

**Ashland County Health & Human Services Board Meeting  
Sanborn Building – Oredock Room  
April 16, 2014 4:15 p.m.**

**Members Present:** Clarence Campbell, Joan Haukaas, Gary Kabasa, Joyce Kabasa, A. Koeller, Laura Kruse, Matt MacKenzie, Jim Oakley, Charles Ortman, Pat Ortman

**Excused:** None

**Unexcused:** Norman Couture

**Others:** Linda Bailey, Terry Barningham, Jeff Beirl, Peter Herlevi, Terri Perry, Judy Putnam, Tami Tolliver, Cyndi Zach

**CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order by C. Campbell at 4:15 p.m.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

The minutes of the February 2014 Board Meeting were reviewed.

**J. Kabasa made a motion to approve the February 2014 minutes. Seconded by P. Ortman. Motion carried.**

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

None

**WRITTEN DEPARTMENT REPORTS / UNIT UPDATES**

None

**RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF WORLD ELDER ABUSE AWARENESS DAY**

A resolution was circulated and signed in support of World Elder Abuse Awareness Day on June 15, 2014. T. Barningham reported that the agency will be doing some work centered around this day to raise public awareness regarding elder abuse and Alzheimer's disease.

**ASHLAND COUNTY HEALTH RANKING**

C. Zach highlighted a handout in the board packet showing the 2014 relative rankings of WI counties in terms of health outcomes (current) and health factors (predictive). Ashland County has moved up in the rankings since last year in health outcomes and remained the same in health factors. This is an annual survey conducted via telephone calls to a sample of citizens in each county throughout the state. As such it is a self-ranking survey.

**SHARED SERVICES GRANT (RWJ) OUT OF STATE TRAVEL APPROVAL**

C. Zach shared that as part of the shared services grant that Ashland County participates in, each health officer in the Northern Region must make a site visit to another state to observe shared services at that site. Cyndi will be visiting Charlotte, NC in January 2015. This site visit is fully funded by the grant and will not require county levy funds. However, since it is out of state travel, board approval is sought.

**L. Kruse made a motion to approve the fully funded out of state site visit for C. Zach. Seconded by J. Kabasa. Motion carried.**

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**COMMUNICABLE DISEASE UPDATE - MUMPS**

C. Zach reported that there is a nationwide outbreak of mumps. To date there have been 115 confirmed cases in Ohio. In southern Wisconsin, 7 cases have been confirmed in college-age students; the genotype has been linked to the cases in Ohio.

**UPDATE ON ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH LICENSING**

C. Zach provided an update on the six Ashland County establishments that had been operating without valid licenses. A letter had gone out via registered mail informing these businesses of their need to comply or risk being closed down. Five responses have been received to date: three are out of business, one made payment and one has still not made payment. C. Zach will continue to follow up.

**ELECTION OF CHAIR**

Prior to the election, T. Perry communicated that the community medical rep, the executive committee and the current community board members whose terms are up will be voted on at the June board meeting.

J. Beirl opened the floor for nominations for Board Chairperson.

J. Kabasa nominated C. Campbell for Chair, seconded by L. Kruse.

**J. Haukaas made a motion to close nominations and to elect C. Campbell via unanimous ballot. Seconded by J. Kabasa. Motion carried.**

**ELECTION OF VICE CHAIR**

C. Campbell opened the floor for nominations for Board Vice Chairperson.

P. Ortman nominated J. Kabasa; C. Ortman nominated J. Oakley.

**M. MacKenzie made a motion to close nominations. Seconded by L. Kruse. Motion carried.**

J. Kabasa was elected Vice Chair by a 5-4 ballot vote.

In order to allow C. Zach to leave for her home in southern Ashland County due to the inclement weather, C. Campbell asked for a motion to move Agenda Item #18 Board Member Mining Update up to the current point on the agenda.

**J. Kabasa made a motion to move Agenda Item #18 to the current point on the agenda. Seconded by L. Kruse. Motion carried.**

**BOARD MEMBER MINING UPDATE**

C. Zach updated the board:

- Cyndi sent a letter dated March 28 to the Wisconsin Association of Local Health Departments and Boards (WALHDAB). The letter requests that WALHDAB advocate

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on behalf of Ashland County for timely and useful technical assistance from the Wisconsin Department of Human Services (DHS) regarding a health impact assessment of the proposed mining activity. No response has been received.

- Cyndi also sent a letter dated April 2 to DHS Secretary Kitty Rhoades directly requesting this technical assistance from DHS. No response has been received to this letter as of today.
- L. Kruse asked whether the county has contacted the American Cancer Society or any other large national organization to inquire about support, either direct or in the way of influence. C. Zach responded that those types of organizations have not yet been contacted at this point but that it is an option. Cyndi added that she feels that DHS is statutorily obligated to provide the requested assistance to counties in Wisconsin.
- Thus far there has been no response from Northland College as to whether the college is willing and able to apply for grant funding and develop a health impact assessment in conjunction with Ashland County Public Health.

**WHEAP PROGRAM STATUS/CRISIS UPDATES**

T. Tolliver gave an update:

- The WHEAP crisis funding has been exhausted and there is no more forthcoming this spring.
- There is approximately \$4,000 in Keep Wisconsin Warm funds remaining.
- It is likely that some households in Ashland County will be disconnected. What can be done at this point is to refer these people to other agencies, e.g. The Brick or North Lakes.
- Most of the disconnects will likely fall in the 25-45 age range roughly.
- There is no more information available yet regarding the price gouging investigation.
- Ashland County Health and Human Services Department (ACHHSD) has been utilizing proactive agreements with heating assistance clients – client must pay something before ACHHSD will pay – in an effort to reduce the number of clients chronically relying solely on heating assistance.
- M. MacKenzie asked whether heating assistance can be set up in the form of a loan for some clients. T. Tolliver responded that any loan arrangements would have to utilize county levy funding as state guidelines do not allow for lending of grant funding.

