



ROCK COUNTY HUMAN SERVICES BOARD MEETING
Tuesday, November 24, 2020 – 4:30 P.M.

Call to Order: Chair Knudson called the virtual meeting to order at 4:31 p.m. on Tuesday, November 24, 2020.

Committee Members Present: Brian Knudson, Supervisor; Sally Jean Weaver-Landers, Citizen Representative; Shirley Williams, Supervisor; J. Russell Podzilni, Supervisor; Kathy Schulz, Supervisor; Pam Bostwick, Supervisor; Angelina Reyes, Citizen Representative; and Ashley Hoffman, Citizen Representative.

Committee Members Absent: Kaelyb Lokrantz, Supervisor.

Staff Present: Katherine Luster, Director; Tera O'Connor, Deputy Director; Greg Winkler, Deputy Director; Sara Mooren, Administrative Services Manager; Verenice Sandoval, Administrative Intern; Rhonda Doherty, Behavioral Health (BH) Clinician; Bette Trimble, Crisis and Outpatient Program Manager; Kendra Schiffman, Data Analyst; Tracy Mayer, Behavioral Health (BH) Clinician; Kami Williams, Acting Child Protective Services (CPS) Program Manager; and Lindsey Scianna, Community Support Program (CSP) Supervisor.

Others Present: Rick Richard, County Board Supervisor.

Approval of Agenda: Supervisor Podzilni moved the agenda to the floor, seconded by Citizen Representative Weaver-Landers. The agenda was unanimously approved. APPROVED.

Approval of Minutes of Human Services Board Meeting of November 11, 2020: Supervisor Bostwick moved the minutes to the floor, seconded by Citizen Representative Hoffman. The minutes were unanimously approved. APPROVED.

Citizen Participation, Communications and Announcements: Supervisor Williams announced that Supervisor Lokrantz was not in attendance as his family was welcoming the birth of a baby girl.

Submission of Committee Requests: Supervisor Schulz requested an update regarding citizens who are still applying for services due to unemployment and who have been able to find employment.

Approval of Contracts and Transfers: Citizen Representative Hoffman moved thirty-seven contracts to the floor, seconded by Supervisor Williams. Ms. Mooren provided information about each contract. She explained that she added the number of clients served by each vendor per request from Supervisor Bostwick. Ms. Mooren responded to questions regarding contract process

and the CCS shared services model regional contracts. The contracts were unanimously approved. APPROVED.

Human Services Department November Employee Impact Award Recognition: Ms. Luster introduced Rhonda Doherty, the HSD November Employee Impact award recipient. Ms. Doherty was nominated by her supervisor and works in the Beloit Community Support Program (CSP) office. Ms. Doherty has been working for Rock County for 29 years. She works with clients with severe and persistent mental illness. She is the Vocational Specialist and maintains a caseload. Ms. Doherty's ability to develop rapport with any consumer in a short amount of time is amazing. She exudes empathy and is highly sought after by consumers. She has helped countless consumers find different employment and volunteer opportunities. She often flexes her schedule to make sure consumers can get to and from work when public transit is not an option. Ms. Doherty co-facilitates the CSP Consumer Council. One part of that role includes helping CSP consumers participate in public speaking events at colleges to educate students about serious and persistent mental illness. COVID has not slowed her down and she continues to provide excellent service to CSP consumers.

Report From the Foster Care Advisory Committee (FCAC): Ms. Mayer advised the FCAC has had twelve meetings. There has been an addition of one more foster parent who has joined the committee, this makes a total of sixteen members, eight each of HSD staff and foster parents. There has been a need identified for more car seat training from both CPS staff and for foster parents. It is anticipated that there will be trainings provided in December and January. Another priority identified is the need for a focus group to create a feedback loop including a Newsletter, and possibly an email address to be set up and/or a website for a centralized way to communicate. Ms. Williams is keeping FCAC updated on the work regarding the Parents Supporting Parents grant and the FCAC is excited to partner with this initiative. The third workgroup identified was the Protocol and Allegations group which is working on scheduling to get started. A fourth workgroup will work on measuring progress and success by identifying data points to track.

Report on Evidence Based Decision Making (EBDM) Mental Health Awareness Flag Efforts: Ms. Luster advised this is an initiative in the category of success in collaborations. EBDM is an effort at the County level across stakeholders in the criminal justice system to improve practice and policy to align with evidence and practice. One element of that has been prioritized and is collaboration with law enforcement and behavioral health providers. A few years ago Janesville PD piloted this and now it is expanded across the county. Within Law enforcement's electronic system Spillman there is now a flag that shows that an individual is known to have mental illness. The reason is then law enforcement can respond with that information in mind when they are called to a scene or working with an individual. That combined with increased Crisis Intervention Training (CIT) for law enforcement has helped to be able to send trained officers to intervene with citizens with mental illness when possible.

The Crisis Strategy Info Sheet (CSIS), is a concise plan with information about who should be contacted if the individual is in a mental health crisis and what things are helpful or not helpful. This is uploaded in the same system so the officer has even more helpful information. Ms. Luster provided and explained the data that has been tracked. As of September 1, 2020 there were 425 individuals with the MH awareness flag. The total number of CSIS has nearly doubled over the last year which is at a total of 72.

Ms. Luster responded to questions regarding what the identifying markers are of the individuals flagged and options to request that someone be flagged. Ms. Luster responded to questions regarding smaller jurisdictions.

Director's Report:

- **Department Operations Update:** Ms. Luster advised that HSD staff are continuing to work remotely whenever possible. We are trying to be as smart and sensitive as we can with the increase in COVID19 cases among staff at the YSC. YSC is a 24 hour operation and they are tackling challenges there. Other work is ongoing around managing this winter between clients needing contact and HSD's need to keep clients and staff safe.
- **Covid Related Community Needs Update:** Ms. Luster advised at many levels there is an emotional toll, the safety factors, the economic stress. HSD is trying to help clients we work with have the resources they need and to be as supportive as we can. We have housing support and we are getting the word out and it has been shared with the Behavioral Health Steering Committee.

Chair Knudson expressed many thanks to all HSD Staff and appreciation for all that they do.

Ms. Williams asked about changing the date of the second meeting in December to be discussed at the next meeting.

Supervisor Podzilni asked about the homeless search that takes place and who to contact to participate in the event.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, **December 9, 2020** at 4:30 p.m. – Virtual Meeting.

Adjournment: Supervisor Williams motioned to adjourn, seconded by Supervisor Bostwick with unanimous approval at 5:20 p.m.

Jodi Parson, Secretary

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