

HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE
Minutes of Meeting
April 12, 2011
Kenosha County Administration Building

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

Staff Present: John Jansen, Laurie Staves, Adelene Greene, Cindy Johnson, Carlton Cowie

Others Present: Joe Potente-Kenosha News, Theresa Hannes, Roberta Bloner, Jack Rose

1. Call to Order

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

2. Citizen's Comments -

Theresa Hannes, ES Worker, stated that she is here to support the proposed resolutions to retain the IM positions which the Governor is wanting to centralize. There will be a loss of County jobs. These are trained workers. But the most important consideration is the people who need our services. Kenosha County currently serves 14,796 unduplicated cases (that's W-2, Food Share, MA, etc.). Total incoming calls for January & February of this year was 41,842. That's 1,046 calls daily. General Reception handled 6,834 people coming through their doors in January, 5,238 in February, and 6,865 in March. This does not include the Kenosha County Center satellite office. These participants deserve the best service possible. The Job Center offers them the best. We can be hands-on and solve the issue for the participants. We also collaborate with other divisions and agencies in the community. Ms. Hannes has been doing this job for 30 years and she cares about these people. They don't want them waiting for someone to answer a phone or get lost at a call center in Madison. She asked for the committee members' support of the resolutions brought forward tonight.

Jack Rose also spoke about these concerns. We have an excellent program in Kenosha County and he supports approval of the resolutions. Trying to determine the Medicaid resources available for the elderly, the blind, and the disabled is complicated. It requires careful review of their assets and other information. Expedited service is needed for participants without insurance in hospitals needing a nursing home placement. A lapse in Medicaid can result in prescriptions not being filled thus exacerbating medical conditions. Nursing homes may not get paid. Consumers may be disenrolled. We have a good system here. It's doing the job we need to do.

Roberta Bloner stated that she is an ES Worker with the Aging Center and works with those who need long-term care. There is currently a system at the State (ESC) where people apply for benefits through a service center. WCHSA has compared the counties to the State ESC (she distributed this comparison). The counties have fewer errors, timely processing of applications, and we provide better service to our citizens. It takes a community to serve people who have long-term care needs. We gather information from banks, hospitals, group homes, etc. A centralized service center will lose all of those connections. This will be devastating to those people who need these services.

3. Approval of Minutes - 2/22/11, 3/1/11, 3/21/11

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

4. Health: Resolution to Modify 2011 Budget to Reprogram Budgeted Grant Funds for the Coverdell Forensic Scientific Improvement Grant

Cindy Johnson explained that this is a transfer of funds from Staff Development to the Machinery/Equipment and Purchased Services account for the lab. Laurie Staves added that the grant approval is attached to the resolution. We just need budget authority to move these funds.

Carlton Cowie, Laboratory Manager, stated that the lab needs upgrading because the equipment is over 10 years old. We are unable to do drug, blood or urine tests because we don't have the equipment needed. This new piece of equipment that will last over 10 years. When it arrives, the drug, blood, and urine tests will be done in-house again instead of being sent out to private labs. We are able to divert funds from staff training because Mr. Cowie is able to do the training.

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

5. Discussion and Approval of One of Two Resolutions as follows:
Resolution to Oppose the Centralization of Economic Support Programs as Proposed in the Governor's Biennium Budget (Terry Rose version)
Resolution to Oppose the Centralization of Economic Support Programs as Proposed in the State 2011-2013 Biennial Budget (DHS version)

Laurie Staves said that when she looked at the subject of Mr. Rose's resolution and the 'Now, Therefore....', she narrowed the content of the Whereas' to concentrate on the funding and the implications associated with the IM centralization. The Terry Rose broader one has all of the funding sources listed in the 3rd paragraph, and deals with 10 items on the spreadsheet. The DHS version deals only with #1 on the spreadsheet -- the Income Maintenance.

David Arrington supports these resolutions because Wisconsin did not go broke in one year. We need to stand strong against this.

Mike Goebel will support both resolutions. He has seen this work at the Job Center. Centralizing IM at the State will be destroying something that is working.

Terry Rose asked if the call center will be in Wisconsin, India, or where? John Jansen replied that they have indicated it will be in Wisconsin.

Mr. Arrington stated that people receive hands-on attention in Kenosha. There is no way the call center can do the same thing. It's impossible. A call center for the whole state is ridiculous!

Terri Hannes added that the programs are complex. Working with the disabled, the elderly, the young girls -- the call center concept is going backwards. They don't know how to do this. When you privatize, who is making the profit? The people in the community will suffer. We do a really good job in Kenosha.

Adelene Greene stated that the State ESC currently only serves the single adult population. Many come into the Job Center asking for assistance because they can't get through to the

state. And this is with only a small portion of the population. Ms. Staves added that paragraphs 5 & 6 of the DHS version address this issue.

Ms. Staves also explained that it's not Hewlett Packard that will be running the call center. A private agency, HP Enterprises, Inc. (formerly EDS) has been awarded this contract without a bid process. EDS used to process Medicaid claims for the State of Wisconsin. About 3 years ago, they lost the contract through a competitive bid process to Forward Health.

David Celebre asked why one version refers to 140 county and contracted jobs being lost, while the other version mentions only 40 jobs. Ms. Staves explained that the worksheet attached to the Terry Rose version deals with 10 different issues; and the 140 jobs lost is for all of those 10 issues. The DHS version deals specifically with only the 1st issue - the Income Maintenance.

Jeff Gentz opined that removing this from the County will create a bigger problem. If we can't help these people, we will be in trouble, both in the community and financially. He agrees with the people who came in and spoke tonight. He does not want a call center. He will support the DHS version.

Ms. Staves stated that John Jansen and others went to Madison last week, met with legislators, and gave them our position paper. This paper highlights 2 points: (1) Don't take our local dollars, and (2) Keep the IM dollars open for us so we can keep the federal dollars. Mr. Gentz asked if DHS could be more detailed in the IM reporting. Ms. Staves explained that we are only given one line item by the State for our IM contract. This has passed audits, we have legal opinions, and we have been doing this for years. We are not alone. Other counties also include services and overhead in the same line item. The target of the resolution should be the IM centralization.

Mr. Gentz wants to concentrate on the main issue - IM centralization. If you send something that discusses everything in the proposed budget that we want to take out, it probably won't get as much attention. He wants the resolution to address only the IM issue.

Terry Rose asked that the DHS version be re-drafted to include the contracted services. A special Human Services Committee meeting will be held on April 19th at 6:45 p.m. This resolution will also be added to the County Board meeting the same night.

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

It was moved to adjourn by David Arrington, seconded by Jeff Gentz. Meeting adjourned at 7:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sharon Davis
KCDHS Secretary

F:Sharon/HSCmin 4-12-11