

**Kewaunee County Human Services Committee  
County Board Room  
810 Lincoln Street  
February 17<sup>th</sup>, 2022  
Meeting Minutes**

Present for the meeting were Human Services Committee Chairperson Virginia Haske, committee members, Linda Teske, Julie Janicsek, Doak Baker, Joanne Lazansky, Mary Ann Szydel, Milt Swagel, Tim Kinnard, Mark Buchanan, Rose Quinlan, and Paul Ravet via Zoom.

Absent/Excused –none

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

A motion to approve the January minutes, and the current agenda as submitted was made by Doak Baker and seconded by Joanne Lazansky. Motion carried.

**Public comments** –None

**Contract Reviews** – A motion to approve provider contracts as listed was made by Doak Baker and seconded by Tim Kinnard.

Motion carried.

**Unit Report – Behavioral Health Manager Sue Norton**

Sue Norton gave a brief presentation about the recovery process for mental health participants. Sue shared that she and her staff utilize evidence based practices which research have shown to be effective in treating certain disorders. One of the practices Sue went on to discuss was Peer Support, which they use for treatment of consumers with significant mental health issues. Sue was very excited to report that they have recently started a Peer Support Committee to oversee a peer support group through the CCS Program. The hope is to build a social network for mental health consumers, and or substance abuse disorders, within the support group of common people and peers from within the community. Their ultimate goal with consumers is to keep them out of hospitals and back into their communities, which also saves county dollars for in-patient hospital costs. Committee questions and comments were then addressed and discussed.

**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. The finance department is currently in the process of reconciliation which should be completed by the end of March. He noted that most of the expenses/revenues are in and everything that is left out there will be reported as part of the reconciliation process. The bottom line is that we are ending with a positive balance. Brian’s report was followed by committee discussion on how the extra monies will be handled. Sue Norton also commented noting that although it was a good year for the budget, it was a very difficult year for the Crisis Unit. She wished to attribute some of the success this year to the hard work of her staff who are “busting their butts” every day to keep people out of the hospital and increase their billable time. She believes that they have been doing better overall with budgeting than what was done in the past.

**Human Services Director Update** –

- ❖ 6 applications have been received for the CPS position. Jeff and Corrine are going through them and have narrowed it down to 2 to interview.
- ❖ Recruiting has begun for the open CCS position.
- ❖ Performance evaluations have been completed. Jeff felt very good about the process and reviewed some of the results.

- ❖ The Economic staff has transitioned to working remotely except for 1 staff member who will continue in the office.
- ❖ Crisis calls will now go through the Family Services and then filter back. This seems to be going fairly well.
- ❖ There are concerns from law enforcement with the whole crisis process, in that it takes so long to complete. We continue to do everything we can do on our side of that process to make sure we are not doing anything to hold up the process. The issue seems to be medical clearance, and bed availability at mental health facilities. It was noted that this is not only a Kewaunee County issue, but is happening statewide.
- ❖ It is anticipated that in the next few years there may be a challenge with retirements and noted that managers should keep that in mind.
- ❖ Mr. Wisnicky wished to point out that the billing and finance team are doing a very good job. So much so that recently Florence and Marinette counties have reached out to Kewaunee County for help after losing their billing staff.
- ❖ We need to start thinking about our own billing staff morale, and also as they get closer to retirement, to make sure we are being thoughtful of current staff. Also to building in some redundancies so that we don't run into a situation similar to the ones who reached out to us.
- ❖ Due to what he feels is a challenging landscape in terms of recruitment, Jeff shared that he thinks we need to start thinking about how we compensate employees, and not just in terms of wages. He cautioned those who take the attitude of, "if they don't like it they can walk", as there are a lot of opportunities out there. We need to be thoughtful and earnestly think about the things we could potentially do to improve things for our employees.
- ❖ Overall we have staff stability and morale is generally good.
- ❖ There was additional discussion concerning the end of year finances, and being thoughtful about what is done with that money.

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

**The next meeting is scheduled for March 17<sup>th</sup> at 8:00 a.m.**

A motion to adjourn was made by Joanne Lazansky and seconded by Doak Baker. Motion carried.  
Meeting adjourned at 9:09 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lynn Clark  
Program Assistant