

SPECIAL HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE

Minutes of Meeting

May 19, 2009

Kenosha County Administration Building

Committee Members Present: Ed Kubicki, Terry Rose, Dick Kessler, Jennifer Jackson, Ali Khaleel

Committee Members Absent: Jeff Gentz and Alice Wei (both excused)

Staff Present: John Jansen, Adelene Greene, John Milisaukas, Laurie Staves

Others Present: Joe Potente (Kenosha News)

1. Call to Order

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

2. Citizen's Comments - None

3. DWD: Resolution to Modify the Division of Workforce Development 2009 Budget for the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act Grants for Youth, Adult, and Dislocated worker Programs

John Milisaukas explained that the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act is stimulus funding. Kenosha County is the fiscal agent that accepts the funds for Kenosha, Racine and Walworth Counties. We received a total of \$2,136,831 to be distributed as follows: Kenosha-\$803,448, Racine-\$1,041,705, and Walworth-\$291,678. There are no levy costs. This resolution has been approved by the Finance Committee. With part of these funds, 225 Kenosha youth will be employed in summer jobs. There are 55 different work sites, of which 50 are in the public sector, and 5 are private. All salaries will be paid through the grant.

MOTION to approve by Dick Kessler, seconded by Jennifer Jackson. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY with Ali Khaleel also voting 'yes'.

4. W-2 Program Update

Adelene Greene stated that we have had a deficit in our W-2 program, but we just received an e-mail telling us we will receive additional money to cover this deficit. We will be receiving \$599,000 to cover the 2008/2009 contract period. It is possible we could also receive more money if we continue to run a deficit. Benefits are currently running a \$250,000 deficit. The projected deficit through the end of the contract year will be closer to \$260,000. We contract with the State to run this W-2 program. This was a 4-year contract, which is ending. The State will be releasing an RFP for anyone interested in running this program. With this committee's permission, we will submit a proposal to run the program for the next two years (it won't be a 4-year contract this time). Funding will be at least as much as we have gotten in the past and maybe a little more. We don't have the exact figures yet. We expect the RFP to be released on June 19th. We will come back with the exact figures and timeframe for submitting our proposal.

Terry Rose questioned if the amount of money is the same and it's projected that the unemployment rate will go up, who will pay the increased deficit. Ms. Greene replied that through the stimulus program, we should be made whole. The State hopefully will give us enough money. We can make a more informed decision when we know the amount of money.

Mr. Rose stated that we were told we are responsible for the deficit. We sent out letters, passed a resolution, wrote more letters and made our objections known. We should not be fooled and deceived by the State again. We need to be guaranteed that the money will be enough. Things are getting worse. We should not have to pick up the deficit.

Dick Kessler commented that he feels the same way, especially with the State laying off people.

Ms. Greene said that we started getting the W-2 funding in 1997. The funding in every contract period has decreased. We received about \$16 million to operate from 1997 - 2001. Now it's \$7.1 million. W-2 caseloads have also gone down since the program began.

Jennifer Jackson asked if by Kenosha County being the administrator of the W-2 contract, is it more advantageous for other programs. Ms. Greene responded that the W-2 program pays for a lot of benefits such as staff and administrative costs. We get additional money to operate the program, which also helps to pay for other divisional services.

Ms. Greene said we will bring this back to this committee when we know the impact and to ask for a decision to continue or terminate the W-2 program.

Mr. Rose added that the State cannot expect the counties to run "their" program on our dollar.

5. Such Other Business as Authorized by Law - None

6. Committee Members Comments

Jennifer Jackson stated that tomorrow at 5:00 p.m. at Bridges, there is a get together for NAMI. There will be a walk to the park for a prayer and candle light vigil.

7. Adjournment

It was moved to adjourn by Dick Kessler, seconded by Terry Rose. Meeting adjourned at 6:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sharon Davis
KCDHS Secretary

F:Sharon/HSCmin 5-19-09