

**Ashland County Health & Human Services Board Meeting  
Sanborn Building – Oredock Room  
September 18, 2013 4:15 p.m.**

**Members**

**Present:** Joan Haukaas, Gary Kabasa, Laura Kruse, Charles Ortman, Pat Ortman

**Excused:** Clarence Campbell, Norman Couture, A. Koeller, Jim Oakley

**Absent:** Ruth Johnson, Joyce Kabasa

**Others**

**Present:** Anne Chumbler, Chris Dobbe, Michael Hamm, Terry Barningham, Jeff Beirl, Peter Herlevi, Bev Patterson, Terri Perry, Judy Putnam, Kevin Stranberg, Tami Tolliver, Cyndi Zach

**CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order by P. Ortman at 4:16 p.m.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

The minutes of the June 2013 Board Meeting were reviewed.

**No quorum – approval will be voted on at the November board meeting.**

**PUBLIC COMMENTS AND WRITTEN DEPARTMENT REPORTS**

C. Zach reported an issue with a tourist rooming house (TRH) permit on Madeline Island. The Town of LaPointe had been receiving complaints regarding possible health hazards and unlicensed rental on a property that has been the subject of previous issues. Ken Tuckwell, ACHHSD Sanitarian did conduct a site visit. The property was unoccupied and no human health hazard was observed. Ken has an excellent working relationship with the Town of LaPointe and they cooperate proactively with regard to licenses on the island.

**FAMILY CARE UPDATES**

T. Perry called attention to some printed materials in the board folders re the new Family Care Managed Care Organization (MCO), Community Care of Central Wisconsin (CCCW) and the transition from NorthernBridges to CCCW. Four entities competed for the Family Care contract in this region and it has been awarded to CCCW. Services will be provided through CCCW in our area beginning 1/1/2014. T. Perry, T. Barningham and Adult Services staff members will be meeting with CCCW management staff in the coming weeks.

**TRUE COLORS FUN RUN**

The drug court staff has organized a fun run as a fundraiser for matching funds for the BIRT Grant from the Otto Bremer Foundation. T. Perry has posters available and asked that board members please post some in the community. Volunteers to work at the run are welcome.

**NORTHERNBRIDGES DISSOLUTION**

Michael Hamm, the Ashland County rep on the board of NorthernBridges, gave an update. NorthernBridges has contracts with approximately 2,000 area Family Care clients through 12/31/2013. NB is in the process of converting these contracts over to CCCW, which will

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take over providing these services on 1/1/2014. NorthernBridges did not go bankrupt: expected 2013 profit of \$1 million to be contributed to working capital.

Mr. Hamm does not expect NB to dissolve immediately as many loose ends need to be wrapped up relating to items such as audit and budget, which will require the board and a skeleton crew to complete into 2014; the transition is expected to take some time and all 11 area counties must vote to dissolve by a 2/3 margin. The NB CEO search is obviously off and the current CEO will stay on through the transition. Of current NB employees, approximately 75% are expected to be hired by CCCW and NB is working with the other 25% on job searches; NB is selling its business furniture and equipment. Currently the Hayward, Superior, Ashland, Park Falls, Rice Lake and Centuria offices are expected to be kept open by CCCW. Mr. Hamm is unsure whether Ashland County will have its own rep on the CCCW board.

P. Ortman asked whether it is expected that someday a single MCO will be servicing the entire state of Wisconsin. Mr. Hamm replied that the speculation that he hears is that things might move over time toward four regional districts plus Milwaukee County, for a total of five Family Care districts.

C. Ortman asked about what will become of the \$1 million that NB expects to contribute to its working capital for 2013. Mr. Hamm replied that there will be some expenses to be paid from that number including contract buyouts, employee assistance and bonuses. Whatever remains is to be divided equally among the 11 area counties. Mr. Hamm went on to say that CCCW has received more money over the last five years than any other Family Care MCO in the state, which has resulted in lower caseloads for CCCW case managers and nurses than for those of other MCOs.

