

**Ashland County Health & Human Services Board Meeting
Public Hearing – Ashland County Courthouse
June 17, 2015 4:15 p.m.**

Members Present: Clarence Campbell, Matthew Horning, A. Koeller, Laura Kruse,
Ron Lockwood, Matt MacKenzie, Jim Oakley

Excused: Joan Haukaas, Charles Ortman

Unexcused: Joyce Kabasa

Others: Terry Barningham, Linda Bailey, Jeff Beirl, Christopher Conrad,
Elizabeth Franek, Peter Herlevi, Bev Patterson, Terri Perry, Tami Tolliver,
Cyndi Zach

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by C. Campbell at 4:20 p.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of the April 2015 Board Meeting were reviewed.

L. Kruse made a motion to approve the April 2015 minutes. Seconded by J. Oakley. Motion carried.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

PUBLIC HEARING OF CY2016 BUDGET DEVELOPMENT

M. MacKenzie made a motion to convene the Public Hearing for the purpose of taking public comments. Seconded by L. Kruse. Motion carried.

Elizabeth Franek spoke in support of FoodShare benefits. She also asked the County to use whatever influence it might have with local businesses to hire people who have had trouble in the past with the law but are moving forward and starting over. Lastly, Elizabeth spoke in support of youth drug and alcohol abuse prevention programs and whatever early job training programs might be available for teenagers.

C. Campbell recessed the Public Hearing, to reconvene when and if necessary.

C. Campbell introduced Ron Lockwood as the newest Ashland County Health & Human Services Board community representative. Ron gave a brief overview of his background, including his experience in Human Services here in Ashland and also in Hudson, WI.

WRITTEN DEPARTMENT REPORTS / UPDATES

C. Zach introduced Christopher Conrad, the environmental health intern for the summer. Chris will be working on Madeline Island well water sampling, beach sampling in cooperation with Northland College and other similar functions.

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L. Bailey handed out some information related to elder abuse and a pinwheel display that is currently outside of the Sanborn Center for World Elder Abuse Awareness Day which was on June 15th. She discussed local efforts by Ashland County Health & Human Services Department (ACHHSD) to raise awareness around elder abuse.

STAFFING UPDATES

- Rachel Lipka has been hired to replace retiring IT Administrator Bruce Durward; Rachel started on 5/4/15 and reports directly to ACHHSD Financial Manager Peter Herlevi.
- The Children and Families Child Protective Services (CPS) Investigator position has been filled by Alexa vanDonselaar. Alexa began working with ACHHSD on 4/30/15; in addition to CPS investigations, Alexa's duties include include a number of Children and Families (C&F) functions.
- Amy Picchietti has been hired to fill a limited term employee role with the Northern Income Maintenance Consortium (NIMC) as a PPACA worker.

ACHHSD 2014 ANNUAL REPORT

The report was handed out to each attendee and each ACHHSD manager gave a brief overview of her/his department as presented in the report.

J. Oakley pointed out two inaccuracies and three name misspellings on the organizational chart on page six of the Annual Report. T. Perry replied that the chart was from a point in time in 2014 and not our current org chart, which is updated as changes occur. The misspellings will be corrected.

J. Oakley also stated that page five of the April 2015 meeting minutes reads "J. Ortman made a motion..." This will be corrected to read "J. Oakley made a motion..."

COMPREHENSIVE COMMUNITY SERVICES (CCS) OVERVIEW/ENROLLMENT UPDATE

L. Bailey distributed a CCS pamphlet to all attendees and gave a brief review of the program:

- CCS is available for all ages.
- The program covers mental health services as well as drug and alcohol abuse services.
- Participants in the program need to have Medicaid (MA).
- Ashland County, Bayfield County and New Horizons North are working together in a shared services model for service delivery.
- Allowable costs are fully funded by Medicaid.

Thus far 19 Ashland County residents have been enrolled in the program.

2015 YEAR TO DATE EXPENDITURES

P. Herlevi presented the 2015 revenues and expenses year-to-date through April 2015. At this time there is nothing that appears to be out of the ordinary or out of line in terms of spending versus budget.

