

SPECIAL HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE

Minutes of Meeting

March 21, 2011

Kenosha County Administration Building

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

Committee Members Absent: David Celebre (excused)

Staff Present: John Jansen, Laurie Staves

Others Present: Joe Potente-Kenosha News, Dave Kohl-WLIP, Theresa Hannes, Roberta Bloner, Rhonda Hemming, Ron Frederick

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. by Terry Rose.

2. Citizen's Comments - None

3. Report on Impact of State Budget on Human Services

John Jansen explained that this is very preliminary data being presented tonight. The Legislative Fiscal Bureau has not released anything yet and won't until 3/28/11.

Laurie Staves distributed a 3/17/11 draft of the DHS Potential Financial Impact showing how this will affect our budget and how it affects contracted and County employees. The biggest impact is Income Maintenance. The State ESC is currently doing some income eligibility. The Governor wants to transfer all of the income eligibility to the State. When the State takes that income eligibility over, they also want to take the IM dollars. That line item amount of \$4.6 million is not just the IM eligibility piece. We use the State contract for Income Maintenance to draw down additional services for our clients and for our families because Kenosha County does wraparound services between DWD and DCFS. We access federal funds with a 50% match because we service the same families in both divisions. That piece is not apples to apples. They are only taking the Income Maintenance which is \$672,000 of the \$4.6 million. We get a total of \$7 million in Community Aids, and they want to take \$4.6 million. We estimate the State will be taking over fully the Income Maintenance portion on 5/1/12. We don't have any detail yet.

John Jansen said that Hewlett-Packard has the contract with the State. People will apply on-line or through the phone. It will be much more difficult for people because they won't have the face-to-face contact anymore.

Ms. Staves continued that the reduction to Community Aids would be \$4.6 million. Client Support Services would go away. They include in-home counseling programs, social worker positions, and contracted services to our clients in DCFS. Client Direct Services would go away, which include prevention services, juvenile court services, Families First, and anything that is part of the wraparound for families' needs. The Administration Overhead will go away. This is the cost for the Job Center building.

The costs for County Indirect Overhead and Job Center Rent/Occupancy Charges will not go away. These are costs for county-wide services shared by all departments such as personnel, finance, purchasing, etc.

David Arrington asked: If these services go away, what is the impact of the suffering of our citizens from these cuts. How many people will be affected? This computer automation doesn't work. They don't think like humans.

Mike Goebel also asked what the numbers were. John Jansen said that we have no idea of what the number of affected citizens will be.

The total number of affected County staff include 40.9 ES workers, 12.5 DCFS workers, and 2 Administration people, for a total of 55.4 County staff. Total contracted staff is 46.6. This would be by the end of 2012.

Ms. Staves reiterated that it's premature to have specifics. We don't even have the fiscal analysis from the State. The revenue budget from the State drives this report.

Prevention Services and Case Management will go away. Because of this, our court-ordered services will rise. Our DCFS placements have been decreasing because of these prevention services. Without these services, there will be a rise in out-of-home placements and court-ordered services. These are County-funded services and come from the levy. We estimate these additional costs will add \$1.3 million to our levy.

Ms. Staves distributed a Kenosha County DHS position paper, stating that we need to educate the State about the \$672,000 portion of the \$4.6 million. The State needs to leave \$3.9 million here so we can continue our wraparound services for our families.

Terry Rose asked why the State has this impression. Ms. Staves responded that the IM match is reported on one line. There is no other reporting line with the State. Mr. Rose asked why we didn't list this separately. Ms. Staves replied that we are not misrepresenting this. We are using the line item the State gave us. Mr. Rose again asked why we didn't break this down.

Jeff Gentz added that from the State's point of view, there's one amount in that line. He also asked if the State knew we were using it for all of these different things.

David Arrington confirmed his understanding, that this was an accepted practice at the State level. Now, because of this budget proposal, the State is seeing a large dollar amount in that line item and Kenosha County now needs to explain specifically what they do with this \$4.6 million. It's never been a problem before, right?

Ms. Staves explained that we have been doing this since the 1990's. John Jansen added that there is no other line item in CARS to report this.

In answer to Mike Goebel's question, Ms. Staves stated that the other counties are in the same situation.

