

HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE
Minutes of Meeting
March 3, 2009, 6:30 p.m.
Kenosha County Administration Building
Auditors Conference Room, 2nd Floor

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

Staff Present: John Jansen, John Milisauskas

Others Present: County Board Supervisor Dayvin Hallmon

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:33 p.m. by Chairperson Ed Kubicki.

2. Citizen's Comments – Ron Frederick, representing “Kenoshans Who KARE”, was present to discuss a proposal to use stimulus money to establish a new care center for those with mental health issues. The current facility, run by Kenosha Human Development Services, is in a very old building, is not handicapped accessible and is not amenable to expansion. Mr. Frederick asked the committee to consider a joint effort with other governmental units to enhance the mental health support system with this once in a lifetime stimulus opportunity.

Supervisor Kubicki asked if this group had considered putting the KARE Center in an existing building in the downtown area and retrofit the building to meet the center's needs. Mr. Frederick responded that his experience leads him to believe that trying to retrofit a building leads to unexpected problems but the group is open to any suggestions. Mr. Kubicki responded that he appreciates the dream and the vision of the group and applauds their efforts.

Supervisor Gentz inquired whether the group had considered working with another facility like an assisted living facility that may have open rooms and consider working with the group to fill the rooms and provide services. Mr. Frederick responded it may be problematic to mix service populations. Supervisor Gentz expressed his appreciation of the idea.

Supervisor Jackson asked what level of patient will be served. Mr. Frederick responded the facility does not provide medical detox services. The facility does provide social detox and other supportive services. Ms. Jackson asked if any violent patients are served to which Mr. Frederick stated those higher need levels are served at other more secure facilities. Ms. Jackson asked about the length of stay and other services. Mr. Frederick shared patients can stay up to 72 hours and in certain circumstances longer. The facility really provides a third option when in the past only two options (hospitalization or no services) were available for persons with these types of issues.

Supervisor Kubicki thanked Mr. Frederick for his presentation.

3. Approval of Minutes – 02/03/2009

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

4. Resolution to Approve the Re-Appointment of Mary Sue Lux to the Kenosha County Board of Health

John Jansen presented the resolution to approve the re-appointment of Mary Sue Lux to the Kenosha County Board of Health. MOTION to approve by Jeff Gantz, seconded by Dick Kessler. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

5. Division of Workforce Development: Dislocated Worker Report

John Milisauskas, Job Center Manager, distributed the Dislocated Worker report to committee members. John walked the committee through the report and stated that career assessment and planning occurs prior to placement in training. He also highlighted the layoff section of the report and noted that the numbers are from November. He stated additional layoffs have occurred since that time. He noted that the January unemployment numbers are not available yet. He noted that Beloit now ranks higher than Racine due to the GM closing. John then explained the special circumstances related to the additional funding available for Conn Selmer, Sanmina, Frank Wells and Conn Selmer in Elkhorn.

Supervisor Kubicki asked for a clarification of the government category in the report. John stated this includes local government, state government, school employment.

Supervisor Jackson asked about training and where this training occurs. John stated a majority occurs at Gateway Technical College. The funding only pays the last two years of a four year program. Ms. Jackson asked for numbers of participants at Gateway and at UW-Parkside. John will provide those numbers to Ms. Jackson. Ms. Jackson also asked about employment numbers after training. John stated it is currently at 80%.

Supervisor Rose asked John about what job areas are most needed in our county. John responded logistics and warehousing is a distinct need at the present time as well as an on-going need in the health care fields.

Supervisor Kessler expressed his understanding of the discrepancy in pay levels at Allied Foods. As originally presented, the jobs would be in the range of \$17.00/hour and appear to actually be in the \$8.00/hour range. John Milisauskas stated that the issue is related to the gradual start-up and when fully operational the level will be closer to projections. Supervisor Rose commented that communities need to be diligent when companies are making proposals because they may not always be accurate and truthful.

Supervisor Jackson asked John Milisauskas what his opinion is about the future of employment in our community. John stated he is optimistic based on comparison to other communities.

Discussion ensued related to the I-94 expansion project. John reported that an orientation was scheduled tonight at the Job Center for 30 persons and at least 150 were on-site. John will work with the coordinator to avoid issues like this in the future. Supervisor Jackson asked if the pretest is still a requirement. John stated the pretest has been dropped. The only testing used is TABE which tests for basic math and reading skills. Ms. Jackson asked how our department can assist with testing success. John stated the candidates are eligible to go to the Adult Learning Center for study sessions. Some candidates are choosing not to go. Ms. Jackson asked how we can get them to go. Mr. Gentz commented that we cannot legislate entities to make persons motivated to get help.

6. Such Other Business as Authorized by Law – None

7. Committee Members Comments – Supervisor Kubicki stated he would like information on the new Director of Nursing at Brookside, like qualifications, work history and employment experience. Mr. Jansen affirmed the information can be provided. Mr. Kubicki also stated that in the future he would like this information prior to voting on appointments.

8. Adjournment

MOTION to adjourn by Jeff Gentz, seconded by Terry Rose. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Respectfully submitted,

Michelle Eisenhauer
Kenosha County Department of Human Services