

SPECIAL HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE

Minutes of Meeting

February 17, 2010

Kenosha County Administration Building

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

Committee Members Absent: Alice Wei & Ali Khaleel (excused)

Staff Present: John Jansen, Ron Rogers, Adelene Greene, Bob Riedl, John Milisauskas

Others Present: Supervisor John O'Day, Ben Harbach, 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 - 2/2/10

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

4. Resolutions to Approve the following County Executive Appointments:  
Ben Harbach to the Board of Administrative Appeals

Ed Kubicki thanked Ben Harbach for coming to meet with this committee tonight. Dick Kessler stated that he has known Mr. Harbach for a number of years. He lives in Somers, is on the Somers Town Board, and does a really good job. He would be a great asset to this Appeals Board.

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

Ron Johnson, Richard Willoughby, Denis Wikel, and John O'Day to the Human Services Board

John Jansen said that these are all re-appointments to the Human Services Board. There was a green sheet included in with the agenda packet explaining the absences of Denis Wikel over the last 3 years. His wife became ill, which caused some absences. Mr. Wikel is an excellent board member and does his homework. He asks a lot of questions and has some good suggestions.

Jennifer Jackson spoke in favor of Denis Wikel. He is on the Community Action Agency Board with her and he works tirelessly. He is also on the Shalom Center Board. He is a retired pharmacist, and having him on the Human Services Board is advantageous to Kenosha County. He knows human services issues.

Ed Kubicki added that he serves with the re-appointed members on this Board and each one brings a different facet to the Board. He recommends approval of everyone.

MOTION to approve by Dick Kessler, seconded by Jennifer Jackson. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

5. DWD: Resolution to Modify the 2010 Budget to Add an Office Support Worker and Business Services Job Developer

Adelene Greene said that we have received additional W-2 and WIA funding. We have seen a rise in the Economic Support caseload: 6,937 cases in Jan, 2002, compared to 14,427 cases in Jan, 2010. This is a 100% increase of non-duplicated cases. The number of people visiting our reception area has increased and people are accessing more WIA and W-2 services, including FoodShare, MA, child care, and other services. We also just learned that a number of people on unemployment will be losing their benefits beginning in February, and extended unemployment benefits will be phased out. This will affect over 100,000 people in Wisconsin. We don't know the number in Kenosha County.

We plan to use some of the additional funding for an Office Support position to help in the reception area, with the additional people who will be looking for work. This would be a 990C union position. We also plan to hire an un-rep position to assist with job placement services, to help find jobs that match experience. We will use \$6,000 to purchase 2 computers. There is no levy cost. These positions will be eliminated when the funding is gone. Ed Kubicki asked about the union position. Ms. Greene replied that we have enough funding to continue this position through 2011 and we've had discussions with the Union reps about this position. When it is eliminated, whoever has that position will be able to post into other vacant union positions. Both positions include benefits. Terry Rose asked about the un-rep position salary of \$49,998, compared to \$46,723 for the Office Support Worker. Ms. Greene explained that by the end of the approval process, the un-rep person won't be hired until April 1st or later, so this is not a full year of funding. The union contract determines the wage for the office support worker position. Administration determines the salary for the un-rep special project position. Ms. Greene further assured Mr. Rose that this is 100% W-2 and WIA funding with no county levy cost.

Bob Riedl added that many un-rep positions are grant-funded positions. An un-rep employee can apply for other positions within Kenosha County. This is all explained at the time they accept the position. We usually have plenty of advance notice when the funding will be eliminated. We work with these people to transition them to other County vacancies. There is no current position like this in the County.

John O'Day asked if we have problems filling these positions because they are short-term. Ms. Greene replied that we had no problem filling the 4 short-term child support positions, and they are aware that when the funding is gone, their positions are gone. Mr. Riedl added that the Lead grant and the Bio-terrorism grant positions are also short-term.

Jennifer Jackson commented that we are skating around on a grant system so union positions remain unfilled. Ms. Greene responded that in DWD there is only one frozen position and it will be unfrozen at the end of this year.

MOTION to approve by Jennifer Jackson, seconded by Terry Rose. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

6. Presentation on Homelessness

This presentation was moved to the March 2nd meeting.

7. Such Other Business as Authorized by Law

Jennifer Jackson said that she attended a Crisis Intervention Training with NAMI. It was a 2-day intense training to intervene in a mental health crisis. Many social workers from the County took this. The police force members are taking the CIT training, and it has cut down the number of arrests. She said this was a great training. There is another one coming in June.

8. Committee Members Comments - None

9. Adjournment

It was moved to adjourn by Jeff Gentz, seconded by Dick Kessler. Meeting adjourned at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sharon Davis  
KCDHS Secretary

F:Sharon/HSCmin 2-17-10