

HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE  
Minutes of Meeting  
July 7, 2009  
Kenosha County Administration Building

Committee Members Present: Ed Kubicki, Terry Rose, Jeff Gentz, Dick Kessler, Jennifer Jackson, Alice Wei, Ali Khaleel

Staff Present: John Jansen, Adelene Greene, Tom Buening, Laurie Staves, Jim Kennedy, LaVerne Jaros, Jim Truchan, Scott Paegelow, Jeff Wilson, Deb Van Swol, Lauren Fox, Chris Hribal

Others Present: Mary Jonker, Valerie Jensen, Joe Potente (Kenosha News)

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:04 p.m. by Ed Kubicki.

2. Citizen's Comments - None

3. Approval of Minutes - 6/2/09

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

4. DHS: Resolution to Modify the 2009 Budget for the Comprehensive Community Services Quality Improvement Grant Carryover from the State of Wisconsin

Laurie Staves explained that we have had this grant for 3 years and so far have received approximately \$200,000 to improve the mental health support system in Kenosha County. We will use this additional \$7,620 to purchase two laptops for outreach in the community, and to put on a trauma informed-care training for the community. This will be open to consumers and providers. This program helps both children and adults with mental health or substance abuse disorders. It's a more self-directed program to help the individuals take control of their lives. Jim Truchan stated that they use the ROSI (Recovery Orientated System Indicators) survey to determine their needs. People feel they are achieving their goals.

MOTION to approve by Jeff Gentz, seconded by Dick Kessler. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY with both Alice Wei and Ali Khaleel voting for approval as well.

5. DWD: Resolution to Modify the 2009 Budget for the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act Funding for Child Support Program

The Resolution with attachments was distributed to the members. Adelene Greene said that Child Support is receiving ARRA money in the amount of \$307,938 for 2009 and 2010, with the stipulation that we must supplement and not supplant any existing staff at a minimum amount of \$881,270 annually. This additional funding is good through 9/30/10 to enhance our child support services. Our plan is to hire additional child support staff and increase some of our contracted providers. There is no additional levy and no County matching dollars. When the funding for these positions ends on 9/30/10, the positions and services will be discontinued. This resolution is for an increase of \$450,000 for 2009.

Ed Kubicki questioned why some positions will be contracted. Ms. Greene explained that we will hire two Child Support Enforcement Specialists as County employees at a cost of \$173,000, including salaries and benefits. Four contracted employees will also be hired at a cost of \$217,000, including salaries and benefits for a call center created to handle fiscal calls. It's more cost effective to contract out these four positions. Once the money is gone, these positions will end. The postings will state this. We will also contract out for an attorney to handle additional hearings (at a cost \$50,000). And finally, we will spend \$10,000 on a Westlaw Locator service to help us locate people who don't want to be found. We currently have 10-12 Child Support Enforcement Specialists and they are handling 11,000 - 12,000 cases.

Terry Rose asked if the County paid for the contracted persons' benefits. Jeff Wilson replied that it's part of the contract through their employer. Their contracted employer provides their benefits.

Jeff Gentz questioned the \$173,000 for two County positions, including benefits, and expressed his frustration that he didn't have time to review this information prior to the meeting. Ms. Greene stated that that is what those positions are currently paid. Jeff Wilson added that the State has put us in this position. We just learned on July 1st that this money was being released to us.

MOTION to approve by Dick Kessler, seconded by Jennifer Jackson. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY with both Alice Wei and Ali Khaleel voting for approval as well.

6. Child Care Update

Adelene Greene explained the process of Kenosha County Child Care Subsidy Program. DCFS certifies our child care providers. DWD determines the eligibility of the people, and a contracted provider (Goodwill) processes the child care payments. The State of Wisconsin sets the guidelines for eligibility and payments. There have been newspaper articles of child care fraud in Milwaukee. There are no fraud cases in Kenosha County that we are aware of. We have developed our own internal review team to review child care cases. In the past, we referred them to a private investigator, but about two weeks ago, we terminated that contract when the budget was cut. Some child care providers have had overpayments and were notified they need to pay this money back. Lauren Fox further explained that in 2008, \$41,964.45 was overpaid in a total of 17 cases. So far, the 2009 overpayments are \$12,134.57, \$800, and \$8,781.54. They are all in our system to recover these overpayments. The providers receive three letters from us to start making payments. If there is no response, it is turned over to the State for tax intercepts. In 2008, we recovered \$10,000. Ed Kubicki noted that it is a slow recovery process. Ms. Greene said that we try to handle to handle these internally, rather than turning them over for prosecution. It could take months or years before they are prosecuted because these are low priority cases.

Jennifer Jackson asked how we discover overpayments. Lauren Fox explained that we have a monthly review team. It could be faulty reporting on the client's part. Also, because someone can be a provider and a recipient at the same time, we try to compare the checks with the Economic Support area. We are catching a lot when we find the dad is getting unemployment, which means they are not eligible for child care.