T. Perry talked about the Family Care contribution (currently about \$61K per quarter through June 2014) that Ashland County is required to make to the state. Initially, this payment was required to provide the cash flow needed for startup MCOs to establish themselves and to become self-sustaining. Since CCCW is already a well established Family Care MCO, T. Perry and J. Beirl have asked whether Ashland County might be exempted from these payments in 2014.

### **NORTHWOODS SHARED SERVICES PROJECT**

Ashland County is part of an 18 county group in Wisconsin that has received a grant to explore the idea of developing more shared services, primarily public health, across counties. Because of increasing competition for tax dollars at all levels of government, the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation has commissioned this project and 15 others just like it throughout the country to try and help counties to continue to provide high quality human services even in the face of decreasing budgets. The goal is not to consolidate public health departments across counties, but only to explore and map out opportunities for voluntary shared services across counties.

Chris Dobbe is facilitating the grant, which runs from 1/15/2013 – 1/15/2015, and she presented a slide show that was included in the board folders.

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T. Perry explained that for Ashland County, shared services have been necessary in order to survive and to be able to continue offering quality services in light of continuing funding cuts. Ashland County already works very well in concert with Bayfield County and the Bad River Tribe. This project should be helpful in providing more ideas and possibly more structure to what already exists successfully.

L. Kruse stated that she sees much great collaboration and creativity across county lines now and that Ashland County and its current collaborators might serve as a good model for shared services as well as being a participant in this current effort. Ms. Dobbe commented that Ashland County does have the longest list of currently shared services in the 18 county group.

C. Zach reported that Ashland and Bayfield Counties have worked together on the last four CHIPs (Community Health Improvement Plan) and that MMC (Memorial Medical Center) has joined the partnership on the most recent CHIP. This has made for an excellent partnership and has been very productive.

**COMMUNITY HEALTH IMPROVEMENT PLAN (CHIP)**

C. Zach directed everyone's attention to the 2013-15 CHIP Plan in the board folders. She stated that the community identified focus is on abuse and excessive use of alcohol. As previously mentioned, Ashland and Bayfield Counties are partnering with MMC on this initiative.

Kevin Stranberg, the Director of Public Relations for MMC, discussed the three way partnership, acknowledging it as a great long-term partnership marrying the different knowledge, experience and resources of the three partners. Mr. Stranberg reported that the implementation plan has been started with a three pronged approach: 1) public awareness – a "1 Less" public relations campaign, 2) work groups made up of local AODA experts and facilitated by Dianne Heapy focusing on what we can and should be doing as a community to address the issue and 3) addressing the sustainability of solutions that will be put in place.

The leaders of this unique CHIP partnership have presented at the state and national levels regarding how to form successful partnerships such as this one.

**BOILED WATER NOTICES POLICY**

C. Zach informed the board that Public Health will likely begin posting boiled water notices on the Public Health Facebook page. The DNR is required to test any wells with the potential to affect 20 or more people. ACHHSD has the contract to perform these tests for the DNR. When a well has a poor result, a boiled water notice must be posted publicly at the organization, e.g. restaurant that the well serves. Organizations are not always cooperative. C. Zach has already approached the DNR and DHS and both agencies support posting boiled water notices on the ACHHSD Public Health facebook page.

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**CHILD SUPPORT FUNDING**

B. Patterson reported that the previously removed state funding has been restored in the latest state budget. Debate has now turned to how to allocate this funding; should it be based on caseload or performance? This decision should be finalized by the end of September. Milwaukee County is at the center of the debate as it has very high caseloads but low performance. If the budget is approved, Ashland County likely stands to receive more revenue than is reflected in our 2014 county budget. This additional revenue would be used to reduce county levy and/or provide badly needed upgrades to Child Support computer hardware and software.

**2014 BUDGET APPROVAL**

A budget packet is included in the board folders. Each unit manager touched on the spending and budgeting for her unit.

