

Buffalo County Minutes

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

Date of Meeting: Tuesday, October 5, 2021

Electronic and Hard Copy Filing Date:

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

1. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL OF MEMBERS

Roll call was taken. Member's present were Larry Grisen, Liz Hoffmaster, Mary Anne McMillan-Urell, Steve Nelson, and Brad Schmidtknecht. Kim Beseler attended via ZOOM, and Wendy Kleinschmidt joined ZOOM @ 6:23 PM.

Richard Mueller and Carol McDonough were excused absences.

OTHERS PRESENT FOR ALL OR PART OF THE MEETING

Dave Rynders, Felicia Decker, and Mary Hildebrand were present at the meeting. Josie Knauber and Sonya 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. Grisen and seconded by Ms. Hoffmaster to approve the September 7, 2021, minutes as presented. A roll call vote was taken. Motion approved.

A motion was made by Mr. Schmidtknecht and seconded by Mr. Nelson to approve the September 21, 2021; special meeting minutes as presented. A roll call vote was taken. Motion approved.

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

Ms. Decker revisited discussion of last month's meeting on the 2022 budget regarding the request for an additional 8 hours for Steve Schiffli in the Veterans office. To date, Ms. Decker is unsure if the Veterans budget has been approved. Ms. Decker participated in four outreach activities in September which involved a golf tournament fundraiser, a Hope 4U Walk of Remembrance and Hope where Ms. Decker was a guest speaker along with Christine Lorenz, a Veterans resume clinic, and the 2021 Wisconsin County Association (WCA) annual conference. Ms. Decker shared a handout with a breakdown of how Buffalo County is doing regarding state and federal tax dollars being brought into the county. Ms. Decker reported Buffalo County is doing outstanding. The September stats were shared.

Mr. Grisen asked for an update on the fundraising for the memorial project. Ms. Decker shared that \$2000 has been approved and a quote was received from one of the monument companies. Ms. Decker will get back to the committee on the status of the fundraising and quotes.

5. VETERANS SERVICES MONTHLY VOUCHERS

Ms. Decker presented the monthly vouchers in a new format. The committee requested going back to the previous format which is easier to follow. A motion was made by Ms. Beseler and seconded by Ms. Hoffmaster to approve the vouchers as presented. A roll call vote was taken. Motion approved.

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

Ms. Knauber reported that Wisconsin is experiencing a shortage of the Johnson & Johnson vaccine. Multiple requests have been submitted to the State for the vaccine and have been denied but as of last week, a supply of the J & J vaccine has been established. The COVID-19 cases (229) have more than tripled compared to last month's report of 66 cases. Ms. Knauber also shared that 3 out of the 4 school districts do not have mask mandates, C-FC being the only school to have a mask mandate. Ms. Knauber reported that the Mondovi School district has now implemented a mask mandate. Walk-in clinics continue to be hosted at various locations throughout the county every Thursday and Pfizer has recommended booster doses which are now being given at these clinics.

As of 9-27-21:

- 55.3% of the population in Buffalo County have received their first dose of vaccine.
- 53.2% of the population in Buffalo County have received their vaccine series.

On September 15, 2021, the Mondovi School Board voted to allow close contacts to return to school despite CDC, Wisconsin DHS, and Buffalo County DHHS quarantine recommendations. Following this decision, Health Officer, Josie Knauber wrote individual quarantine orders for every child identified as a close contact and still in the 14-day quarantine period. On September 18th, 2021, Mondovi Superintendent Jeff Rykal notified Health Officer Josie Knauber that the Mondovi School District plans to comply with these orders and have implemented a mask mandate.

The Botvin LifeSkills program has been implemented in the four school districts by Public Health Educator, Mickey Ganschow. The program is being offered to 3rd through 5th graders this Fall and will be offered to the 6th graders in the Spring. Botvin LifeSkills is an effective curriculum to help increase self-esteem, develop healthy attitudes, and improve knowledge of essential life skills.

