

## Buffalo County Minutes

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

**Date of Meeting:** Tuesday, June 1, 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. Member's present were Kim Beseler, Larry Grisen, Liz Hoffmaster, Wendy Kleinschmidt, Carol McDonough, Mary Anne McMillan-Urell, Richard Mueller, Steve Nelson, and Brad Schmidtknecht.

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

Dave Rynders, Felicia Hager, and Mary Hildebrand were present at the meeting. Josie Knauber and Jamie Weaver attended the meeting 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. Mueller and seconded by Ms. Kleinschmidt to approve the May 4, 2021, minutes as presented. Motion approved.

### **4. REVIEW/DISCUSSION/ACTION – VETERANS SERVICES MONTHLY REPORT**

Ms. Decker reported on the "Hope For You" Outreach on suicide prevention she participated in with the American Legion, Auxiliary, and Marine Corp in Fond du lac, WI Dodge County.

Ms. Decker introduced Lori Smolen, who is the new office volunteer in the Veterans office.

Ms. Decker attended the NWCVSOA (Northwest County Veterans Service Office Association) meeting where they discussed the issues of Tricare and the difference between a combat related service connection and a retiree. The Veterans office is pursuing an increase in the \$8500 annual grant money for an additional 5 to 10%.

The Veteran Memorial received a \$2500 donation towards the replacement of the bricks which brings the total funds available to \$10,740. The goal to complete the replacement of bricks is \$12,000 to \$14,000 which does not include the wall repair.

Ms. Decker reported that the Veterans budget funded Mr. Schiffli's national accreditation who will be receiving his certification. The Veterans office will be closed the week of June 6-11<sup>th</sup> while Ms. Decker attends the Spring conference and accreditation.

The monthly stats were reviewed. Ms. Decker reported that Naples and Waumandee cemeteries did not receive flags for Memorial Day. Ms. Decker will work on outreach to prevent this in the future.

#### **5. VETERANS SERVICES MONTHLY VOUCHERS**

Ms. Decker presented the monthly vouchers. A motion was made by Ms. Beseler and seconded by Mr. Schmidtknecht to approve the vouchers as presented. Motion approved.

#### **6. REVIEW/DISCUSSION/ACTION – PUBLIC HEALTH UNIT REPORT**

Ms. Knauber presented the Public Health report stating the COVID-19 case activity is high in Wisconsin. Buffalo County has also experienced high case activity during this time. Ms. Knauber also shared the CDC and WI DHS guidelines regarding fully vaccinated people which includes resuming indoor/outdoor activities without wearing a mask or physically distancing in most settings. Buffalo County Public Health hosted eight first dose clinics and four second dose clinics this past month. A Johnson & Johnson's walk-in clinic was hosted next to Beth's Café in Nelson during the 100-mile garage sale with approximately 65 walk-ins over a two-day period. Public Health continues to explore more walk-in clinics at other large events throughout the county. As of May 13<sup>th</sup>, 2021, individuals 12+ became eligible to receive the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine.

As of 5-25-2021:

- 47.1% of the Buffalo County population have received their first dose.
- 43.1% of the Buffalo County population have completed their vaccine series.
- 81.4% of the 65+ population have received their first vaccine dose.

#### **7. REVIEW/DISCUSSION/ACTION – WATER TESTING UPDATE**

Ms. Weaver and Ms. Knauber were available for questions on the expansion of the water testing program. Ms. Weaver explained she had been working with Mike Owecke in Zoning before the pandemic started. Mr. Rynders would like to explore the resources available for grant funding to pay for the expansion. Ms. McMillan-Urell suggested this be revisited in September 2021. Ms. Weaver reported Buffalo County re-signed a MOU in March 2021 for a CDC water testing grant with La Crosse, Trempealeau, Jackson, Monroe, and Vernon counties. The 5-year grant will focus on education and promotion of private well testing. The data will be made available to the public. Mr. Nelson questioned if there is a difference between Dairyland Lab results vs the State lab results regarding water testing; Ms. Weaver stated she values the results from both.

