

Buffalo County Minutes

Committee/Board: Health and Human Services and Veterans Service Committee

Date of Meeting: Wednesday, January 6, 2016

Electronic and Hard Copy Filing Date: January 8, 2016

Meeting was called to order by Mr. John Kriesel at 6:30 p.m.

ROLL CALL/BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Roll call was taken. Members present were: Ms. Mary Anne McMillan Urell, Mr. John Kriesel, Ms. Lou Anne Roby, Ms. Wendy Kleinschmidt, and Mr. Elden Schlessler. Ms. Linda Smith arrived at 6:37 p.m.

OTHERS PRESENT FOR ALL OR PART OF THE MEETING: Ms. Carri Renchin, Mr. Stephen LaValla, Mr. Jim Goss, and Mr. Dave Rynders.

MINUTES: A motion was made by Ms. McMillan Urell and seconded by Ms. Kleinschmidt to approve the minutes of the December 1, 2015 meeting. Carried.

3.PUBLIC COMMENT REGARDING POSTED AGENDA ITEMS:

None.

4.REVIEW/DISCUSSION/ACTION – VETERANS SERVICES MONTHLY

VOUCHERS: Mr. Goss distributed a spreadsheet showing expenses. He ordered flag holders with Pepin County to save money. He does not see any items causing concern. He believes he will be under budget for the year. Ms. McMillan Urell made a motion to approve the vouchers, seconded by Mr. Schlessler. Carried.

5.REVIEW/DISCUSSION/ACTION – VETERANS SERVICES OFFICE

UPDATES: Mr. Goss has been receiving calls from Veterans regarding health insurance forms to prove the veteran had insurance for their taxes. Mr. Goss recently read an article in the VFW magazine showing a 15 month study that the VA hospitals and clinics should be used for wounded veterans and those returning from service. All other veteran health care should be privatized. Mr. Goss is unsure if this study will change anything but wanted the Committee to be aware of this.

6.REVIEW/DISCUSSION/ACTION –RENOMINATION TO VETERAN

SERVICES COMMISSION: Mr. Goss indicated that Mr. Allen Carothers was selected to fill the vacancy of Mr. Gary Anderson on the Veterans Service Commission. Mr. Anderson's position was vacated in September and the full County Board will need to approve the appointment of Mr. Carothers. Mr. Carothers term would expire in September of 2018. Ms. McMillan Urell made a motion to approve the appointment, seconded by Ms. Kleinschmidt. Carried.

7.REVIEW/DISCUSSION/ACTION – PEPIN COUNTY VETERAN SERVICES

CONTRA CT: Mr. Goss spoke with Ms. Sonya Hansen and the Pepin County Administrator regarding the office. Mr. Goss requested to end the contract with Pepin County based on numbers he has put together. Pepin County believes it will not affect their overall budget. At the last meeting it was discussed to bring in an assistant CVSO. Mr. Goss discussed benefits with Ms. Betty Sessions to put some budget figures together. Mr. Goss showed the difference in costs to the County to have just 1 person in the office versus having 2 in the office. He also explained that he could apply for the \$8,500 grant from the State but he believes only \$2,500 would be given to Buffalo County because it can now only be used on certain items. Mr. Goss does not see the benefit of being combined with Pepin County any longer. Mr. Goss believes he can use a floater when additional help is needed. He would also like to enter into a cooperative agreement with Pepin County that should he be gone, the Pepin County CVSO will cover in Buffalo County and if the Pepin County CVSO is gone, Mr. Goss will cover Pepin County. Mr. Goss showed the number of veterans he is serving in Buffalo County (1,112). A motion was made by Ms. McMillan Urell and seconded by Ms. Kleinschmidt to have a resolution drawn up by the Admin Office to terminate the contract agreement with Buffalo/Pepin County CVSO services. Approved.

8.REVIEW/DISCUSSION/ACTION – PUBLIC HEALTH UNIT REPORT:

Mr. Rynders reported on Ms. Hunger’s Communicable Disease report regarding Pertussis and that there has been no confirmed cases. The question was asked what Toxoplasmosis is; Ms. Smith reported that it is contracted by scooping cat litter while pregnant. Mr. Rynders also commented on the upcoming Tobacco and Drug Forum which will be held on January 25th and that Representative Danou will be participating in the forum. A list of the other speakers/presenters will be sent to the committee for their information.

Mr. Rynders discussed the three proposals that were discussed with Pepin County last September regarding WIC. Pepin County Board of Health did not take action on any of the proposals but they passed a motion that we include them on all budget planning. They expressed their concern that our FTE (Full Time Equivalency) levels are high. They requested additional information on the location of Pepin area participants, which has been provided. Mr. Rynders requested it be put on the agenda again for the next meeting to get action on the proposals. Ms. Roby asked if we have any figures on how much money was spent in Pepin County grocery stores for the WIC program. Mr. Rynders will provide information to the committee from Ms. Miller on the dollars spent on WIC vouchers per grocery store.