T. Barningham pointed out that the Adult Services line items for 2014 are largely static. The IDP (Intoxicated Driver Program) Enhancement Grant has been extended through 9/30/14. There have been no IMD (Institute for Mental Disease) expenditures thus far in 2013. The 2014 Ashland County Family Care contribution will be about half of what it will be for 2013. The budget for emergency detentions (ED's) has been increased for 2014; almost all ED's Ashland County has been handling have involved alcohol or drugs, and thus are not appropriate for less expensive crisis bed services. J. Haukaas wondered what impact the NorthernBridges transition will have on workload. T. Barningham replied that the impact is expected to be relatively modest and manageable.

J. Putnam reported on the Children & Family Services budget. Significant changes are expected for the ISP/CST (Integrated Services Program/Community Services Teams) program moving forward. Ashland County is currently one of only 17 counties receiving the initial ISP funding (which has been transitioned to CST). In 2014 CST funding is proposed to be available to all counties in Wisconsin. Our initial rough guesstimate is that it is possible that the county's allocation might go down from ~ \$78k to ~ \$60k. This is still being debated and sorted out at the state level and the state will be meeting with the current 17 counties soon. Community Intervention funding will be reduced in 2014 from ~ \$13k to ~ \$9k.

T. Tolliver pointed out that PPACA (Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act) funding is being used to fund LTEs in Ashland County and other counties in the Northern Income Maintenance (NIMC) Consortium due to the increased workload. This is a separate line item in the budget for 2014 and is to be funded by the consortiums PPACA allocation. She also noted that FSET (Food Stamp Employment and Training) spending is well below allowable funding levels; the program relies on referrals to the agency which are few and far between. No referrals = no spending = no drawdown of funding.

C. Zach noted that in the Public Health budget, funding has increased slightly for the Birth-to-Three program. Limited Agent program services in Price County, which was funded by the state, has ended for Ashland County. As a result an open Public Health position created by a retirement will not be filled.

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T. Perry reported on the drug court budgets. For the first time in the history of the drug court programs, 10+ years, a small levy contribution is being budgeted for use if needed to meet the match requirement of the Otto Bremer Grant as Drug Court continues to save Ashland County money. This grant for the BIRT (Brief Intervention Referral for Treatment) program requires matching funding and drug court staff continues to work to raise those matching funds; the match is required by the end of the second year of the grant.

B. Patterson reported that the Child Support budget is essentially flat for 2014.

**HHS BOARD TERMS AND REAPPOINTMENTS**

The board term for L. Kruse has run its course. She stated that she will definitely consider staying on the board if the board moves to reappoint her. R. Johnson will be leaving the board, likely at the end of 2013. Her replacement will be a medical representative. An ad will be run publicizing the vacancy.

<b>No quorum – approval will be voted on at the November board meeting.</b>
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**ECONOMIC SUPPORT CONSORTIA UPDATES**

T. Tolliver and T. Perry provided an update. A PowerPoint presentation is included in the board folders re the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (PPACA.) The consortium is expecting high volumes of calls this fall/winter as many people in Wisconsin are losing BadgerCare eligibility and many others will be required to have insurance for the first time. NWCEP has received a grant to provide outreach including community meetings and information sessions for a 27 county region. The “Are You Ready” ad included in the board folders has been sent to the Daily Press, County Journal and Evergreen Shopper. The Lakes has four certified application counselors (CACs) who are able to provide direct assistance to clients for enrollment – a brochure was distributed re this service. ACHHSD has hired three LTEs funded by the consortium in anticipation of the increased call volume. One of these LTEs, Anne Chumbler is on hand to observe the board meeting this evening.

**STAFFING UPDATES**

One social worker from the Children’s Unit is on maternity leave until early November. An Adult Unit worker is potentially retiring in early 2014 – no written notice has been submitted yet.

