



BOARD MINUTES

WRIGHT COUNTY HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES BOARD

October 11, 2021

Christine Husom,	District 1
Darek Vetsch,	District 2
Mark Daleiden,	District 3
Mary Wetter,	District 4
Michael Kaczmarek,	District 5

DATE APPROVED: November 8, 2021

I. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Wright County Health & Human Services Board met in regular session at 1:30 p.m. with Husom, Vetsch, Daleiden, Wetter and Kaczmarek present. Chair Vetsch presided.

STAFF PRESENT:

Anna Heikkinen, Eligibility Specialist
Christina Peters, Information Systems Analyst
Christine Treichler, Social Services Supervisor (remote)
Derrick Anderson, Social Worker
Diane Erkens, Social Services Supervisor
Greg Kryzer, Assistant County Attorney
Holly Rieland, Eligibility Specialist
James O'Dell, Technology Supervisor
Jami Goodrum Schwartz, Director
Jessica Nelson, Social Services Supervisor
Jill Pooler, Social Services Manager
Kimberly Johnson, Financial Services Manager (remote)
Lee Kelly, County Administrator (remote)
Lisa Conlan, Eligibility Specialist
Mason Coaty, Information Systems Specialist
Michelle Czech, Financial Services Supervisor
Michelle Miller, Social Services Manager
Noami Blomberg, Administrative Specialist
Robin Dorf, Case Aide
Sarah Grosshuesch, Public Health Director
Tammi Martens, Financial Services Manager
Tarynn Anderson, Social Services Supervisor

II. MINUTES APPROVAL

ACTION: Wetter moved, Daleiden second, to approve the 2021-09-13 minutes. Motion carried.

III. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF AGENDA

ACTION: Daleiden moved, Husom second, to approve the agenda. Motion carried.

IV. CONSENT AGENDA

ACTION: Kaczmarek requested to pull *Item A, 1* for discussion and moved, Husom second, to approve the remaining item. Motion carried.

- A. APPROVE PUBLIC HEALTH TASK FORCE MEMBERSHIP REAPPOINTMENT
 - 1. Jason Franzen – District 5, Reappointment Date 2021-12-14 (For 4th Term)
- B. APPROVE REQUEST TO CANCEL 2021-10-25 HHS BOARD MEETING

Discussion of Item A, 1:

Kaczmarek moved to decline Franzen's two-year term reappointment to the Public Health Task Force for failure to meet attendance expectations, citing that 41 percent attendance from 2019-2021 is not acceptable. Wetter seconded Kaczmarek's motion to decline.

Goodrum Schwartz pointed out that the three advisory committees just started to implement the newly agreed arrangement to remove members with three consecutive unexcused absences in July, adding that while she regrets denying membership from willing parties, she understands it is the Board's prerogative to appoint members as it sees fit. Grosshuesch, at a later statement, added that the *Excused* and *Unexcused* policy has not been closely tracked and enforced by the three committees until after the Board's request at its July 12 meeting.

Husom agreed that members are aware of meeting schedules and are expected to be present in meetings at least 50 percent of the time, and occasionally, if unable to attend, to notify the committee secretary of the request for excused absence. Husom stressed the need for meeting a quorum to get actionable items passed. Records of unexcused absences, Vetsch corroborated at a later statement, signify lack of communication.

Vetsch asked that new members be given an orientation on expectations upon joining, adding that it is much more agreeable for members who are unable to meet expectations to resign rather than going through the motion of removal.

Daleiden acknowledged that Kaczmarek has the prerogative to appoint as he sees fit in his district but since Franzen's term is still active until end of December, Daleiden asked Kaczmarek if he [Kaczmarek] wants to reach out to Franzen, giving the Board more time to discuss the reappointment further. Kaczmarek declined, seeing no reason to prolong the issue as no communication was received from Franzen, calling the question.

ACTION: Vetsch called for votes on Kaczmarek's motion, Wetter second, to decline Franzen's fourth term reappointment to the Public Health Task Force. Motion carried 3-1, with 1 abstention:

Kaczmarek – Yes

Wetter – Yes

Vetsch - Yes

Husom – No

Daleiden - Abstained

V. NEW HIRE

- A. Holly Rieland, Eligibility Specialist, Adult, Family Financial Services & LTC Team, August 30, 2021
- B. Derrick Johnson, Social Worker, Mental & Chemical Health Team, September 20, 2021
- C. Aubrey Del Percio-Martinez, Social Worker, Assessment Team, September 20, 2021
- D. Anna Heikkinen, Eligibility Specialist, Health Care Team, October 11, 2021
- E. Lisa Conlan, Eligibility Specialist, Health Care Team, October 11, 2021
- F. Christina Peters, Information Systems Specialist, October 11, 2021

VI. EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH – NOVEMBER

Robin Dorf is the November Employee of the Month.

VII. REGULAR AGENDA

A. Social Services/Public Health/Financial Services

- 1. INTRODUCTION: TARYNN ANDERSON, NEW SOCIAL SERVICES SUPERVISOR (MICHELLE MILLER)

Tarynn Anderson is the new supervisor in Youth Services. Anderson started in Wright County as a social work intern before being hired in 2014 in Child Protection, and subsequently, with Adult and Children's Mental Health. Anderson held a Social Worker III/Mental Health Professional Therapist position in Licensing and Therapeutic Services before accepting her supervisory role.

2. UPDATE: OPIOID SETTLEMENT STATUS
(SARAH GROSSHUESCH)

The Governor's Council is currently in discussion to determine allocation of settlement funds from the opioid grant legislation, HF400, passed in 2019. The tobacco industry and opioid manufacturers agreed to settle \$26B nationwide, with a pre-requisite for litigants to sign on the Global Peace Agreement as a waiver to any future litigation. While the State Attorney General has signed on the settlement, no city or county litigants have joined yet – the number of counties opting in determines the settlement amount the State receives.

The 20-member Council will determine disbursement plans, proposals and grant-making processes by end of November. Legislative changes are expected by the time local governments sign on the agreement, and potentially additional seats to the Council for better representation. Wright County has until January 2022 to decide if opting in on the settlement agreement.

3. INFORMATION: 2021-09-22 HHS ADVISORY COMMITTEE (HHSAC) MINUTES
(JAMI GOODRUM SCHWARTZ)

HHSAC welcomed two new members and removed three members. HHS continues to advertise online for new applicants.

B. Administration

1. DIRECTOR'S COMMENTS

ACTION: Husom moved, Daleiden second, to adopt Governor Walz's Proclamation of October 13 as County and Tribal Financial Worker and Case Aide Day. Motion carried.

As of July 2021, Children's Services saw a 44 percent and 45 percent budget reduction in supervised visitation and drug testing respectively, compared to this time of the year in 2020. Drug testing, up until August this year, cost just \$38K, 56 percent below August 2020's \$67K, attributing the success to Navigating Hope's approach to decrease drug testing and focus more on harm reduction by working and engaging with families while keeping children safe even when parents use substances.

Update on Families First from the Minnesota Association of County Social Service Administrators (MACSSA) conference on October 4-6.

Allina Health granted HHS \$1,500 to assist homeless individuals with practical items.

The Department of Human Services (DHS) accepted Wright County's corrective action plan from its audit findings for yearend December 31, 2020.

Meeting adjourned at 2:32 p.m.

Submitted by Naomi Blomberg, Administrative Specialist