



ROCK COUNTY HUMAN SERVICES BOARD MEETING
Wednesday, March 24, 2021 – 4:30 P.M.

Call to Order: Chair Knudson called the virtual meeting to order at 4:30 p.m. on Wednesday, March 24, 2021.

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

Committee Members Absent: Ashley Hoffman, Citizen Representative.

Staff Present: Katherine Luster, Director; Greg Winkler, Deputy Director; Sara Mooren, Administrative Services Manager; Verence Sandoval, Administrative Intern; Darcy Siefert, Child Protective Services Professional (CPS); Tracy Mayer, Behavioral Health (BH) Clinician; Tricia Stilen, CPS Foster Care Professional; and Maria Delgado, Economic Support (ES) Division Manager.

Others Present: Sue Rusch. Peg Cadd. Rhonda Suda.

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

Approval of Minutes of Human Services Board Meeting of March 10, 2021: Supervisor Bostwick moved the minutes to the floor, seconded by Supervisor Podzilni. The minutes were unanimously approved. APPROVED.

Citizen Participation, Communications and Announcements: Supervisor Schulz announced the opening of the Romans Grocery Store on the corner of Center Avenue and Kellogg Avenue has opened.

Supervisor Lokrantz announced on every Wednesday in April the Farmers to Families will be handing out boxes to families between 9:00 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. at the HeadStart.

Submission of Committee Requests: Supervisor Schulz asked for an update regarding rental assistance as many landlords could not evict families but she is hearing about a lot of judgments taking place.

Approval of Contracts and Transfers: Citizen Representative Weaver-Landers moved four contracts to the floor, seconded by Citizen Representative Reyes. Ms. Mooren explained there were no new contracts and that two were renewals and two were amendments. The contracts were unanimously approved. APPROVED.

Rock County Human Services March Employee Impact Award: Ms. Luster introduced Darcy Siefert, who is a CPS Initial Assessment worker, as the March Employee Impact recipient. Ms. Siefert was nominated by a colleague who explained in her nomination that Ms. Siefert is a very dedicated employee and fully invests herself in the families HSD works with every day. She comes in early and works late; and goes above and beyond whenever she is needed. She has been dealing with a complicated case that would be physically and emotionally taxing on any worker. Ms. Siefert continues to show empathy and compassion for this family, crisis after crisis and handles it with grace and respect. This family had a very negative perception of CPS due to past traumas and she has managed to engage with this family to create an environment that is safe and welcoming for them. She is an example of what all social workers strive to be for our clients. She is an advocate for all those she works with and is a role model to all.

Foster Care Advisory Committee Update: Ms. Mayer introduced Tricia Stilen, CPS Foster Care professional. Ms. Stilen explained there have been some members of the FCAC who have left the group. Some have been foster parents and some who are staff and there have been questions about membership. Therefore, the group created a guide which she shared and explained.

Ms. Mayer explained that the FCAC Data Subgroup created a survey to receive feedback. Kendra Schiffman was very valuable in creating the survey to collect the feedback. Questions asked in the survey were focused on the foster parent plan.

Ms. Stilen advised that there have been listening groups with Alia to address staff inconsistencies with practices. The groups included HSD staff, foster parents, CASA, PSG and officers.

There have been trainings regarding confidentiality to gain consistencies jointly with staff and foster parents. The trainings are two hours long and there have been multiple sessions held already. There will be three more sessions. The FCAC identified a need for car seat training which has been provided and was given by a UW Family Care Seat Tech. The virtual trainings were attended by both staff and foster parents. The HSD has approved to send two foster parents and two HSD staff to a training to become trainers, this will help sustain trainings to continue. Ms. Stilen explained that the FCAC has also set up an email specifically for Foster parents to be used as a communication tool.

Report on HSD CORE Committee Regarding Improved Organizational Culture: Ms. Luster provided an update regarding the progress being made on the CORE effort. She reminded that CORE (Creating an Organization Reflecting Excellence) was created to improve organizational culture in line with the HSD Mission, Vision and Standards to have a structure for welcoming clients and employees. The structure provides employees to share in the power of improving the Department to make it a better place to work and provide better services to our clients. This has evolved throughout some time and started with the TIC (Trauma Informed Care) training. The CORE Steering Committee was created and then multiple subgroups were developed to link back to the Committee. She noted all the subgroups. One of the subgroups was created to provide a mechanism for communication and problem solving for staff. Ms. Luster provided a recording of an interview with two members of the group explaining more of what the group entails. A flier explaining more about the group was shared and will be sent to the HSD Board members after the meeting.

Director's Report:

- **Update: COVID Related Departmental and Community Needs:** Ms. Luster shared the following updates:
 - There will be an agenda item on April 28th consolidating multiple requests regarding housing and homelessness data, and barriers to rental assistance due to judgements.
 - HSD is paying close attention to vaccine information and sharing information with staff so they can know when there is availability.
 - HSD staff are continuing to assess and respond to community needs.
 - There is an increase in the comfort level with in-person contact with clients. Staff should be meeting with clients whenever the needs of the client deem necessary. Staff need to think about what it looks like to meet in-person; such as more cleaning and incorporating ideas of safety to have in-person contact.

- **Update: Dr. Daniel Hale Williams Rock County Resource Center:** Ms. Luster advised there has been significant progress at the DWRC and we are coordinating a tour before the next HSD Board meeting on April 14th. She advised there has been a significant amount of energy working on planning for the move. Ms. Mooren and Ms. Thompson are leading a Move Committee. Staff are being asked to focus on purging items that will not be taken to the new location.

Kate reminded that the Human Services Day at the Capital is on April 13th and if any Board members would like to attend please contact her asap.

Supervisor Bostwick asked about the moratorium regarding Energy in April, and Ms. Luster advised she will ask Ms. Delgado to contact Supervisor Bostwick.

Next Meeting: Wednesday, **April 14, 2021** at 4:30 p.m. – Rock County Job Center.

Adjournment: Supervisor Schulz motioned to adjourn, seconded by Supervisor Bostwick with unanimous approval at 5:18 p.m.

Jodi Parson, Secretary

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