The Economic Support section of the exhibit appears on pace to be significantly over budget by year end. However, the Northern Income Maintenance Consortium (NIMC) has asked

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Ashland County to hire additional staff in a case when another NIMC county was unable to hire. Neither this expense nor this grant revenue is reflected in the budget numbers as the budget represents what was actually passed by the county board in Fall 2014. Therefore by year end, Economic Support expenses will be over budget, but economic support grant revenues will also be more than budgeted.

R. Lockwood asked whether the financials in this exhibit are reported on a cash basis or on an accrual basis. P. Herlevi replied that the expenses are reported on a cash basis and the revenues are reported on an earned basis.

BIRTH TO THREE UPDATES

C. Zach gave the update:

- Northern Lights, through which ACHHSD contracts for Birth to Three (B3) therapy services, has lost both an occupational therapist (OT) and a speech and language therapist (SLT) since January.
- Northern Lights just recently was able to hire an OT but is still without an SLT.
- B3 Service Coordinator Jennifer Leask has done an excellent job in the face of this.
- The SLT is a difficult hire for two main reasons:
 - There is a shortage of SLTs in northern Wisconsin.
 - The B3 SLT position requires travel and in-home visits which makes it a somewhat less attractive option than some other opportunities available to SLTs.
- ACHHSD can contract for SLT services with an entity other than Northern Lights. However, the agencies approached thus far by ACHHSD do not have the capacity and/or the resources at this time.

CHILD CARE AWARD FOR OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENT MEETING STANDARDS

T. Perry reported that ACHHSD has received this award for the second year in a row and Ashland County is the only county in the state to have achieved this. Laura Harnisch is the child care worker responsible for this excellence.

WHEAP UPDATES

T. Tolliver walked through some Wisconsin Home Energy Assistance Program (WHEAP) information from the board packets:

- 1,019 regular heating assistance applications were received during the heating season just ended.
- 91 households were assisted through crisis funds totaling \$33,900. The remaining crisis fund balance is currently approximately \$14,000.
- 20 proactive agreements are in place. These agreements require clients to make payments on their accounts before ACHHSD will make assistance payments on the accounts.
- The summer fill program for 2015 will not be administered through the counties in the state, but through a private organization. Eligible households will be receiving letters later this month.

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TRAUMA INFORMED CARE APPROACH

T. Perry discussed this approach to working with clients and coworkers, which comes from the position that most everyone has experienced trauma to some degree in their lives. The question to be answered when working with people then becomes “What has happened to you?” as opposed to “What is wrong with you?” This is a non-judgmental, strength-based approach that we are working on implementing top to bottom at ACHHSD.

RED CLIFF CHILD SUPPORT PROGRESS

B. Patterson reported on this progress:

- The Child Support Program at Red Cliff is now operational.
- The director of the program would like to attend the next ACHHSD board meeting to talk about the program.
- Red Cliff is in the process of transferring cases from Bayfield County and will then focus on transferring cases from Ashland County. Clients will have a say as to whether or not a particular case is transferred.

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH UPDATES

C. Zach updated the board on the Marengo Terrace well water and sewage situation:

- Marengo Terrace had been found in violation by the Wisconsin Department of Safety and Professional Services (DSPS) and ordered to make the necessary improvements by June 1, 2015.
- On June 2, 2015, Ashland County Health & Human Services, Public Health Unit (PH) received a call from a Marengo Terrace resident with two complaints:
 - Sewage on the ground
 - Poor smelling and tasting water
- Two PH nurses went out to investigate:
 - There was indeed sewage on the ground.
 - The test of a water sample taken that day was positive for coliform bacteria.
- The DNR was informed of both situations and issued two consecutive boil water notices for Marengo Terrace. After each notice, two PH nurses went door to door at Marengo Terrace to notify and to consult the residents as to how to proceed.
- PH continued to receive complaints over the following days.
- The ACHHSD sanitarian went out to investigate and found large amounts of sewage on the ground. This prompted another door to door visit by the PH nurses in an effort to keep residents safe. At this point disease outbreak was a real concern.
- At this time, it is believed that things are safe at Marengo Terrace and action is being taken by the owner for remediation:
 - ACHHSD, DSPS, DNR and local zoning have worked to together to force and to enforce action in this situation.
 - Septic tanks are currently being built to specification and are to be installed by July 10, 2015.
 - The existing tanks are to be pumped out twice weekly; this is being monitored and enforced by local zoning and DSPS.

