



**KEWAUNEE COUNTY
HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE MINUTES
January 10, 2019
Large Conference Room
810 Lincoln Street Kewaunee**

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Kaye Shillin at 9:00 a.m. Present for the meeting were Linda Teske, Kaye Shillin, Paul Ravet, Virginia Haske, Mary Ellen Dobbins, Kent Tremi, Julie Janicsek, Rose Quinlan, Mark Buchanan, Mary Ann Szydel, Bob Mattice, Frank Madzarevic, Lori Nellis, Ray Ball, Katie Horn, several students from the Path Finder's Alternative School, and Lynn Clark.

Absent/Excused – Lee Luft

A motion to approve the agenda and the December 13, 2018 meeting minutes was made by Virginia Haske and seconded by Mary Ellen Dobbins. Motion carried.

In-Service/Presentation – Ray Ball, Katie Horn, and students from Path Finder's Alternative School.

Lori Nellis introduced the committee to Ray Ball and Katie Horn who together run Path Finder's. Lori stated that she likes to describe Path Finder's as an "extension of a classroom in a high school" rather than calling it an alternative school. Lori then turned to presentation to Ray Ball.

Mr. Ball went on to give a review of school, also describing it as an extension of the high school. He also stated that he "truly believes that it's the spirit that makes the school". They use the same curriculum as the local high school, but at pace and style that works for each individual student. Many of the students are attending Path Finder's because traditional class room learning doesn't work for them due to various reasons, one of which is frequently due to unstable, unstructured, or dysfunctional home life. Ray gave examples of students who are not only keeping up with their work but exceeding their grade levels.

Katie Horn continued with the presentation by giving some additional background. As the special education teacher at the high school, Katie noticed more and more students coming to her classroom that weren't "special ed", but didn't function well in the classroom. The school superintendent/principal of the high school, Nick Cochart, purchased the old Harbor Credit Union building in Algoma and told Katie "here, do something with it", and that is where it began. She recruited Mr. Ball to help get things started and they proceeded to work together with the students to determine how the program would run. They are now in their 3rd year up and running and Katie stated that it has been a "really awesome experience" for both of them and students.

A few of the students present at this committee meeting went on to share their personal stories. Each of them at some point shared the common theme of them feeling like they weren't just students at Path Finder's, but part of a family. They shared that they are a close knit group facing similar struggles and can really relate to one another. One student observed that they have found that it is possible for them now to enjoy school.

Ray followed up stating that many of their students are not only graduating, but graduating early and planning their careers with some also attending college. Some of the students go to both Path Finder's and also take some classes at the "regular" high school. Ray stated that they stress career planning, setting goals, getting kids involved with the community, doing community work, visit other schools or colleges, and "focus on self and put yourself in a position of success." Many of the students are also mentors to elementary school kids.

Bob went on to thank all of the students for sharing their stories and commended them for all the hard work and dedication that they have put into taking control of their lives and bettering themselves. Kaye thanked the students and also Ray and Katie. The committee gave them all a round of applause.

Human Services Director Updates –

- ✿ The governor has appointed Andrea Palm as his Department of Health Services Secretary.
- ✿ The DCF (Department of Children and Families) Secretary is now Emilie Amundson.
- ✿ In terms of the local budget, Bob received notification that we will receive \$400,000 from WIMCR. At this point, Bob feels we are looking okay regarding our budget.

- ✿ There will be 4 applicants being interviewed for the Director position on Monday. Bob, Scott Feldt, Kaye Shillin, the Door County director, and Cindy Kinnard from Public Health will be sitting in on the interviews. Bob is hopeful to have someone hired by February or March.
- ✿ There are 4 applicants to be interviewed for the CCS Facilitator position on January 27.
- ✿ The emergency rule on the Secure Residential Care Center for Children and Youth has been released so that interested counties can begin to plan. The hope is to have multiple facilities opened around the state. Fond du Lac County has expressed interest.
- ✿ The Regional meeting of the Wisconsin Counties of Human Services Association will be held January 18 from 10:00 – 12:00 at Fox Valley Tech in Appleton. The director from Fond Du Lac County will be there to talk about the juvenile justice center issue. Bob will be unable to attend but invited interested committee members to attend.
- ✿ The Behavioral Health Partnership had a crisis grant and so we will be getting some free training. The county will only have to pay for lunch and drinks. Jonathan Cloud will be here on January 18 to give a presentation on the Neurobiological Effects of Crisis and Trauma and how it affects the brain. On February 25, 2019 Lisa Anderson will work with the professional staff as to crisis plans for youth.
- ✿ Chris Bivens from Advocates will be here on April 9 to do give training on Resiliency. That is separate from the Crisis grant and is part of on-going education for staff as to trauma informed care.
- ✿ This year's Hands Around Event will be held at the Algoma Elementary School. The tentative date is Thursday April 11 from 2:30 – 5:00. Bob welcomed committee members to attend.
- ✿ Bob stated that he met with the personnel committee yesterday and thanked Kaye for supporting the extra comp time hours. The current county policy is 24 hours. That works fine for those that work a straight 8 to 4:30 Monday through Friday but not as well for the professional staff that often works earlier and later than normal business hours to meet the needs of our clients/consumers. Bob is requesting that this be increased to at least 40 hours. Bob also said that he is requesting for compensation for the workers who are on call for Holidays. This is simply a return to the practice before Act 10 of compensating workers who are required to be on call on Holidays.

Contract Approvals – None

Kaye verified that committee members had the opportunity to review the monthly vendor bills and travel requests. There were no concerns or questions.

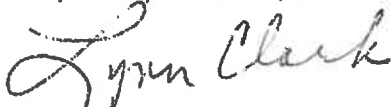
Public Comments – Frank commented that the in-service was very good.

Other items as authorized by law– None

March meeting was scheduled for March 14th at 9:00. April's meeting was scheduled for April 18th at 8:30.

A motion to adjourn at 10:33 a.m. was made by Julie Janicsek and seconded Mary Ellen Dobbins.
Motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted,



Lynn Clark
Acting Secretary