#### **8. REVIEW/DISCUSSION/ACTION – DISCUSS 20-12-03 RESOLUTION TO EXTEND 3 LTE 2020 HEALTH POSITIONS THROUGH DECEMBER 2021 WITH REGARDS TO OTHER COMMUNICABLE DISEASE INVESTIGATIONS**

Mr. Rynders reported this resolution was passed in Nov/Dec 2020 and would like clarification on the language in the resolution, specifically:

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, effective from January 1 through December 31, 2021, the Buffalo County Board of Supervisors hereby approves *extending three full time LTE public health positions for the purposes of providing COVID-19 and other communicable disease services.*

Mr. Rynders explained that the originally presented intention was to use one LTE position for the other communicable disease services and would now like to use the flexibility of the language as

stated in the resolution. Ms. Knauber explained that Sarah Schlaefer is designated to follow up on the communicable diseases, but to have the ability to train the other two LTEs for communicable disease backup would be helpful. After discussion, it was agreed, the language in the resolution gives authority to use the other two LTEs for other communicable disease services.

**9. REVIEW/DISCUSSION/ACTION – PUBLIC HEALTH SPECIALIST POSITION DESCRIPTION**

Mr. Rynders reported the Public Health nurse position remains open after Ms. Knauber accepted the Public Health Officer position. The plan is to create a job description geared around a 4-year RN student which would expand our pool who would be under the supervision of the Health Officer. After one year, the individual would attain their degree and registered nurse licensing and when achieved, would move into the registered nurse position. Mr. Rynders requested support of the student concept doing public health duties. Ms. Hoffmaster made a motion and Ms. Kleinschmidt seconded the motion to approve the Public Health Specialist position description. Motion approved.

**10. REVIEW/DISCUSSION/ACTION – GENERAL RELIEF CASE REVIEW**

Mr. Rynders revisited the General Relief plan discussed at the May meeting to expand the coverage of the cost of room/board for AODA inpatient treatment. The General Relief plan is a no interest loan where we create a repayment plan. Individuals are assessed to determine if they qualify to receive the help. Mr. Rynders explained there has been an uptick in requests for the General Relief funds. Mr. Rynders and Ms. Renchin have had conversations with a state contact finding out the following information:

\*OK to pay the room and board (Cannot use AODA Block grant)

\*CCS mental health entitlement program

\*OK to put people on a waiting list or say NO.

\*2 people @ \$2700/each for 28 days for R&B in AODA treatment at Menomonie facility

**11. REVIEW/DISCUSSION/ACTION – 2020 DHHS ANNUAL REPORT (REVISED)**

Mr. Rynders presented the annual report showing a surplus of an unaudited \$240,000 surplus. Ms. Beseler made a motion and Ms. Hoffmaster seconded the motion to approve the 2020 DHHS annual report. Motion approved.

**12. REVIEW/DISCUSSION/ACTION – DHHS FINANCIAL UPDATE**

Mr. Rynders presented the Agent of the State (restaurant inspections) budget and the DHHS budget through April 2021.

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

The monthly vouchers were reviewed. A motion was made by Mr. Grisen and seconded by Mr. Schmidt knecht to approve the monthly vouchers as presented. Motion approved.

**14. REVIEW/DISCUSSION/ACTION – MONTHLY UNIT REPORTS – COMP TIME**

Mr. Rynders explained a new COMP time report that was added to the monthly unit reports. When COMP time balances are carried over to the next year it creates a liability for the county and affects WRS retirement. Mr. Rynders wants transparency for committee members to know where the comp time is coming from, hence the monthly comp time report. There will be policy

changes in the future where it will be required to take COMP time first before using PTO which Mr. Rynders supports. The challenge remains when a situation arises where staff are called out and they are maxed out on their PTO (320 hours) and continue to accrue PTO which they will lose because they are expected to use the COMP time first, they end up working for nothing which would then make it necessary to pay overtime to the worker. Mr. Rynders stated he has the ability to authorize overtime and will approve the OT as a last resort to avoid workers losing compensation for time worked, even though it is not in the budget. The monthly unit reports were reviewed with no discussion.

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

Mr. Nelson reported that Western Dairyland community action meetings will be face to face starting on August 1, 2021, Headstart has 91% of children coming to class and CEO administrative update showing there are COVID-19 funds available for grants.

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

Mr. Rynders reported that with the COVID vaccine clinics, we are doing insurance collections and people are asked to bring their insurance information to cover the administration costs of the vaccine by the Insurance companies. Through May collections, we have collected over \$28,000 which offset taxpayer costs.

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

None

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

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

**19. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

None

**20. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 7:22 PM.

Respectfully submitted,



Mary Hildebrand