

Buffalo County Minutes

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

**Date of Meeting:** Tuesday, February 2, 2021

**Electronic and Hard Copy Filing Date:**

**Location:** Department of Health and Human Services  
Buffalo County Courthouse  
2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Conference Room  
407 S 2<sup>nd</sup> Street, Alma, Wisconsin

**1. ROLL CALL/BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT**

Roll call was taken. Members present were Larry Grisen, Wendy Kleinschmidt, Mary Anne McMillan-Urell, Richard Mueller, and Steve Nelson. Brad Schmidt knecht and Carol McDonough were excused absences.

**OTHERS PRESENT FOR ALL OR PART OF THE MEETING**

Dave Rynders and Mary Hildebrand present at meeting.  
Carri Renchin, Mickey Rice, Felicia Hager attended via ZOOM.

**2. PUBLIC COMMENT REGARDING ANY MATTERS THAT WILL BE TAKEN UP BY THE COMMITTEE AT THIS MEETING**

None

**3. REVIEW/DISCUSSION/ACTION – MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

A motion was made by Mr. Nelson and seconded by Ms. Kleinschmidt to approve the January 5, 2021 minutes as presented. Motion approved.

**4. VIEW/DISCUSSION/ACTION – VETERANS SERVICES MONTHLY REPORT**

Ms. Hager shared updates from the Veterans office: the 2021 grant of \$8500 was completed, Steve Schiffli has joined the Veterans office, year-end invoices for 2020 were presented. Ms. Hager reported on a homeless Veteran that needed shelter; the Sunrise Inn of Mondovi is being used as a homeless aide for this Veteran. The monthly stats were shared.

**5. VETERANS SERVICES MONTHLY VOUCHERS**

Ms. Hager presented the monthly vouchers. A motion was made by Mr. Mueller and seconded by Mr. Grisen to approve the monthly vouchers as presented. Motion approved.

**6. REVIEW/DISCUSSION/ACTION – RECOMMENDATION FOR FILLING VETERANS/DHHS COMMITTEE VACANCY**

Mr. Rynders shared that Kim Beseler reached out to him regarding an interest in the committee vacancy. Ms. Beseler is a Public Health nurse as well as a Veteran. Ms. Beseler works for the Gundersen Health system, experienced in the long-term care system, and Veterans services. Mr. Mueller highly recommends Ms. Beseler. A motion was made by Mr. Mueller and seconded by

Ms. Kleinschmidt to recommend Ms. Beseler for the Veterans/DHHS committee vacancy. Motion approved. Mr. Rynders also reported Liz Hoffmaster, school nurse for the C-FC school is also interested in becoming a member of the Veterans/DHHS committee.

**7. REVIEW/DISCUSSION/ACTION – PUBLIC HEALTH UNIT REPORT**

Ms. Rice presented the Public Health report via ZOOM. The monthly investigation/case reports were reviewed highlighting the COVID-19 stats; there are currently 274 confirmed cases and 252 contact investigations. A vaccination status update was shared stating all those covered in Phase 1A will have access to the COVID-19 vaccine before moving onto other phases. A drive thru mass vaccination clinic will be held at the Highway shop in Alma this Friday, Feb 5 to finish off phase 1A along with 65+ by appointment only. A list of eligible frontline healthcare personnel included in phase 1A was shared. (See Public Health Unit Report for list). Interviews were held for the Health Officer position which remains open. Ms. Rice shared data regarding the on-call system from the end of November 2020 through January 2021. After reviewing the data, Ms. Rice informed the committee that Public Health is looking at suspending on-call time during the weekdays and shortening the on-call hours during weekends. Mr. Rynders explained as the demand changes, a reduction in on-call hours on holidays/weekends will take place. Mr. Rynders will keep the committee informed of any changes made. A graph was shared by Ms. Rice with data for Buffalo County which includes the number of vaccines administered; 1/10 of the population (1360 people) have been vaccinated to date. Mr. Nelson looked for clarification on people 65+ filling out an interest form to receive the vaccine through the County as well as signing up with a person's provider; Ms. Rice confirmed that it is OK to sign up on both lists. There was discussion on holding vaccination clinics at the area schools for the 65+ population. Mr. Grisen inquired on what is known regarding any variants in Buffalo County. Mr. Rynders shared a variant from Great Britain was found in Eau Claire WI. Ms. Rice explained that we would not know if we have a variant because the State lab is the only place that tests for variants.

**8. REVIEW/DISCUSSION/ACTION – WIC PROGRAM UPDATE**

Mr. Rynders reminded the committee they took action to support Buffalo County merging with the Trempealeau County WIC program a couple months ago. The Trempealeau County Board of Health discussed the matter but tabled the discussion until the February 16<sup>th</sup> meeting. Mr. Rynders will join the discussion on February 16<sup>th</sup> along with the western region WIC Coordinator, Melissa Dunlop. The State is strongly encouraging a merger between Buffalo and Trempealeau counties.

