

HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE
Minutes of Meeting
October 6, 2009
Kenosha County Administration Building

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

Committee Members Absent: Ali Khaleel (excused)

Staff Present: John Jansen, Laurie Staves, Adelene Greene, Becky Mentink

Others Present: Mary Jonker, Valerie Jensen

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:37 p.m. by Ed Kubicki.

2. Citizen's Comments - None

3. Approval of Minutes - 9/15/09

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

4. 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 stated that this resolution is being brought back with clarification of language. We received \$55,000 in stimulus funding for the Child Support program. Funds have been allocated through 9/30/10. We want to purchase 6 computers for the 6 child support staff that were previously approved, for a total of \$15,000. The other \$40,000 will be used to offset costs for child support contempt hearings in circuit court. This will include additional circuit court staff time, court commissioner, and court reporter services on an as-needed basis. No additional levy for the 2009 or 2010 budgets. The positions and services will be discontinued 9/30/10 when the funding ends.

Terry Rose asked if we will be bringing on any staff or just paying for current staff. Laurie Staves replied that this is to offset the court's additional time. Mr. Rose added that he thought this funding was to employ people, not just to increase hours. Ms. Staves explained that this is to "enhance" the services. The State has approved our plan, which is for additional court time. Becky Mentink added that we will bring in a part-time court commissioner to staff the additional time and will supplement with overtime salaries. With these 2 additional days of court time, it will reduce the backlog and wait time. It will take a significant amount of time to eliminate the backlog totally; longer than through 9/30/10.

Jennifer Jackson said she wanted to talk to the Committee members only. She heard from the union that they are not spending a lot of time on this caseload. Our people are not doing this. Other people are being hired to do this. This is taking work away from the union people who usually do this work. We should hire a county person for this.

Mr. Rose responded that you can't hire a person for \$40,000. These hearings are being held now. This is just assistance to increase them.

MOTION to approve by Jeff Gentz, seconded by Dick Kessler. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY with Alice Wei voting 'yes'.

5. 2009 W-2 Program Report

Adelene Greene said that at the last meeting the question was raised if people are finding jobs through the W-2 Program and what type of jobs. W-2 started in 1997, replacing AFDC to help clients become trained and ready for employment. We have had a contract with the State to provide these services. Since 1997, cases of financial assistance have decreased. There were 627 AFDC cases in 1997, compared to 374 W-2 cases as of 10/1/09, of which 300 are in a paid status.

There were 254 W-2 job placements from Jan - Sept, 2009. The average wage is \$8.73 per hour. Clients receiving W-2 only, without employment, are paid \$5.15 per hour for their participation in classes to look for a job, creating a resume, etc. The maximum paid under W-2 is \$673 per month; the average pay is \$650. Many of these people lack education, work experience, transportation, child care, or have a criminal history. The majority of job placements are customer service, day care, food service, or temporary agencies.

Ms. Jackson asked what the duration of these jobs was. Ms. Greene replied that it depends on the individual case. Some are there for a few months, some are there for years. It varies with the jobs. The goal is to keep them employed.

MOTION to receive this report by Jeff Gentz, seconded by Terry Rose. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

6. Report on WCA Conference

Jennifer Jackson gave the committee members a copy of the power point presentation from the WCA Conference. One idea presented at this conference was to add an assisted living component to the nursing homes to be sure they don't have a deficit. Another topic was issues being faced by counties after Family Care. We are ahead of everyone in taking care of our problems. Family Care has saved us a lot of money and helped a lot of people.

7. Such Other Business as Authorized by Law - None

8. Committee Members Comments - None

9. Adjournment

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

Respectfully submitted,

Sharon Davis
KCDHS Secretary