

**Kewaunee County Human Services Committee
County Board Room
810 Lincoln Street
November 12, 2020
Meeting Minutes**

Present for the meeting were Human Services Committee Chairperson Virginia Haske. Committee members, Tim Kinnard, Linda Teske, Doak Baker, Joanne Lazansky, Mary Ann Szydel, Julie Janicsek, and Rose Quinlan virtually. Kewaunee County Administrator Scott Feldt. Department Managers Sue Norton, Corrine Konkol, Melissa Annoye, Brian Johnson, and Program Assistant Lynn Clark.

Absent/Excused – Paul Ravet, Matthew Piesler, and Mark Buchanan.

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

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

A motion to approve the minutes from the October 15, 2020 minutes was made by Linda Teske and seconded by Joanne Lazansky. Motion carried.

No public comments.

Behavioral Health Unit Update - Department Manager Sue Norton began by reviewing her monthly report of program statistics. This was followed by a review of the budget process for the Crisis Program. This program is a County mandated program and provides services to consumers in crisis within Kewaunee County whether they are County residents or not. Based on State statutes, this program is required to provide the least restrictive measure of treatment whenever possible. Budgeting for the Crisis Program is generally based on statistics from one or two previous years as emergency psychiatric hospitalizations can be very costly and are highly unpredictable.

Sue also noted that extended psychiatric hospital stays of thirty or more days, have increased significantly. Generally, these stays are not covered by insurance, or have minimal insurance payouts. Sue believes that this increase is due to the Covid pandemic. This update was followed by a committee question regarding crisis statistics which Sue provided clarification on. Another committee member asked for clarification on what data is used to determine creating the 2021 program budget. There was information shared in reply to committee questions regarding success stories, and also how crisis calls subsequently affect the consumer's families/children.

Family and Community Unit Update – Department Manager Melissa Annoye began by giving a detailed review of the Transportation Program which includes the Driver Escort, Algoma Bus, and Grant Van Programs. Melissa noted that committee member Joanne Lazansky is also a volunteer driver for the Driver Escort Program and asked her to say a few words about her experiences with the program. Joanne shared her thoughts on the program and also shared a personal experience with one of the consumers she had provided rides for. Melissa went on with a review of the handouts she provided with her monthly program numbers and brief individual program updates.

Child Protection and Juvenile Justice Unit Update - Department Manager Corrine Konkol reviewed the monthly program numbers and case contacts for her unit noting an increase in the number, and severity of child protection and youth justice referrals. Her unit is also looking to improve access to mental health services to help in preventing client crisis cases and out of home placements. Corrine noted that she firmly believes they were recently able to prevent the out of home placement of three individuals because of the coordination of services with the CCS and CLTS programs.

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. There was also discussion of what data the committee would like to see

added to Brian's monthly reports. In answer to a committee member question, it was noted that any Human Services Budget overages would be applied directly to the Human Services Budget Fund and applied to the deficit.

Contract Reviews – A list of contracts up for renewal was provided for committee members. There was a motion made to approve the contracts as listed by Tim Kinnard and seconded by Joanne Lazansky. Motion carried. This was followed by a discussion regarding providers/vendors and how they are chosen, and also about amended contracts.

Human Services Director Update – Director Feldt began by reporting that the County Board had approved the 2021 county budget on Tuesday. He noted that there were two changes affecting the Human Services Department. One was that all county employees will receive a 1.65% cost of living adjustment, but that the pay plan step increases had been frozen. The second item was that the Family and Community Services Unit's request to have a contracted employee position made a county staff position was denied and taken out of the budget. Mr. Feldt noted that he will be putting this item back in the budget for next year.

Director Feldt continued his updates reporting that there has been a request received from Manitowoc County Aging and Disabilities to start to combine their board with the Aging Commission Board. He also wanted to inform this committee that we have a consumer being placed institutionally for three months, and discussed how this will affect the Human Services Budget.

The remainder of Mr. Feldt's monthly update was a general discussion regarding the information this committee would like to have provided on a monthly basis. Scott requested committee feedback on the amount of information, how much or little to expand on that information, which reports they would like to see, etc. There were a few committee members who shared their thoughts, with the general consensus being that they are happy with how things are going. A few suggestions were made regarding how the financial data is presented and clarification of revenues. A couple of the committee members who have been on the board long term commented that they are pleased with the amount of information being provided noting that this was previously not the case. It was noted by another committee member that they appreciate the "human aspect" of having the case managers present at these meetings and also having them available to answer questions specific to their departments. There was further discussion on the presentation of the financial reports. Included was a comment from a department manager stating that they were appreciative of the opportunity to be able to be present at these committee meetings to be able to "have a voice for their programs".

Director Feldt concluded his report asking the committee not to hesitate to contact him with any other feedback, and shared his desire to continue to refine the process of keeping this committee informed to enable them to make good decisions.

Other Items as Authorized by Law – None

The next meeting is scheduled for December 10, 2020 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 9:40 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lynn Clark
Program Assistant