**ECONOMIC SUPPORT CONSORTIUM/PPACA UPDATES**

T. Tolliver updated the board:

- The Federally Facilitated Marketplace Open Enrollment Period ended on March 31, 2014; overall the number of applications coming in to the consortium is tapering off.
- Next week all Ashland County Income Maintenance workers will be moving back to 35 hour work weeks from 40 hour work weeks.
- Call center statistics were briefly reviewed and look good.

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- The consortium call center has been closing on some Tuesday and Thursday mornings for document processing. Due to the tapering off of workload, tomorrow will be the last scheduled closure for some time.
- Currently the Northern Income Maintenance Consortium (NIMC) handles food share and medical assistance; individual counties currently handle childcare. For the last couple of years, the individual counties in the NIMC have left significant childcare funding unspent so the decision has been made to wrap childcare into NIMC to increase the probability that this childcare funding will be more fully utilized.
- The target date for wrapping childcare into the NIMC is 9/1/14. T. Tolliver and Laura Harnisch are serving on a committee that is establishing policies and procedures for this transition and ongoing provision of services by NIMC.
- Laura Harnisch has done an excellent job with the Ashland County childcare program, e.g. Ashland County is one of seven counties in the state to have zero errors found in the most recent state childcare review. Laura's work has been held up statewide as a positive example and she will continue to be involved with the childcare program at the NIMC level.

**2013 EXPENDITURES BY UNIT**

P. Herlevi and T. Perry discussed overall results, details of which are in the board folders. Ashland County Health and Human Services Department (ACHHSD) finished the year approximately \$327,000 under budget. This is due largely to lower than expected overhead costs, lower than expected costs in some program areas, higher than expected Medicaid revenue and some unplanned mid-year grant revenue. Unit managers briefly discussed their specific unit budget outcomes.

**CHILD SUPPORT COLLECTIONS**

In response to a question at an earlier board meeting regarding the amount of money that Ashland County Child Support actually collects, a handout was presented detailing the approximately \$2.8 million collected in 2013.

**STAFFING UPDATES**

T. Perry communicated recent and pending staffing updates:

- Jennifer Frey has been hired as the agency's new Child Abuse and Neglect Investigator. Jennifer comes to the agency with 6 years of experience.
- Carmen Arvelo-Schwingle has been hired as the Intensive In-home/Foster Care/Kinship Coordinator. Carmen holds a Masters Degree in Social work and also has 6 years of experience.
- T. Barningham will take over full-time duties of the Children & Families Supervisor on July 1. J. Putnam will be here to continue to assist with training and the transition until her retirement in November.

**WCHSA EXECUTIVE BOARD COMPOSITION/EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

T. Perry called attention to some material in the board folder. WCHSA is the strongest advocate for Wisconsin counties with the state. A vote is upcoming on a proposal to hire a full time executive director for WCHSA (currently, sitting County Human Services Directors are elected to 18 month terms as WCHSA President – these duties are in addition to their

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existing positions in their counties) and to change somewhat the current structure of WCHSA, including making it a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. Ashland County will have one vote to cast. T. Perry discussed some of the pros and cons of the proposal and solicited feedback from the board. The general consensus was to proceed with caution and to make the most educated decision possible in consultation with J. Beirl.

**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
- 2013 Child Support Budget
- Enhancements to the Integrated Self-Service Application Process in ACCESS
- Enhancements to the Worker Data Collection Process in CWW
- April 2014 Letter to Former BadgerCare Members
- Senator Baldwin's Letter to Governor Regarding Insurance Coverage
- Enrollment Deadlines for Health Care Options
- Referrals Received from the Federal Facilitated Marketplace (FFM)
- Income Maintenance CCA Project – February
- Income Maintenance Timeliness Dashboard – February and March
- Northern IM Consortium Comparison Report
- IMAC Meeting Minutes - 2/20/2014
- SNAP Provisions in Farm Bill Reauthorization
- PPACA Subcommittee Meeting Minutes - 3/3/2014
- Ashland County Workforce Profile - 2011
- Wisconsin Economic Outlook – Winter 2014
- World Elder Abuse Awareness Day Information Sheet
- NW Regional Mental Health Crisis Line Annual Cost Breakdown – 2014
- CCS Passive Review Request to JFC – 2/28/2014
- County Health Rankings
- DHS Area Administration Contacts
- Mining Assistance Request Letter to WALHDAB – 3/28/2014
- Ashland/NSP Air Management Plan Fact Sheet
- Mumps Fact Sheet
- WCHSA Proposed 2015 Budget
- WCHSA Futures Committee Notes – 2/6/2014
- Proposed WCHSA Executive Board Structure
- Proposed Job Description for WCHSA Executive Director
- WCHSA Futures Vote Ballot
- WCHSA District Map
- Proposed WCHSA Regions
- WCHSA Executive Board Meeting Minutes – 3/6/2014

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- DCF Update for WCHSA Executive Board - 3/6/14 & 4/3/2014
- DHS Updates for WCHSA Executive Board – 4/3/2014

**BOARD MEMBER UPDATES/AGENDA ITEMS**

None

**OTHER BUSINESS**

None

**APPROVAL OF BILLS**

<p><b>J. Kabasa made a motion to approve the bills presented. Seconded by A. Koeller. Motion carried with M. MacKenzie abstaining.</b></p>
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**NEXT MEETING DATE**

June 18, 2014: Public Hearing & Organizational Meeting at 4:15 pm will be held at the Ashland County Courthouse.

The meeting adjourned at 5:52 p.m.

Recorded by Peter Herlevi