Kelsa Myszewski, Public Health Specialist began employment on August 24, 2021.

Ms. Myszewski is completing her Bachelor of Science in Nursing at Winona State this semester and once she graduates and passes her nursing licensure exam, will begin her role as Public Health Nurse for DHHS, anticipated early 2022.

7. REVIEW/DISCUSSION/ACTION – RESOLUTION TO CHANGE THREE LIMITED TERM HEALTH POSITIONS TO PERMANENT STATUS THROUGH 2024

Mr. Rynders requested the (3) public health educator positions be converted from limited to permanent status effective January 1, 2022, through December 31, 2024, for the purpose of providing COVID-19 and other communicable diseases. Wisconsin DHS allocated an additional ARPA grant, immunization/vaccine grant and PHEP workforce grant funding which will not impact the county levy. A motion was made by Mr. Nelson and seconded by Mr. Schmidtkecht to change three limited term health positions to permanent status through 2024. A roll call vote was taken. Motion approved.

8. REVIEW/DISCUSSION/ACTION – RESOLUTION TO EXTEND ONE LIMITED TERM PART-TIME SUPPORT STAFF SPECIALIST THROUGH 2024

Mr. Rynders presented a resolution to extend one limited term part-time support staff specialist effective January 1, 2022, through December 31, 2024. This position provides outreach and registration of eligible residents, recruitment of volunteers, billing consultation and other direct COVID-19 response support activities. There is federal funding available to pay for this position through 2024 with a fiscal impact of approximately \$32K (600 hours). A motion was made by Mr. Schmidtkecht and seconded by Mr. Grisen to approve the resolution extending the limited term part-time support staff position through 2024. A roll call vote was taken. Motion approved.

9. REVIEW/DISCUSSION/ACTION – PROPOSAL TO CHANGE SOCIAL SERVICES LEAD WORKER POSITION TO SOCIAL SERVICES MANAGER POSITION, EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 2022

Mr. Rynders provided additional information on the growth of the CLTS/CCS programs which was requested at the September Home Committee meeting regarding the proposal to change the Social Services Lead Worker position to a Social Services Manager position which was included in the 2022 budget. A graph was presented showing the growth comparisons from 2018 through 2024. Mr. Rynders also presented expense calculations comparing the Social Worker lead to Social Services manager. Mr. Grisen inquired how many staff Ms. Renchin would supervise which would be 4.75 FTE and Ms. Schalinske would supervise 4.35 FTE. After discussion, a motion was made by Mr. Grisen and seconded by Mr. Schmidtkecht to change the Social Services Lead Worker to a Social Services Manager effective January 2022 on a one-year trial basis to be reviewed in a year. A roll call vote was taken. Motion approved.

10. REVIEW/DISCUSSION/ACTION – REVISE SOCIAL SERVICES MANAGER POSITION DESCRIPTIONS AND REVISE AND RETITLE SOCIAL SERVICES LEAD WORKER POSITION DESCRIPTION

A motion was made by Mr. Grisen and seconded by Ms. Hoffmaster to move the revision of the Social Services Manger position descriptions and revise and retitle the Social Services Lead Worker position description onto HR. A roll call vote was taken. Motion approved.

11. REVIEW/DISCUSSION/ACTION – DEMENTIA SPECIALIST EXPANSION

Mr. Rynders reported that Buffalo, Pepin, and Trempealeau County are sharing a Dementia Specialist to provide dementia friendly services funded by a grant through the State. The State has expanded the program giving an \$80K per year grant starting in 2022 dedicated to Buffalo and Pepin County alone; Trempealeau County will receive \$40K. Pepin County which manages

the ADRC will be creating a position to fill the Dementia Specialist which will be totally funded through a grant by January 1st, 2022.