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ARCW SERVICES

C. Zach reported that Ashland County has had 14 confirmed cases of Hepatitis C (Hep c) thus far in 2015; a typical full year in the county averages about 12 cases.

- Public Health (PH) is notified when a person tests positive for Hep C.
 - PH nurses go out to investigate the case to gather information about the source and potential spreading of the disease for that person.
 - This research has uncovered a cluster of people in Ashland County who have been diagnosed with Hep C and have been sharing needles for IV drug use.
 - Historically, there is a correlation between Hep C and HIV.
- In an effort to slow down or stop the increase in Hep C cases in Ashland County, C. Zach contacted the AIDS Resource Center of Wisconsin (ARCW), which operates a mobile needle exchange program.
 - Evidence based research has shown that needle exchange programs have produced the best results in terms of slowing the spread of hep c and getting IV drug users into treatment more quickly.
 - Research also shows that drug use does not increase because of needle exchange programs.
- Public Health, along with local law enforcement and Dr. Koeller, met with the ARCW regarding bringing the mobile needle exchange program to Ashland County.
 - ACRW agreed to bring the mobile program to Ashland County once per month beginning in July.
 - This service is anonymous and so the location is not disclosed publicly; it is only disclosed to the clients of the program. However, when PH is conducting investigations with newly diagnosed Hep C patients, the nurses are now able to provide the ACRW contact information to these patients.
 - The program will supply syringes, alcohol pads and antibacterial ointment to participants.
- Bad River is working to develop its own needle exchange program but will utilize ACRW mobile services in the meantime.
- MMC is starting a Hep C support group.

L. Bailey briefly discussed a grant that was recently awarded to ACHHSD that will allow the agency to purchase sharps containers for the disposal of used syringes. ACHHSD is working with Ashland Parks and Recreation, along with law enforcement and the fire department to determine how to best distribute the containers for public use.

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
- Income Maintenance Timeliness Reports
- Income Maintenance Ongoing Caseload Monitoring
- Work Requirement for FoodShare

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- Food Resource Guide
- Wisconsin Economic Outlook
- WCHSA Executive Board Meeting Minutes – 5/13/15
- DCF Update for WCHSA Executive Board – 6/4/15
- DHS Update for WCHSA Executive Board – 6/4/15
- WCHSA Board Member Advisory Committee Formation

BOARD MEMBER UPDATES/AGENDA ITEMS

M. MacKenzie asked T. Tolliver whether there is any sort of assistance for citizens if their water gets disconnected. There is currently no county program to help with this; the only current option is to refer people to The Brick or to North Lakes in the hope that one of these organizations has funding available for this purpose.

M. MacKenzie discussed the ACHHSD board meetings and the large amount of information that is presented at each meeting, which he feels is too much. T. Perry gave a bit of the history which has resulted in the current schedule including problems with assembling a quorum, especially in the summer months. She stated that she is open to suggestions regarding how to address this.

M. Horning inquired as to the status of the e-cigarette regulation resolution that was moved forward in a prior ACHHSD board meeting. It is on the county board agenda for tomorrow's meeting.

M. Horning discussed how to address the concerns voiced by Ms. Franek at the beginning of the Public Hearing. Some of the concerns have been discussed with Ms. Franek in the past, e.g. FoodShare allocations, which are set by federal guidelines and are outside of the control of the county. L. Bailey will follow up with Ms. Franek regarding Comprehensive Community Services (CCS), which is a program that might address some of Ms. Franek's concerns.

C. Campbell requested a motion to close the Public Hearing.

M. MacKenzie made a motion to close the Public Hearing. Seconded by L. Kruse. Motion carried via unanimous roll call vote.

OTHER BUSINESS

None

APPROVAL OF BILLS

L. Kruse made a motion to approve the bills presented. Seconded by A. Koeller. Motion carried.

NEXT MEETING DATE

September 16, 2015 at 4:15 pm: Sanborn Center

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The meeting adjourned at 6:20 p.m.

Recorded by Peter Herlevi