

**Kewaunee County Human Services Committee  
County Board Room  
810 Lincoln Street  
April 15, 2021  
Meeting Minutes**

Present for the meeting were Human Services Committee Chairperson Virginia Haske. Committee members, Linda Teske, Doak Baker, Joanne Lazansky, Mary Ann Szydel, Julie Janicsek, Milt Swagel, Mark Buchanan, Tim Kinnard, and Rose Quinlan via Zoom. Kewaunee County Administrator Scott Feldt. Department Managers Corrine Konkol, Melissa Annoye, Brian Johnson, Corp Counsel Jeff Wisnicky, and Program Assistant Lynn Clark.

Absent/Excused – Paul Ravet

This meeting was called to order by Chairperson Virginia Haske at 8:00 a.m.

A motion to approve the April agenda as submitted was made by Tim Kinnard and seconded by Doak Baker. Motion carried.

A motion to approve the March minutes as submitted was made by Doak Baker and seconded by Julie Janicsek. Motion carried.

No public comments.

**Behavioral Health Unit Update** – Sue Norton reported having two staff members who will be out on maternity leave in the next couple of weeks. This could have an impact on contact numbers, but they are working on having other staff take on extra cases.

All of the programs within the unit have been successfully audited and have been recertified for two years. Crisis numbers continue to increase. As of today, there are two individuals in long term placement, a third will be discharged hopefully within the week. By the end of the week there will likely be two additional people admitted to psych hospitals for crisis treatment. Numbers have significantly increased from last year. Sue believes that some of the increase is due to Covid and also noted that most of the people currently entering the crisis system are not people who are currently being served by her program. There was a brief discussion on how this increase will affect the budget.

**Family and Community Unit Update** – Department Manager Melissa Annoye shared her program updates beginning with Birth-3. Everything has been pretty stable in that program with several kids being transitioned out of within the coming months. Carol will be working with the schools to facilitate those transitions to ensure adequate services will be provided.

The Children's Long Term Support program has received a staff resignation. This coupled with the maternity leaves referenced by Sue Norton will heavily impact the CLTS program. This will likely cause a reduction in contacts and billable time. Remaining staff is handling the situation and increased stress as well as can be expected.

The only update for the Coordinated Services Team program is the application for a grant of \$20,000.00 to support staff wages for a system of care self-assessment.

The Adult Protection Program has remained fairly stable with the financial exploitation cases decreasing for the County. Melissa went on to share some statewide stats.

Within the Transportation program, we are starting to see the number of ride requests begin to increase, and also having more of our volunteer drivers coming back to drive now that Covid vaccinations have become more prevalent.

There was a committee question regarding the resignation. Director Feldt addressed this question and reviewed the recent resignations. This was followed by further discussion with department heads concerning resignations, staff turnover, the reasons for the resignations, the cost of recruiting and retaining quality staff, the impact turnover has on consumers and other staff, and the process for new hires for both County positions and contracted positions. There was also further discussion on the topic of County positions vs. contracted.

**Child Protection and Juvenile Justice Unit Update** - Department Manager Corrine Konkol reported continued increasing program numbers. Corrine also is experiencing staffing concerns with three workers making the contacts of four workers, for which she highly commended her staff. They have children in placement at a higher than usual rate which increases foster care and kinship home contacts. They are also licensing three new homes which also increases the workload. There are a couple of children on the verge of placement that they are providing respite and services through other units in the hopes of avoiding placement.

The decision has been made to hire the student who has been interning this past year and they are very excited about her joining their unit.

**Human Services Financial Unit Update** – Financial Manager Brian Johnson provided printouts and reviewed the monthly reports for general finance, billing, contract status, state aid, and vendor reports and also provided clarification to committee member queries when requested. Brian also gave a brief recap of 2020 noting that the Human Services deficit fund has been significantly reduced. There was also discussion regarding reimbursement for crisis in-patient treatment costs, and the issue of long term placements effect on the budget.

**Contract Reviews** – None

**Human Services Director Update** – Director Feldt announced that he has recruited Jeff Wisnicky as the new Human Services Director. Mr. Wisnicky will retain his current Corporation Counsel position but will resign his position as Assistant District Attorney. Jeff will start on April 26 (upon formal board approval). Scott thanked Jeff for accepting the position and wished him well.

Mr. Wisnicky briefly addressed the committee to express his thanks for the opportunity and stating that he is very confident in the management staff as well as overall staff and believes the department to be “moving in the right direction” He went on to discuss what his focus and plans will be, and his goal for being fiscally responsible. It is his intention to start by absorbing the day to day operations of the department and then to tackle the issues as they come up one by one. He shared that although it was a difficult decision to give up his distract attorney position, he is very excited about the new opportunity. There was a committee question to Jeff regarding what effect his resignation as ADA will have on the County which was then addressed. Additional committee comments were made congratulating Jeff and approving his recruitment while also thanking Scott for his work as interim director, and commending the department managers for all their hard work and commitment during this transition.

Mr. Wisnicky thanked this committee for their comments and support.

Behavioral Health Manager, Sue Norton also noted that she would like to add her thanks for the support of this committee and to thank all of the dedicated staff for their hard work and commitment noting that we wouldn't have been able to make so much progress without good staff on board.

**Other Items as Authorized by Law** – None

**The next meeting is scheduled for May 20 at 8:00 a.m.**

A motion to adjourn was made by Doak Baker and seconded by Joanne Lazansky. Motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 8:41 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lynn Clark Program Assistant