

Ashland County Health & Human Services Board Meeting
Ashland County Courthouse – County Board Room
June 19, 2013 4:15 p.m.

Members Present: Clarence Campbell, Norman Couture, Joan Haukaas, Ruth Johnson, Gary Kabasa, Joyce Kabasa, Jim Oakley, Charles Ortman, Pat Ortman

Excused: A. Koeller, Laura Kruse

Unexcused: None

Others: Michael Hamm, Donna Lanni, Randy Spangle, Terry Barningham, Jeff Beirl, Peter Herlevi, Bev Patterson, Terri Perry, Judy Putnam, Tami Tolliver, Carrie Wartman

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by C. Campbell at 4:16 p.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of the April 2013 Board Meeting were reviewed.

J. Kabasa made a motion to approve the April 2013 minutes. Seconded by J. Haukaas. Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

B. Patterson shared that previously reduced Child Support funding has been tentatively restored at the state level via unanimous vote.

PUBLIC HEARING OF CY 2014 BUDGET DEVELOPMENT

J. Kabasa made a motion to enter the Public Hearing portion of the meeting. Seconded by G. Kabasa. Motion carried via unanimous roll call vote.

Donna Lanni, a New Day Shelter board member, discussed the need for the domestic abuse shelter in the area and the fact that the shelter has been around for a long time. Over half of the clients of the NDS are Ashland County residents, e.g. in 2011, 112 clients utilized a total of 733 days at the shelter. Ms. Lanni stated that Ashland County has not supported New Day Shelter financially for some time and that the shelter will be presenting a proposal to the county for financial support in the coming weeks. The director of the shelter, Kathy Roper, will make herself available to answer questions and/or to give a presentation. C. Ortman asked Ms. Lanni if she had an idea of how much money the shelter would be proposing; she replied that Bayfield County has contributed \$7,500 per year and that it would be nice to have that same level of support from Ashland County.

Michael Hamm, the Ashland County representative to the board of NorthernBridges, gave an update. The current CEO of NorthernBridges is retiring near the end of 2013, so a search for a replacement is imminent. NorthernBridges is currently serving approximately 2,100 clients in its 11-county service area through 150 employees located at eight sites, including Ashland. Mr. Hamm reported that NorthernBridges is currently in good standing with the State of WI in

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terms of progress toward its targets for risk reserve and solvency fund. A response to the RFP is being prepared by NorthernBridges for the next 3-year contracting period. When asked if he knew of any organizations that will also be submitting responses to the RFP for the same contract, Mr. Hamm replied that he did not know of any at this time.

Randy Spangle, the Director of the Ashland Area Council on Alcoholism and Other Drug Abuse (AAC), discussed the relationship between AAC and Ashland County. He submitted a petition with 109 signatures supporting continued funding of AAC and the services it provides to the community, along with an annual program evaluation, program statistics and client satisfaction surveys. Mr. Spangle thanked the county for its support, stating that AAC literally could not operate without the financial support of Ashland County. C. Ortman asked whether recidivism was tracked by AAC and what level was typical. Mr. Spangle replied that recidivism can be defined in different ways but that approximately 15-20% of clients come back through the program. C. Ortman asked about the level of funding being requested. Mr. Spangle replied that it would be very helpful to AAC to receive more funding as they have operated on a very tight budget for some years, but that the current level of funding without cuts would be appreciated.

<p>J. Kabasa made a motion to close the Public Hearing portion of the meeting. Seconded by J. Oakley. Motion carried via unanimous roll call vote.</p>

WRITTEN DEPARTMENT REPORTS/UPDATES

J. Putnam, Children and Families Unit Manager, first discussed the volume of out-of-home placements of children this year and the fact that she is requesting additional funding in the amount of \$56,400 through the state high-cost pool of funds for tribal court placements. This funding can be applied for to offset expenditures for a three month period of time. She also discussed a brand new Adolescent Life Skills Group being run by Emily Ludwig, MSW at ACHHS. The first group has 6 youth in it, ranging in age from 12-15 years. The group will meet for 60 minutes each week for five weeks and learn specific skills such as conflict resolution and communication through a combination of DVDs, group discussion and written exercises. The plan is to host a group like this twice annually. C. Ortman wondered how the participants are chosen. J. Putnam replied that the focus is on early intervention and so the targeted population is first-time delinquents and/or children who have not been in the system for very long.

As C. Zach was not in attendance, T. Perry gave a brief update re the Birth-to-Three program. The program just recently underwent a comprehensive state review and received a glowing review with no findings.

COMMUNITY GARDENING GRANT PRESENTATION

Public Health Nurse Carrie Wartman gave a presentation regarding a \$2,000 community garden grant that Ashland Family Forum-Head Start was awarded by Security Health Plan from Marshfield, WI. Carrie collaborated with the local Head Start staff and then wrote the grant on their behalf. Head Start staff received training and materials to put the garden together and to develop a curriculum to work with families that would teach them about healthy eating and about how to grow their own garden. This community garden program will

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reach approximately 200 children, 160 of which are 5 years old and younger, along with their families. Planting of the garden at Head Start began today and the public is welcome to stop by and see the project.

2011-2012 ACHHSD ANNUAL REPORT

Hardcopies of the annual report were distributed and each manager touched briefly on the highlights from their respective department for 2011-2012.

