

SPECIAL HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE

Minutes of Meeting

September 15, 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, Laurie Staves, Adelene Greene, Jeff Wilson, Becky Mentink, Nina Tracy

Others Present: Mary Jonker, Valerie Jensen, Sy Adler, Gabe Nudo, John O'Day, Donna Dickenson, Kathy Fliess, 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. Approval of Minutes - 9/1/09

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

4. Resolution to Approve the County Executive Appointment of Seymour Adler to the Kenosha County Board of Administrative Appeals

John Jansen stated that at the last meeting, we had asked for approval of 3 people to this panel to review appeals of day care providers. Sandie Bisciglia and Anne Bergo were present at that meeting and were approved. Sy Adler had another commitment and, as requested, is now present at this meeting. Mr. Adler has a long history of human service employment, including being the first director of the Dept. of Human Services, retiring in 2002. He remains active in many organizations at both the local and state level.

Ed Kubicki thanked Mr. Adler for coming to this meeting.

MOTION to approve the appointment of Sy Adler by Jeff Gentz, seconded by Terry Rose. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY, with Alice Wei and Ali Khaleel voting 'yes'.

5. Resolution to Modify the Department of Human Services, Division of Workforce Development, and Circuit Court 2009 Budget for the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act Funding for the Child Support Program

Adelene Greene reminded the committee that a few months ago, \$450,000 of stimulus funding was added to the Child Support budget. We are now here to add another \$55,000 to the Child Support operational budget. This additional funding will be used for County Circuit Court additional staff time that will be needed with the additional cases being sent to court. We will also purchase additional computers for the additional staff we are hiring in Child Support. There are no additional levy costs. When the funding ends on 9/30/10, the positions and services will also end. Ms. Greene distributed a synopsis explaining how this additional funding will be used.

In response to questions from Terry Rose, Becky Mentink stated that they have a floater clerk they will utilize, as well as a temporary staff person. They can't justify hiring additional staff. Jeff Wilson added that the plan submitted to the State was for 2 days per month to contract for a court commissioner and a court reporter until 9/30/10. They would also hire a legal secretary and office associate because they want experienced people to work with the court commissioner. We would then need to replace their time with temporary staff. He further explained that additional staff in Child Support was from the previous resolution that added 2 more child support workers. This resolution is for the computers. The child support positions were already approved in the last resolution.

Jennifer Jackson asked how much of the \$55,000 was for computers. Ms. Greene replied that it's in the budget modification form, listed as Human Services Capital - \$15,000.

Jeff Gentz commented that the third 'Whereas' needs to be changed to add the word 'time', since we aren't hiring additional staff. Ms. Greene clarified that this will add staff time for the additional court time needed for Child Support cases to go to court. The \$15,000 is for computers for Child Support staff that are being hired through the previous resolution. This resolution is for additional Court staff time.

Ms. Mentink said that this resolution adds 2 additional court days to our caseload. We need to modify the workload, so we will use a temporary employee. We do not have a court reporter, so we will need one. And we will need a court commissioner. We are not hiring additional staff, but we are increasing their time. We will be able to justify the continued use of a temporary person.

Jeff Wilson stated that we can bring this back to the next Human Services Committee meeting.

Ed Kubicki agreed that the wording is too general in this resolution.

Dick Kessler moved to defer this resolution to the next meeting so it can be reworded to specify the amount for the computers and the amount for the increased time and specifically who it will fund. Seconded by Jennifer Jackson. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY, with Alice Wei and Ali Khaleel voting 'yes'.

6. DHS 2009 Year-End Budget Update

Laurie Staves said that she presented this year-end status to the Finance Committee last Thursday night. We are estimating a potential levy shortfall of approximately \$570,000. Out-of-home placements are projected to have a \$300,000 shortfall. Terry Rose asked if this was because individual juvenile costs are greater or because there are more juvenile placements. Ms. Staves answered: 'both'. Our 2009 budget for placements was \$7.4 million. We were \$460,000 under budget in 2008. We budgeted for 181 children in 2009, but we have 185. Plus, the costs have increased. The 4 additional youth equals 2,535 more days of care, multiplied by the increased cost over budget of \$1.62 per day, contributes to the \$300,000 over budget deficit.