Children & Family supervisor J. Putnam will be retiring on January 2, 2014; the search for her replacement will begin in October with the hope that a hire can be in place in time to have some overlap while Judy is still here. There is a small budget in 2014 to allow for her to spend some additional time in the agency to continue to assist the new supervisor.

**BOARD MEMBER MINING UPDATES**

J. Beirl reported that a zoning hearing has been tentatively set for October 9, 2013 to address the bulk sampling ordinance which is based on the ordinance in Iron County. The ordinance deals with the things that the county can control during the bulk sampling process, e.g. studies, oversight, monetary contribution, additional permits if necessary, etc. The Ashland County ordinance is being reviewed by corporate counsel now. T. Perry added that the DNR

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public comment period is coming to an end. C. Zach presented a handout addressing the response from the Department of Public Health, Environmental Health section to previous questions raised by this board. State DPH staff have offered to come to Ashland to speak directly with the mining committee upon request. C. Ortman shared that GTAC hired an attorney to send a letter to the Bad River tribe prohibiting scientific testing on local GTAC land.

**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 – August
- CST (Collaborative Services Team) Newsletter – September
- NorthernBridges Board of Directors Meeting Minutes – 8/5-6/2013
- New Managed Care Organization for No WI Counties Press Release
- CCCW (Community Care of Central WI) Welcome Letter
- State of WI Letter to NorthernBridges Providers
- CCCW Communication Plan
- WI Entitlement Reforms and PPACA Power Point
- WCHSA Executive Board Meeting Minutes - 8/8/13
- DCF Updates for WCHSA Executive Board – 9/5/13
- DHS Updates for WCHSA Executive Board – 9/5/13
- Ashland County Animal Quarantine Order
- Synthetic Drug Meeting Invitation

**BOARD MEMBER UPDATES/AGENDA ITEMS**

None

**OTHER BUSINESS**

T. Perry reported that ACHHSD management met with Dorothy Tank, Ashland County Emergency Services Director along with regional reps from the state and from the Red Cross. The discussion centered around the ACHHSD role in the event of a disaster in the area, which is primarily to staff and operate a shelter until the Red Cross out of Eau Claire is able to arrive and take over those duties. A good discussion took place and a follow up meeting has been scheduled.

C. Zach reported that a state level hearing regarding the sale of raw milk took place on September 16, 2013.

Randy Spangle is retiring as the Director of Ashland Area Council on AODA in March 2014. T. Perry commented that Randy will be difficult to replace for many reasons, not the least of which is that he holds certification specific to our drug court programs.

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C. Zach commented that the need for family planning services in Ashland County continues to exist and increase. Currently, monies from Ashland and Bayfield Counties go to an organization in Superior that runs family planning clinics, including the one in Ashland. Service, specifically hours, have been inconsistent and inconvenient for residents and C. Zach believes that Public Health could deliver these services better than the current provider. Hours would be consistent and convenient, and Public Health could take these services “on the road.” T. Perry and C. Zach are considering a bid for this contract. Dr. Koeller and Dr. Dryer have been approached and are supportive of the idea. If this were to take place, NorthLakes would be the medical provider. The services would be funded by a grant as well as by Medicaid. No new hires would be necessary and there is no expected impact on county levy contribution. Exploration of this possibility will continue and be brought back to the Health & Human Services Board prior to moving forward. HHS Board members expressed support for potentially providing the services through ACHHSD-Public Health.

T. Perry added that our agency is hearing very good things about CCCW as our staff talks with various parties familiar with this organization. Preliminary contact with CCCW has been positive.

**APPROVAL OF BILLS**

<p><b>No quorum – approval will be voted on at the November board meeting. J. Beirl provided the sixth signature on the vouchers themselves.</b></p>
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**NEXT MEETING DATE**

November 20, 2013: General Board Meeting – Sanborn Building 4:15 pm

The meeting adjourned at 7:06 p.m.

Recorded by Peter Herlevi