports this resolution.

Mr. Rose commented that while no additional levy is needed in 2009, will this be true in 2010? Adelene responded that this is dependent on who the applicants are and what benefits they will be eligible for. It is expected that this will draw entry level supervisor candidates and the benefits levels will be low. If that is the scenario, then it is likely that no additional levy will be needed in 2010.

Mr. Gentz asked about the hierarchy of the division and how the workloads will be distributed if the program manager position is eliminated. Who will be responsible for the Program Manager job functions? Adelene will take over some more direct supervision and the Child Support Program Manager position will be enhanced to become a more division wide Program Manager. Mr. Gentz expressed his concerns about a management void this may create and his concern that the staff may be back in a year asking for the Program Manager position to be reinstated. Adelene stated all of these concerns have been discussed and it is the opinion of all that this is a good decision for the division.

Ms. Jackson asked if the caseloads are high enough to justify two additional positions. Adelene responded with the additional training responsibilities that have been given to one of the current supervisors, case loads definitely are high enough for the additional position.

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

7. Resolution to Modify 2009 Budget for a State Prevention Grant to Coordinate a Local Campaign, "Physical Activity: The Arthritis Pain Reliever"

LaVerne Jaros discussed the grant awarded to Kenosha County to be used to highlight the benefits of physical activity and reduction of arthritis pain. The grant allows for campaign related costs including printing brochures, ad campaigns and a part-time coordinator position.

Ms. Jackson asked if the grant provides for any follow-up evaluation. LaVerne stated that the evaluation component of the grant is actually a process evaluation (how many ads, how many brochures?) LaVerne stated the committee is interested in an outcomes evaluation process and may seek to gather that information.

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

8. Such Other Business as Authorized by Law – None

9. Committee Members Comments – None

10. Adjournment –

MOTION to adjourn at 6:45 p.m. by Terry Rose, seconded by Jeff Gentz. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Respectfully submitted,

Michelle Eisenhauer  
Kenosha County Department of Human Services