

HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE  
Minutes of Meeting  
June 1, 2010  
Kenosha County Administration Building

Committee Members Present: Terry Rose, Jeff Gentz, Mike Goebel, David Celebre, David Arrington, Megan Jekot (YIG)

Committee Members Absent: Ryan Joseph (excused)

Staff Present: John Jansen, John Milisaukas, Ron Rogers, Donna Rhodes

Others Present: Supervisor Dayvin Hallmon, Mary Jonker

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by Terry Rose. Mr. Rose welcomed the new Youth in Governance member, Megan Jekot. Introductions followed.

2. Citizen's Comments - None

3. Approval of Minutes: 5/18/10

MOTION to approve minutes by Jeff Gentz, seconded by Mike Goebel. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

4. Resolutions to Approve County Executive Appointment as follows:  
James Schmidt and Thomas Fredericksen to the Veterans Service Commission

John Jansen stated that both of these members are re-appointments and have been serving for a number of years.

MOTION to approve by Jeff Gentz, seconded by David Arrington. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Co. Bd. Suprs. Michael Goebel and David Arrington to the Human Services Board

John Jansen said that we needed 2 new County Board Supervisors for the Human Services Board (HSB), and both Michael Goebel and David Arrington volunteered to fill these positions. They also attended last week's meeting of the HSB.

MOTION to approve by Jeff Gentz, seconded by David Celebre. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Co. Bd. Supr. Dayvin Hallmon to the Racine/Kenosha Community Action Agency Board

John Jansen indicated that Dayvin Hallmon was here tonight. He will be replacing Jennifer Jackson on this board.

MOTION to approve by Jeff Gentz, seconded by David Arrington. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

5. DCFS Presentations:  
Child Protective Services Unit / Ongoing Unit

Ron Rogers distributed the DCFS Org Chart and informational pages on the CPS and Ongoing Units. He said that the DCFS mission is to work with children and families to keep children safe and to find permanent homes for children. All counties are required by statute to investigate child abuse and neglect (CAN) referrals. The DCFS Access Office is where people call to report a possible case of abuse or neglect. The majority of calls are from the school system - teachers and counselors. Questions are asked of the caller to help determine the urgency of the matter and how quickly DCFS workers will need to respond. It is then passed on to the supervisor who makes the screening decision - which worker needs to go out and how quickly. There are six (6) CPS social workers to cover the entire county of Kenosha. The standard response times are set by the State. A social worker will go out to interview the child. By law, this can be done without the presence of a parent or guardian. The reason for this is that the child may be more forthcoming without the parents. The majority of cases involve allegations of abuse by the parent to their own child, or someone connected but not related, such as a teacher, coach, or babysitter.

There is a Child Advocacy Center (CAC) located at Kenosha Hospital, where they can conduct forensic interviews of the child. The interview of the child will be recorded and used for prosecution of the maltreater. Another person will conduct a very thorough physical examination of the child. The interview at the CAC could be done the next day or even the same day, depending on the time of the first contact. Children are detained right away if they are unsafe in their home.

The CPS Unit does a good job in meeting all timeframes. Cases come in almost every other day. In 2009, they processed 1,002 calls concerning children, of which 719 were CAN referrals and the other 283 were child welfare referrals.

DCFS partners very well with both the Police and Sheriff Depts., and they accompany the CPS workers on many of their initial interviews. DCFS investigates allegations of physical abuse, sexual abuse, and physical neglect. The 6 CPS social workers are trained to do the assessments. In a bad economy, the caseloads increase. CPS workers may have a case only for two weeks, after which it will be referred to the Prevention Services Network (if there is no court involvement) or to the Ongoing Unit (if there is).

The Ongoing Unit has 10 social workers, each with an average caseload of 18 - 20 families. They are the case managers and do a more thorough assessment to determine the needs of the family to keep the children safe in their home. They develop a treatment plan, make referrals for services, and monitor the home for reunification. The DCFS services are contracted to community agencies: CIP, PSG, KAFASI, CSSW, and St. Charles.

The Ongoing Unit workers have 180 - 200 cases open and could be working with these families for about one year. The vast majority of parents have their children returned. For those that are not, DCFS will do a termination of parental rights. It's usually the same foster parents who took these children in that adopt them. DCFS has a huge success rate when returning children to their homes; they do not usually come back into the system.

2010 Summer Youth Employment Program

John Milisauskas, Job Center Manager, informed the members that it does not look like they will be getting any federal funding for this program, as they did last year. So, they have put together different funding sources to include \$140,000 from the County, \$100,000 from WIA funding, and \$48,000 from the Community Action Agency. KUSD is providing

part-time summer teachers, and CIP is contributing supervisors and mentors. Total funding to run the 2010 program is \$288,000, plus other organizational costs.

Donna Rhodes, Gang Intervention Supervisor, said that they will employ 160 - 180 youth (135 youth, aged 14-18, and 40-45 young adults aged 18-21) at approximately 35 work sites in the county. The school youth will have an educational component for 2 hours every week, for which they will receive school credit. The youth will gain interview skills and job readiness skills from this. 45 youth will be placed in county parks building shelters and working on the dog park in Old Settler's Park.

These are at-risk youth from low-income families, and some could have had encounters with the law. Several community partners come together to do this summer youth program. The Boys & Girls Club staff will oversee this program, with assistance from CIP, KUSD, and Gateway. An active waiting list is kept in case any of the youth are not successful. That slot can then be filled right away.

Kenosha Achievement Center provides the busses. The County provides meals at the parks and child care. The youth work 4 days a week, for 5 hours each day. It's an 8-week program for the 14-18 year olds, and a 10-week program for 18-21 year olds. There is a variety of employers, including the museum, libraries, Bradford and Tremper High Schools, and a group of local businesses.

6. Such Other Business as Authorized by Law - None

7. Committee Members Comments

Jeff Gantz thanked everyone for bringing these presentations to this committee. They are very informative.

8. Adjournment

It was moved to adjourn by Jeff Gantz, seconded by David Celebre. Meeting adjourned at 7:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sharon Davis  
KCDHS Secretary

F:Sharon/HSCmin 6-1-10