Jennifer Jackson asked if the children were getting the care they need. Laurie Staves replied 'yes', that their level of care is approved by the directors and courts.

Ms. Staves will present the latest 2009 year-end update during the 2010 budget process in October.

Ms. Staves continued that these are all mandated, court-ordered placements. Mr. Rose asked of the Courts are aware of the budget issue. John Jansen replied that there have been meetings between our Dept. and the judges, but the judges do not base their decisions on budgets. Mr. Rose said he understood that but there is only so much money in the general fund and so many tax increases the people will take. Mr. Jansen continued that we have a very progressive approach to dealing with children in out-of-home care. We hold staffings, meetings with the DA's office, and CORE staffings of difficult cases. We have put together an internal team to look at different avenues to put these youth in placements that meet their needs.

Jeff Gentz said he feels our staff is doing a very nice job under these tough times. He suggested that when calculating next year's budget to use more 'actual costs' and fewer projections.

Jennifer Jackson stated that she learned from a meeting with Secretary Gassman that there may be grant funding coming - maybe this could be used for placements. How was this remedied in past years? Mr. Jansen responded that it is very rare that grant funding is available to offset placement costs. We use other revenues to cover these deficits. Ms. Staves added that if we do receive grant funding it might be possible to replace the appropriate levy funded expenditures so we could cover these deficits from this type of saving within the Dept., and as a last resort, the deficit would be covered from the General Fund. She reminded Ms. Jackson that we were under budget by \$460,000 last year in placements.

Ms. Staves explained that Residential Community Care and Treatment Foster Care is for children who are developmentally delayed and disabled. We had 8 of these children this year but were able to transition 4 out this year to Family Care as they turned 18. Ms. Jackson asked if they will get the level of care they need in Family Care. Mr. Jansen explained that these are people who are under court order and they will get the services they need.

Ms. Staves stated that the State gave us an additional \$700,000 for the W-2 Program to cover 2008's shortfall and 2009's increased expenditures. We received notice last week that we were awarded the W-2 contract for 2010-2011. We got an increase of \$2.1 million - 33% increase overall. The biggest portion of the increase is for benefits - \$1.6 million.

Terry Rose asked: If the purpose of W-2 is to work people into jobs in the community, is this happening? What kind of jobs are they? Ms. Staves replied that we will bring this information to the next meeting as a report. We will show you what our statistics are under the current contract. Mr. Rose said he was mainly interested in 2009, as the \$500,000 deficit is now down to \$220,000.

Ms. Staves explained that pharmacy costs are not necessarily mandated in the DADS budget, but it would impact our inpatient hospital costs if we did not pay for these drugs. As of 7/1/09, we have Badger Care Plus Core for adults and we are paying the \$60 annual fee, which will bring down these drug costs. Mr. Jansen said that when we were preparing the budget for 2009, the State had told us the Badger Care Plus would be rolled out in January, 2009, so we thought the impact would take place immediately. But it was only Milwaukee that benefitted in January.

Ms. Staves said that DADS residential placements are mandated, court-ordered placements, and we are projecting a \$250,000 shortfall. Hospital and State Institution costs range from \$800 - \$1,100 per day as compared to averages for residential placements of \$25 - \$371 per day. We budgeted \$4,925 as the average daily rate for 2009 for all clients in care, but in February it was \$6,283 and in July it was decreased to \$5,073.

In the past, the State has paid for children under 18 and for people 65 and older. We paid for those 18 - 65. Now the State wants us to pay for everybody as of 1/1/10. The State will credit us with the enhanced Medicaid rate stimulus funding which is approximately 65% higher. We have to pick up the non-federal share - 35% on a daily rate. Fortunately, in 2009 the days of care for this population has been coming in a lot less than our previous estimate for 2010.

7. Such Other Business as Authorized by Law - None
8. Committee Members Comments - None
9. Adjournment

It was moved to adjourn by Terry Rose, seconded by Dick Kessler. Meeting adjourned at 7:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sharon Davis
KCDHS Secretary

F:Sharon/HSCmin 9-15-09