Mr. Rynders reported on the outreach effort we make which offers support in breast feeding, peer counseling, equipment, teaching, counseling. We therefore have enhancements in our WIC program supporting healthy living for families. Reducing FTE would eliminate some of our outreach efforts. For 2017, Mr. Rynders wants to create a cooperative agreement with Pepin County for fiscal responsibility to help build the budget and approve it. The board expressed support for the WIC program continuing to provide the current quality level of service for Buffalo County residents. We will receive the allocation information from the state in February and then will invite Pepin County to help develop the budget. Heidi Stewart, the Public Health Director will attend the meetings along with a board member.

9.REVIEW/DISCUSSION/ACTION – DHHS BOARD MEMBER VACANCY STATUS:

Mr. Rynders reported that Ms. Hunger had contacted all the physicians that were listed and one on the list is interested in the board position. He is out-of-state from December through April. There is also interest from a non-physician medical provider. To add this non-physician would require changing the by-laws. Mr. Rynders will contact the physician about the option to participate remotely in the DHHS home committee meetings.

10.REVIEW/DISCUSSION/ACTION – PROPOSED CHANGES TO DHHS BY-LAWS:

Mr. Rynders reported that the board needs two readings in consecutive months and then an approval in the second month in order to make changes to the by-laws. Mr. Rynders drafted by-law amendments to remove the ADRC board because we now have an ADRC multi county board.

The bylaws currently read that it is a 6 member committee. You can have a 7th member if that person is a medical doctor. If there isn't a medical doctor available, this position will remain vacant. Mr. Rynders recommends changing the "remain vacant" position to read "filled with a health care provider" which would be an asset to strengthen our health component on the board. Ms. McMillan Urell made a motion and Mr. Schlessler seconded the motion to have this be the first reading to change the by-laws and be put on next month's agenda. Approved.

11.REVIEW/DISCUSSION/ACTION – REMOTE PARTICIPATION OF DHHS BOARD MEMBERS:

Mr. Rynders reported that the County Board approved allowing for remote participation at board meetings within limits. There was discussion on the limits of the members with remote participation. Mr. Rynders will double check with Ms. Hansen and then email clarification on the limits to the board members. Ms. Roby made a motion and Ms. Kleinschmidt seconded the motion to approve Remote Participation in DHHS Home Committee meetings. Approved.

12.REVIEW/DISCUSSION/ACTION – AGING UNIT REPORT:

Mr. LaValla reported on the fleet of vehicles the Aging unit has on the road providing a wide array of services; delivering meals, driving clients to meal sites, shopping trips etc. Maintenance has been done on some vehicles, a new seat belt for a van and new tires on another van. The 2015 bus we received from the insurance company had a bad blind spot so a new back-up camera was installed as a safety feature. The Alma meal site is sharing space with Wings Over Alma. We are optimistic about the shared space working. There has been no lapse in service for our participants. The daily census average is 14. On Thanksgiving, 39 meals were served (this includes home delivered meals). Mr. Schlessler asked what the monthly cost is to maintain the site. Mr. LaValla shared the cost for Buffalo County is \$250 in rent/utilities and the Lions Club contributes \$250/mo. Mr. Rynders will report at the February meeting how the sites are generating revenue. Mr. LaValla shared the advantages of having the meal sites at restaurants; we pay more for meals but we don't pay for utilities/rent/meal site management. Mr. Schlessler would

like to have information given to the River Rats as far as being a meal site location. Mr. LaValla will share the information with them.

13.REVIEW/DISCUSSION/ACTION – SOCIAL SERVICES UNIT REPORT:

Ms. Carri Renchin gave her report. Her Unit is now fully staffed. Ms. Linsey Kaufman is the new Intake Support Staff Specialist. Ms. Carol Nedland also joined the DHHS staff. She is currently in Atlanta, Georgia receiving training in Prime for Life, which is an evidence based AODA training program. Ms. Renchin reported that the number of children in placement (19) has remained stable. She also reported on adult placement (0), Chapter 51 cases were consistent with last year, and AODA treatment (1 residential/ 4 long term). Carol Nedland will be making a presentation on Prime For Life at the C-FC school on Monday, January 25th. Mr. Schlessler made a motion to approve the Social Service report, seconded by Ms. Smith. Approved.

14.REVIEW/DISCUSSION/ACTION – WESTERN REGION RECOVERY & WELLNESS CONSORTIUM UPDATE:

Ms. Renchin gave an update on CCS (Comprehensive Community Services). There are 2 individuals receiving these types of services. Programming costs for placements previously paid with county dollars are \$4K to \$8K/mo covered by CCS. We will be recouping our dollars. Ms. Renchin shared that a lot of people come in asking for AODA services and this will now allow us to have a funding source available with CCS. CCS offers a continuum of care for service like massage therapy, equine therapy, mentoring services, and creativity available through CCS that wasn't allowable because we didn't have the money before. Another program is CRISIS with 30-50 participants this past year. We'll see more revenue in this area on the books this year compared to CCS; this program is being utilized. Another new service provided is IPS (Individual Placement Services), a vocational program that helps people build their resume, search employment, medication and health monitoring etc. We are set up to do Tele Health using video equipment for psychiatric medication management.