Ms. Staves said that we have an IM contract. It's not an eligibility contract. It's to serve IM eligible families and clients. The State never asked us to split the services. It's our goal now to educate them. The State will not be providing those services. If they take the IM contract from us, we will not be able to get matching funds. The State needs to keep the IM contract open to the counties in order to draw down the matching funds from the federal government. It doesn't cost the State anything for us to get these funds. This problem is our fight right now.

Mr. Arrington commented that this is a triple whammy. If the Governor takes this money from Kenosha County, we suffer financially, and we lose draw down money, and we lose the workforce to serve the families in Kenosha County.

Mike Goebel stated that the Governor is making a profit in taking our \$4.6 million. The total is \$26 million for all counties.

Mr. Arrington asked how this helps the people. It's nuts.

Ms. Staves distributed a handout on IM Application Processing Statistics with pie charts. This shows that Kenosha County processes almost the same amount of cases in 30 days or less, that the State still has pending over 30 days. It's the total opposite.

Youth Aids will be cut 10% and the State is increasing the Corrections daily rate from \$275 to \$284 effective 7/1/11, and to \$289 on 7/1/12.

The W-2 contract is getting hit the least. The previous contract had included a one-time award of \$1.7 million for employment services. Mr. Arrington noted, however, that 14 jobs will still be cut. Ms. Staves explained that as funding goes away, the positions go away. That was stated in the resolutions when they came before this Committee and the County Board. W-2 is not being touched as a base level of funding.

In Child Support, the federal government is taking away the incentive funds we received for meeting certain child support collection goals. This results in a loss of 5.5 staff.

Family Care enrollment will be kept at the 6/20/11 level. This will create waiting lists. Mr. Rose reminded everyone that Kenosha County spent over \$1 million to get into Family Care. We did this to save money and to eliminate waiting lists. We are going back to the old program. Ms. Staves noted that \$1.7 million is our annual contribution right now. The County will be financially responsible for anyone who needs emergency services and is not in Family Care. Also, Severely Emotionally Disturbed (SED) youth used to age out of the waiver program and into Family Care at age 18. This is being changed to age 22. This is 4 more years of charges to the counties. These are SED or disabled youth. We estimate an additional \$105,000 in 2012 and \$145,000 in 2013 for this.

MA Badger Care Core serves childless adults for psychiatric, prescription services, and family planning services. We were seeing a savings in DADS because of this program, but this will change and will again impact the levy

Senior Care will require mandatory enrollment in Part D.

Social Services Block Grant funding is being reduced to 2009 levels. We received this funding from the State to provide mental health and AODA services to adults (people in Chapter 51).

Pertaining to Health, the Tobacco Control Program is being eliminated, for a loss of 1.75 contracted staff. There could be a possible impact on the school nurse contract because State aids for schools will be decreasing. We don't know if KUSD will keep our school nursing contract. They may not use us anymore, for a loss of 5.95 County staff. There are other health grants that we don't know yet if they will be continued. Because the City and County share in the overhead cost of Health, the City's contribution will also increase. This hasn't changed since the mid 90's.

There is a possible 30% federal reduction to WIA. This is the job retraining program. Because of cuts to technical colleges, Gateway may possibly be pulling out of the Job Center. They currently lease space for classrooms.

Laurie Staves summarized that this is \$9.7 million of revenue that we will not receive. This could mean a \$6.2 million increase in Levy over the 2-year period (2012-13), and a total loss of 140 employees (County and Contracted).

Jeff Gentz asked how many of these 140 jobs are tied to money coming in from state and federal funding that go away if the money goes away. Ms. Staves replied that the Legislative Fiscal Bureau analysis will show what part is state and which is federal funding. Some funding comes from the federal government through the state to the counties. John Jansen added that every position here is linked to funding.

David Arrington suggested that we provide the State with specific information on the Income Maintenance line item.

4. Such Other Business as Authorized by Law

John Jansen asked Terry Rose and the Committee if they still wanted to review the DHS contracts and their outcomes. Terry Rose replied that going over those contracts at this point might be a history lesson. The focus now is the State budget and its impact on Kenosha County. All committee members agreed.

5. Committee Members Comments - None

6. Adjournment

It was moved to adjourn by Jeff Gentz, seconded by David Arrington. Meeting adjourned at 7:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sharon Davis  
KCDHS Secretary

F:Sharon/HSCmin 3-21-11