2014 BUDGET PLANNING

T. Perry reported that the onsite portion of the ACHHSD audit has been completed and that work has begun on the 2014 budget. T. Perry will work closely with J. Beirl over the next few months to develop an appropriate budget, which will be presented to the ACHHSD Board at the September meeting.

WHEAP UPDATES

T. Tolliver discussed the one page energy assistance handout from the board folder entitled *Payments and Services Fiscal Year 2013* which is an overview of the benefits paid in Ashland County over the last heating season, which ran from October 1 through May 15. T. Perry stated that the emphasis in Ashland County for energy assistance is on clients making an effort – even a small one – to contribute to paying for their energy usage. The aim is self-sufficiency.

ECONOMIC SUPPORT CONSORTIA UPDATES

T. Perry reported that the last couple of months have been very busy ones for the IM consortia throughout the state. A lot of work has gone into planning for the large workload increase anticipated for the consortia due to a) the implementation of more of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (PPACA) and b) decreased eligibility for Medicaid/BadgerCare in the State of WI. Applications through the consortia will begin October 1 and the statewide system is expected to be available November 1.

Approximately 1,700 new applications are expected for the Northern Income Maintenance Consortium (NMIC) alone in October and the workload is expected to remain unusually high for 12-18 months. This will require 20 new FTEs for the Northern Income Maintenance Consortium (NMIC): approximately 5 FTEs will be gained by bumping some 35 hour full time employees to 40 hours per week and 15 new employees will be hired throughout the NMIC. Ashland County will be adding three new employees by August 1, contingent upon receiving the PPACA funding that is expected and receiving confirmation that PPACA funding will also pay for any unemployment benefits necessary at the end of this limited term ramp up of employees.

As always, funding and funding allocation methodologies are issues requiring vigilance on the part of counties. The state will be providing extra funding for an 18-24 month period beginning in July to help the consortia to handle the additional PPACA caseload. A letter from T. Perry to DHS Secretary Rhoades was distributed which thanks Sec. Rhoades for her proposal re PPACA funding allocation methodology. Another letter was distributed from J. Beirl and T. Perry to Governor Walker encouraging a partial veto to a proposed budget

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provision; this partial veto would allow DHS more flexibility in determining IM funding allocation methods into the future for ongoing IM consortia funding. Finally, a letter from the Northern and Western IM consortia to WCHSA was distributed. This letter informs WCHSA that these two consortia will be representing themselves in contract negotiations with DHS rather than delegating this representation to WCHSA. The thought is that concerns specific to smaller and more rural counties can be more specifically addressed by these two consortia representing themselves.

STAFFING UPDATES

Sara Mackiewicz, a public health nurse, has been on a short medical leave and is back at work full time. Another public health employee, Marie Anderson, is retiring June 28. Marie's responsibilities will be absorbed by a combination of remaining public health employees and the fiscal department. Adult Services employee Cathy Bauer is tentatively planning to retire in early 2014. Also, as previously announced, Children & Family Services Unit Manager Judy Putnam is planning to retire early in 2014.

TRANSPORTING CLIENTS POLICY

T. Barningham presented a proposed addendum to the employee handbook for ACHHSD employees. The gist of the addendum is to require employees to remove any objects that could be used to harm a person from their vehicles before transporting ACHHSD clients in those vehicles. This is for the safety of both clients and employees. J. Haukaas asked how this liability is covered. T. Perry responded that it is covered by Ashland County's liability insurance.

J. Kabasa made a motion to adopt the Transporting Clients Policy as an addendum to the employee handbook for ACHHS employees. Seconded by G. Kabasa. Motion carried.

WRITTEN MATERIALS

The following written materials were provided to the Board. Please contact T. Perry if additional information is desired or follow up at a Board meeting requested.

- Children in Substitute Care
- Children & Family Access Statistics
- Northern Income Maintenance Consortium Call Center Statistics
- Wisconsin Public Health Authorities Fact Sheet
- PPACA 2014 Policy Changes Overview
- WHA (Wisconsin Hospital Association) Newsletter
- WCHSA Executive Board Meeting Minutes ~ 5/8/13
- WCHSA Notes on NEMT Advisory Committee Meeting ~ 5/14/13
- Summary of JFC Action for Counties ~ 6/4/13
- Health & Human Services Budget Summary ~ 6/5/13
- DCF Update for WCHSA Executive Board ~ 6/6/13

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BOARD MEMBER UPDATES/AGENDA ITEMS

J. Oakley mentioned that the proposed mining ordinance will be brought before the full Ashland County Board tomorrow June 20. C. Ortman reported that yesterday June 18 GTAC filed a pre-application notice with the DNR which communicates GTAC's intent to file an application for a mining permit. N. Couture shared that the Bad River Band of Chippewa has assembled a team of attorneys from inside and outside of Wisconsin to continue to oppose the mine.

OTHER BUSINESS

T. Perry announced that the annual Senior Expo will be held at the Lake Superior Elementary School on August 21 and that ACHHSD will be well represented there.

J. Kabasa wanted the message delivered to ACHHSD employees that they are working really hard and doing a good job, and that their efforts are sincerely appreciated.

APPROVAL OF BILLS

<p>J. Kabasa made a motion to approve the bills presented. Seconded by C. Ortman. Motion carried.</p>
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NEXT MEETING DATE

September 18, 2013: General Board Meeting – Sanborn Building 4:15 pm

The meeting adjourned at 5:55 p.m.

Recorded by Peter Herlevi