15.REVIEW/DISCUSSION/ACTION – COMMUNITY JUSTICE SERVICES UPDATE:

Mr. Rynders reported on the time spent in La Crosse looking at their CJS program; came away with good ideas to formulate our program. A document draft is being put together and we'll begin to refine it with county partner discussions. Ms. Berning has worked with vendors for drug testing, electronic home monitoring products and pricing. Mr. Rynders has been working with Dr. Yachovich from UW-Madison who has 30 years experience developing CJS programs. A critical concern of this program is to get the right people in the program that won't put the community at risk. Ms. McMillan Urell expressed concern if this program would be just shifting dollars from one area to another. After discussion, Mr. Rynders reiterated that he would put together information to present to the County Board after his meeting on January 15th with Dr. Yachovich.

16. REVIEW/DISCUSSION/ACTION – COPPER LAKE/LINCOLN HILLS SCHOOLS STATUS:

An update was given by Mr. Rynders on this correction facility for juveniles. We haven't used this facility in over ten years. There were reports of staff sexually and physically abusing children. They have been investigating and they've made changes in leadership. We have no plans to use this facility at this time.

17. REVIEW/DISCUSSION/ACTION – DHHS MONTHLY VOUCHERS:

There was no discussion on the monthly vouchers. A motion was made by Ms. McMillan Urell and seconded by Ms. Smith to accept the DHHS monthly vouchers as presented. Approved.

18. REVIEW/DISCUSSION/ACTION – DHHS FINANCIAL UPDATE :

Mr. Rynders' financial update report through November was overall guardedly optimistic looking at surplus vs. deficit keeping in mind this is the first year of the Mental Health Consortium and getting the costs into our budget for that. He highlighted the YTD expense; line 26 office expenses are at 120% for the year. The breakdown on spending includes the bus purchase, computer purchases, and 3 cars; \$165,000 is in this figure. Car purchases have been pulled from our non lapsing fund. Mr. Rynders also pointed out the remaining YTD state and federal revenue on line 8 of \$342,000 has not been captured; \$100,000 of that is community aide we've paid for but haven't captured yet. We should have no problem capturing these funds.

Mr. Schlessler inquired about the Unemployment Compensation and what the turnover has been. Mr. Rynders pointed out that we have \$2600 in expense and are under budget from what's been allocated. Ms. Roby also asked if the turnover is down and what the morale is. Mr. Rynders explained that the overall attitude is good.

19. REVIEW/DISCUSSION/ACTION – MONTHLY UNIT REPORT

Mr. Rynders reported on the questions from last month's Child Support arrearage report. He explained the statistic resets every October 1st. They operate on a federal fiscal year; they start at zero on October 1st with that arrearage percentage. It was asked if the Support Owed is in addition to the amount of Support Paid. Mr. Rynders explained that the Support Owed is the total amount due the children and the Support Paid is what they received. Mr. Rynders also reported that in our paternity collections we rank 27 out of 72 counties. Mr. Kriesel shared that there are many ways for Child Support to collect arrears, suspend doctor's license, suspend attorney's right to practice, suspend driver's license. We have been using Tax Intercept in Child Support for many years but will start using it in other areas of collection.

20. REVIEW/DISCUSSION/ACTION – DHHS DIRECTOR REPORT – EMPLOYEE WAGE APPEALS:

Mr. Rynders reported that a wage step system was put in place by the County Board. Employees can look at where they are on the scale and then appeal it if they think their placement is not correct. The deadline to submit an appeal is January 15th. The appeal will go to the Human Resources committees who have 6 weeks to review the appeal. There are 10 appeals coming through DHHS. There was discussion regarding the steps to follow for the employee to file the appeal. Mr. Schlessler asked if the supervisor meets with each employee for an evaluation and if this is what leads to the appeal process.

Mr. Kriesel reported that the job evaluation has nothing to do with the appeal process. Evaluations are completed annually.

21. CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

No Report.

22. NEXT MEETING DATE AND AGENDA ITEMS

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, February 2, 2016 at 6:30 PM.

23. PUBLIC COMMENTS REGARDING UNRELATED AGENDA ITEMS:

No public comments regarding unrelated agenda items were received.

24. ADJOURNMENT: Mr. Schlessler made a motion to adjourn at 9:09 p.m., seconded by Ms. Kleinschmidt. Carried.

Respectfully Submitted,

Mary Hildebrand

Recording Secretary