7. Presentation: Mental Health

John Jansen stated that there was a discussion at the Human Services Board pertaining to the amount of levy for mental health services. We were asked to give this presentation tonight.

LaVerne Jaros said that she has been responsible for mental health services for 1-1/2 years and has been extremely impressed. Kenosha County should be very proud of its mental health services and for accessing available dollars at both the federal and state level. We do a lot with a little. The biggest expense is hospitalization and we have been very creative in Kenosha to divert people from hospital care. We have some really great mental health services (which are listed on pages 10 and 11 of the 2008 DHS Annual Report that was distributed at the beginning of the meeting). We also have a good collaboration with the Sheriff & Police Depts.

Jim Kennedy reviewed the Mental Health and AODA reports attached to the Agenda. He prepared these reports based on HSRR information submitted by all counties to the State. The county reports tell the State how much money they spent and where the money came from. We got this information for 2005, 2006, and 2007. The comparison was done with counties of 100,000 total population or more, but does not include Milwaukee, which is 'not' comparable to Kenosha County. The counties listed on the comparison are peer counties, having similarities to Kenosha County. We looked at the total reported spending for Aging & Disability Services, Children & Family Services, and Workforce Development - Economic Support, which is apples-to-apples data. Kenosha County spends about 12% on mental health services, which is low compared to other counties. \$39.81 is spent per capita. We are stretching the dollars well. Only 8% of levy is spent on mental health, which is \$4.88 per person per year. Community Aids dollars spent on mental health are basically comparable to the other counties. It's the same pattern for AODA dollars.

Jeff Gentz commended Jim Kennedy for his years of work in putting this together. This is a very good report. He gets it. He understands it. He likes to see comparisons with other counties. This is very interesting and well done.

Jennifer Jackson also stated that this is a really good report, adding that it would be great if other areas of human services were compared like this. She also asked how would our mental health spending affect other program areas and if a report could be done on this. Mr. Kennedy replied that this would be a different analysis. It's difficult to find information that is apples-to-apples and is reported in the same way to the State. This is a rare occurrence.

John Jansen commented that we are sharing this information to this Committee so that when you are working on the 2010 budget you know that we are maximizing everything we have in mental health services. Cuts would be devastating to this area.

Terry Rose asked how many people are served by these mental health dollars. Jim Truchan replied that it's approximately 3,100 - 3,200 individuals. 1/3 of that population have mental health issues, 1/3 have AODA issues, and 1/3 have both mental health and AODA issues.

8. W-2 RFP Update

Adelene Greene said that the State did release the RFP for a 2-year contract for 2010 and 2011. It is due 7/31/09. The total funding amount is \$8.4 million. This compares to \$6.3 million that was offered four years ago. This funding is spent in three areas: Administration, Services, and Benefits. The majority is for W-2 Benefits. Our intent is to submit a proposal to continue operating the W-2 Program in Kenosha County. This is a competitive bid process. Some of our services, including case management, assessment, and child care have always been contracted out, and this will continue.

Ed Kubicki asked if Kenosha County employees could run all of the W-2 Program without using contracted employees, or if that was a requirement of the RFP. Can we do it better

ourselves? He will be striving for this. Ms. Greene replied that it is not a requirement of the RFP, but operating with only County employees would be at a greater cost. Jennifer Jackson asked if we would get better accountability with County employees. Ms. Greene answered, 'No'.

Terry Rose asked what the anticipated expenditures were for 2008-2009. Ms. Greene responded that we received approximately \$7.1 million for the 4-year period, so that would make it about \$3.6 million for 2 years. We were running a deficit, but the State came through with additional funds. Mr. Rose requested exact figures on the 2008 expenditures and what is anticipated for 2009. Ms. Greene said she would get that information and bring it to the next meeting on August 4th. Mr. Rose stated that he wants this information before a decision is made. He will not vote for a contract where taxpayers will have to support a State program. He would also like the names of all contract agencies and how much each one receives, as well as the cost for all three areas for 2008 and 2009.

John Jansen cautioned the Committee that if we did not go after this W-2 contract, we would have other major issues and cost implications. This W-2 funding also pays for a number of other services.

Terry Rose stated that we anticipate a \$5 million deficit in 2010. We can ill afford an addition to that deficit.

Ed Kubicki reiterated that Mr. Jansen and Ms. Greene will bring this information to the August meeting.

9. Such Other Business as Authorized by Law - None
10. Committee Members Comments - None
11. Adjournment

It was moved to adjourn by Jennifer Jackson, seconded by Terry Rose. Meeting adjourned at 7:05 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sharon Davis  
KCDHS Secretary

F:Sharon/HSCmin 7-7-09