**9. REVIEW/DISCUSSION/ACTION – REFILL TWO ECONOMIC SUPPORT SPECIALIST POSITIONS**

Mr. Rynders reported the process has begun to refill the two vacancies in Economic Support; interviews have been held. A motion was made Mr. Grisen and seconded by Mr. Mueller to refill the two Economic Support Specialist positions. Motion approved.

**10. REVIEW/DISCUSSION/ACTION – APPROVE EMERGENCY FILL-IN POSITION TO SUPPORT COVID-19 RESPONSE**

Mr. Rynders explained with the announcement of the 65+ population now eligible to receive the vaccination, a phone line was established to receive the high volume of calls. Lisa Schmidt from

the County Clerk's office has been monitoring the calls. Ms. Sonya Hansen supported creating an emergency fill-in position. A motion was made Mr. Grisen and seconded by Ms. Kleinschmidt to approve an emergency fill-in position to support the COVID-19 response to be reviewed at the April 6<sup>th</sup> DHHS/Veterans meeting. Motion approved. Mr. Rynders shared this position will be funded with COVID dollars.

#### **11. REVIEW/DISCUSSION/ACTION – RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF INCREASED ADULT PROTECTION SERVICES FUNDING**

Mr. Rynders provided information on a resolution in support of increased Adult Protection Services (APS) funding from the State pointing out it is necessary this be shared funding. Mr. Rynders shared statistics on the increase in numbers of elders at risk, elder abuse, adults at risk with disabilities, and residents over 60 years of age projected to grow from 25% in 2018 to 31%-40% by 2025. The resolution will address both funding and the lack of residential placement. A motion was made by Mr. Nelson and seconded by Mr. Grisen to support a resolution for increased Adult Protection Services funding from the State. Motion approved.

#### **12. REVIEW/DISCUSSION/ACTION – NEW AODA INPATIENT TREATMENT MEDICAL ASSISTANCE BENEFIT**

Ms. Renchin reported as of February 1<sup>st</sup>, Medicaid is offering extended coverage for residential substance abuse treatment. The coverage will offer greater access to residential treatment covering only the programming portion and not the room and board portion. Ms. Renchin shared previously there have been two funding sources, Comprehensive Community Services (CCS) program and substance abuse block grant dollars. The block grant dollars cannot be used for room and board requests. Ms. Renchin explained there are no funds allocated for the room and board portion. Statistics were shared regarding the cost of room and board at Centers. Mr. Rynders and Ms. Renchin identified two potential funding resources: Intoxicated Driver funds (\$13,000) and a grant called Targeted Safety Support funds (\$12,900) which has very specific eligibility criteria. Mr. Rynders shared what steps there are moving forward. The counties are pressing the State to solve the problem and to provide matching funds to use for room and board. Mr. Rynders stated that if the State does not resolve this problem, the county will be reaching out to the legislature through resolution to designate the State to create a fund. Ms. Renchin explained how the block dollars are spent and shared plans to increase prevention efforts such as the Botvin Life Skills program.

#### **13. REVIEW/DISCUSSION/ACTION – 2021 VETERANS/DHHS COMMITTEE SCHEDULE**

Mr. Rynders provided an updated 2021 Veterans/DHHS committee schedule. The committee reviewed the schedule and Mr. Rynders will email to committee members.

#### **14. REVIEW/DISCUSSION/ACTION – DHHS FINANCIAL UPDATE**

Mr. Rynders presented the financial update through December 2020.

**15. REVIEW/DISCUSSION/ACTION – DHHS MONTHLY VOUCHERS**

The vouchers were presented by Mr. Rynders. A motion was made by Mr. Mueller and seconded by Ms. Kleinschmidt to accept the vouchers as presented. Motion approved.

**16. REVIEW/DISCUSSION/ACTION – MONTHLY UNIT REPORTS**

The monthly unit reports were reviewed with no questions.

**17. REVIEW/DISCUSSION/ACTION – WESTERN DAIRYLAND COMMUNITY ACTION**

Mr. Nelson reported the budget was presented; the by-laws were handed out. Headstart is working on budgeting and planning for enrollments of 445.

**18. REVIEW/DISCUSSION/ACTION – DHHS DIRECTOR**

Mr. Rynders and Ms. Renchin investigated a \$7000 grant from United Way. It is a complicated grant involving more work than funds.

**19. REVIEW/DISCUSSION/ACTION – CHAIRPERSON’S REPORT**

None

**20. REVIEW/DISCUSSION/ACTION – NEXT MEETING DATE**

The next meeting date is scheduled for Tuesday, March 2, 2021 at 6:00 PM.

**21. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

None

**22. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 7:25 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Hildebrand