

**Kewaunee County Human Services Committee
County Board Room
810 Lincoln Street
March 11, 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, and Tim Kinnard. Kewaunee County Administrator Scott Feldt. Department Managers Corrine Konkol, Melissa Annoye, Brian Johnson, Corp Counsel Jeff Wisnicky, and Program Assistant Lynn Clark.

Absent/Excused – Mark Buchanan, Rose Quinlan, and Matt Piesler

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

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

No public comments.

Family and Community Unit Update – Department Manager Melissa Annoye welcomed the committee to review her monthly program statistics report, and to feel free to ask questions. Also included in her packet was a flier focused on Children’s Long-Term Support. Melissa followed with a general update of the programs she oversees. In the Children’s Waiver program, the waitlist has officially been eliminated as of today, although there are currently some in the assessment process with program eligibility yet to be determined. In Birth to 3 things remain stable, with the past month being busy completing the County Performance Plan which was then reviewed. In CST, things remain fairly stable. There is one consumer on the waitlist awaiting the family’s agreement to move forward with the enrollment process. In general, with the CST program, they are doing what they can to evaluate staff morale, addressing staff turnover, dealing with difficult cases, and taking a look at their general system of care. In Adult Protection, February was a little bit slow, which allowed Jodi to follow up on January cases. Jodi, who also works with the Transportation program, was also then able to deal with the uptake in transportation referrals. The Transportation Program has also been working as a team to figure out what options they want for the new van awarded to them by the 53.10 grant in 2019. It is hoped that the van will be delivered before summer. Melissa’s updates concluded with a question from a committee member regarding clarification of the Waiver Program payment funding which was then addressed and discussed. There was also a committee question addressed regarding the Transportation Programs decrease in volunteer drivers due to Covid, and volunteer driver recruitment.

Child Protection and Juvenile Justice Unit Update - Department Manager Corrine Konkol reported that she did not have anything significant to report this month. They are experiencing steady numbers when it comes to reports and new referrals. She noted that there has been a bit of an increase which they are absorbing minus a case worker. They are currently in the process of reviewing some candidates for hire and will be doing interviews on March 29 for one, or possibly both, of the open positions. There were no new placements this month. Corinne noted that they continue to work closely with the other units which helps considerably to keep certain CPS and Youth Justice referrals from turning into full blown out of home placements. Corrine noted that they are pretty much through end of year reporting with only one report remaining due which they have completed by the end of March.

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. It was also reported that the “final clean up of 2020” will be completed this month.

Contract Reviews – None

ADRC Resolution - A motion to support the ADRC Resolution combining Kewaunee County ADRC with Manitowoc ADRC, and to approve sending it to the full County Board was made by Tim Kinnard and seconded by Doak Baker. Motion carried.

Presentation of Corporation Counsel Jeff Wisnicky – Mr. Wisnicky thanked this committee for inviting him to this meeting and went on to introduce himself and to give a brief overview of job duties. He went on to review Corporate Counsel's involvement, and the work he does with the various individual departments within Kewaunee County Human Services. Mr. Wisnicky is the representative for the public when Human Services brings matters to court. Generally speaking, Jeff noted that Human Services is probably his largest client, second to the Administrator's Office, then the Sheriff's Department and so on. The three main units he works with are the Children and Family's Unit, Family and Community Services, and Behavioral Health. He also works with the Administrative and Financial Unit's. Jeff went on to detail some of the work he does with the individual units. Mr. Wisnicky noted that he is also the Assistant District Attorney and talked about the work he does Human Services in that capacity. This was followed with a more detailed review of how mental health commitments are processed, and his work with the Adult Protective Services Unit. He went on to report that he feels has a very good working relationship with Human Services staff and noted that they work very hard and take their cases very seriously, and expect the people they collaborate with to also work hard and take their cases as seriously as they do themselves. He stated that staff works very hard, and that when they say they need staff, he agrees with that sometimes, also noting that although overall 2020 was a good year, this last month has been very challenging. Following his presentation, there was a committee question regarding mental health commitments for children which was then addressed and discussed. Chairperson Virginia Haske thanked Mr. Wisnicky for his presentation.

Human Services Director Update – Director Feldt began by reinforcing the involvement Mr. Wisnicky has regarding the program. He noted that Jeff has been here for well over a decade and understands how the law interacts with this department and has been a very strong partner in helping us to address difficult issues. Mr. Feldt expressed his appreciation for what Mr. Wisnicky does for the department. He then went on to discuss the "upheaval" within the department noting resignations, open positions, and maternity leaves. He stated that some of that is life choices, some of it is pay and wages, and so as always he will continue to review that and not just look it from a pay standpoint, but from a work environment standpoint and try to make sure we have a workplace that is welcoming for us to recruit top notch candidates. The only other update Mr. Feldt had was that the Executive Committee met on Monday night and approved the filling of the Human Services Director position. He stated that he will be moving forward with that expeditiously. Mr. Feldt feels the ideal candidate is someone who is predominantly first and foremost from the administrative financial standpoint. He believes that we have made some great strides with top notch unit managers so therefore, he would like to see a Human Services Director who is more focused on the financial and administrative standpoint. He would also like them to understand how a Human Services Department operates in general, and also specifically Kewaunee County's Human Services Department. Director Feldt shared that he believes that we, as a department, have really "turned things around" and that is a testament to the unit managers and staff rising to, and embracing the challenges he had given them, and is very happy with them. He believes that we will find a quality candidate and that the unit managers and staff will continue to embrace those changes and do the "phenomenal work that they do every day". There was a committee question inquiring if the resignations/open positions were county positions or contracted, and whether they were included in the budget. Mr. Feldt confirmed that they are some of both and went on to review the budget regarding those open positions, and his view on contracted vs. County positions.

Other Items as Authorized by Law – None

The next meeting is scheduled for April 15 at 8:00 a.m.

A motion to adjourn was made by Tim Kinnard and seconded by Doak Baker. Motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 8:45 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,