12. REVIEW/DISCUSSION/ACTION – 2022 ADRC GOVERNANCE AGREEMENT

Mr. Rynders reported that in 2017 a Governance Agreement was signed with Pepin County after Clark County left the ADRC. Since the Aging and Transportation services were incorporated into the ADRC, the Governance agreement has been updated to reflect what the ADRC design now looks like. Mr. Rynders presented the agreement for review highlighting the changes. The Governance Agreement will be presented at the November 3, 2021, joint meeting. A leadership committee has been created to oversee both counties; Pepin County being the lead county agency. The fiscal lead will shift from Buffalo County to Pepin County on January 1, 2022.

13. REVIEW/DISCUSSION/ACTION – EXTENSION OF YOUNG CRIME VICTIMS GRANT THROUGH SEPTEMBER 2022

Mr. Rynders reported that the Young Crimes Victims grant has been approved for a 4th year by the Federal government through September 2022 due to the pandemic. The grant is for developing mentoring services for youth and family-based counseling for drug users.

14. REVIEW/DISCUSSION/ACTION – REFILL FAMILY & COMMUNITY SPECIALIST VACANCY

Mr. Rynders reported that Logan Dittman, the Family & Community Specialist has submitted his resignation. Logan has been working full-time as the Family & Community Specialist as well as working on getting his Social Work degree in addition to his internship responsibilities and has found that he is at risk to get his internship completed in time. Logan does the supervised visitation which are court ordered services and provides family/parent skills training. Mr. Rynders is requesting the position be refilled. A motion was made by Mr. Grisen and seconded by Ms. Hoffmaster to refill the Family & Community Specialist vacancy. A roll call vote was taken. Motion approved.

15. REVIEW/DISCUSSION/ACTION – DHHS FINANCIAL UPDATE

Mr. Rynders presented the financial update through August for DHHS and Agent of the State. A contract is being negotiated with Mr. Squires to provide limited consultation with Ms. Zeman to help with State reports until the Lead Account Clerk position is filled. Mr. Grisen inquired how we are over budget on board travel when members are attending via Zoom. After discussion, it was decided that the number of board members had changed from 3 to 5 members.

16. REVIEW/DISCUSSION/ACTION – DHHS MONTHLY VOUCHERS

The monthly vouchers were reviewed. A motion was made by Mr. Schmidtknecht and seconded by Mr. Grisen to approve the vouchers as presented. A roll call vote was taken. Motion approved.

17. REVIEW/DISCUSSION/ACTION – MONTHLY UNIT REPORTS AND 2022 – 2024 AGING PLAN

The monthly unit reports were reviewed and discussed. Mr. Rynders reported that Ms. DeWyre's report includes the entire aging plan which will be presented at the November 3, 2021, meeting.

18. REVIEW/DISCUSSION/ACTION – PER DIEM RATES FOR REMOTE MEETING ATTENDANCE

Mr. Rynders explained that the rates for remote meeting attendance will be ½ the reimbursement of an in-person attendance beginning starting November 3, 2021, for citizen and board members.

19. REVIEW/DISCUSSION/ACTION – WESTERN DAIRYLAND COMMUNITY ACTION

Mr. Nelson shared an update from the Western Dairyland Community action.

20. REVIEW/DISCUSSION/ACTION – DHHS DIRECTOR'S REPORT – ANNOUNCEMENT OF NEW WIC DIRECTOR

Mr. Rynders announced that Kaitlyn Niebur has filled the WIC Director position. The previous WIC Director, Kaya Baer accepted a state position with WIC. WIC clinics are not being held yet.

21. REVIEW/DISCUSSION/ACTION – CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

None

22. REVIEW/DISCUSSION/ACTION – NEXT MEETING DATE AND TIME

The next meeting, a joint meeting with Pepin County is scheduled for Wednesday, November 3, 2021, at 6:00 PM. Mr. Schmidtknecht will be an excused absence.


23. PUBLIC COMMENT NOT RELATED TO AGENDA ITEMS

None

24. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 7:45 PM.

Respectfully submitted,



Mary Hildebrand