



BOARD MINUTES

WRIGHT COUNTY HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES BOARD

October 10, 2022

DATE APPROVED: November 14, 2022

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

I. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

STAFF PRESENT:

Chastity Jacobson, Case Aide
Christine Treichler, Social Services Supervisor
Jami Goodrum, Director
Jana Hogenson, Social Worker
Jessica Nelson, Social Services Supervisor
Jill Pooler, Social Services Manager
Joshuah Kwolik, ECM Business Process Analyst
Karen Popken, Child Support Supervisor
Kelsey Collier, Public Health Supervisor
Kimberly Johnson, Financial Services Manager
LeeAnn Thimell, Social Services Supervisor
Michelle Czech, Financial Services Supervisor
Michelle Miller, Social Services Manager
Noami Blomberg, Administrative Specialist
Patty Malecek, Case Aide
Sarah Grosshuesch, Public Health Director
Sherry Muehlbauer, Child Support Hearing Officer
Stephanie Wiley, Financial Services Supervisor
Ther Yang, Social Worker
Trisaunia Okerman, Eligibility Specialist

II. MINUTES APPROVAL

ACTION: Husom moved, Derrick second, to approve the 2022-09-12 minutes. Motion carried

III. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

IV. CONSENT AGENDA

A. APPROVE TEAM RETREAT

1. 2022-10-11 Child Support Team, Ney Park
2. 2022-10-14 Licensing & Therapeutic Services Team, Wright County Heritage Center

B. ACCEPT PUBLIC HEALTH TASK FORCE APPLICATION

1. Cheryl VonBerge – District 5

C. APPROVE HHS ADVISORY COMMITTEE REAPPOINTMENT

1. Vickie Nibbe – District 5 (5th Term Ends 2022-12-10)
2. Jeremy Tyler – District 1 (5th Term ends 2022-12-10)

D. APPROVE REQUEST TO CANCEL 2022-10-24 HHS BOARD MEETING

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

V. **REGULAR AGENDA**

A. **Staffing Announcement**

1. New Hire
 - i. Trisaunia Okerman, Eligibility Specialist, Family & Adult Benefits Team – 2022-08-15
 - ii. Katelynn Prestidge, Office Technician II, Family & Adult Benefits Team – 2022-09-19
 - iii. Ther Yang, Social Worker, Waiver & Community Supports Team – 2022-10-03
2. Employee of the Month –November
Jana Hogenson is November Employee of the Month.

B. **Social Services/Public Health/Financial Services**

1. ACCEPT RESOLUTION HHS 22-06 - SEPTEMBER DONATION

ACTION: Vetsch moved, Husom second, to approve Resolution HHS 22-06 via roll call vote. Motion carried 3-0.

2. ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH UPDATE
(SARAH GROSSHUESCH)

HHS posted the newly approved Health Promotion Coordinator position and closes Friday. This position was approved by Board to take on certain environmental health services that were previously carried out by Planning and Zoning as well as enforce the public health nuisance ordinance.

Public Health is undergoing a cost-and-benefit analysis on labs used for water testing, comparing a county-maintained lab versus contracting for water testing. While there are publicly-run as well as private labs across the state, there are no certified labs available in Wright County. Public Health will present to the Board the outcome of the study on whether to certify or to contract services. The goal is to keep it in-house, while complying with State requirements. The current fees for water testing through Planning & Zoning is \$25 while certified labs cost approximately \$80. The upcoming Fee Schedule will reflect the \$25 Water Testing Fee under HHS with a waiver of the fee for its licensed foster care homes.

Question from Vetsch on the cost-benefit analysis and how water testing affects the food industry's environmental services if Wright County were a delegated authority. Grosshuesch stated that a certified lab may need a different in-depth study and that input from business owners still needs to be considered before HHS will propose to the Board for Wright County to be a delegated authority on environmental health. Public Health staff is working on a survey for local food/restaurant establishments.

3. HEALTHY HOMES PROGRAM OVERVIEW
(PATTY MALECEK, KELSEY COLLIER, CHASTITY JACOBSON)

Material handout and overview of the [Healthy Homes Program](#). While HHS does not have a budget for this program, the Healthy Homes Program received a small grant this year, which was allocated for cleaning services and brochures for community awareness. The presenters described a sanitary issue at a home in Howard Lake, which was a potential environmental health concern. The resulting collaboration between the city and the county has resulted in improved local ordinances to protect the public. Public Health welcomes referrals and partnership with cities and townships for proactive measures to ensure a healthy environment.

4. INFORMATION: [2022-09-28 HHS ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES](#)
(KIMBELRY JOHNSON)

Johnson stated that LOVE Inc. expressed funding concerns and referred the agency to the American Rescue Plan (ARP) Committee.

C. Administration

1. DIRECTOR'S COMMENTS

Approximately 100 clients are on a waiting list which results in up to an eight-week delay in processing their MnCHOICES Assessment. HHS continues to strategize ways to reduce the wait-time – moving a part-time MnCHOICES Assessment position to full time effective this month, authorizing overtime and compensatory staff time, leveraging Case Aide staff time in Financial Services to assist in reducing barriers to gaining Medical Assistance (MA) status. HHS has an ongoing discussion with Administration on budget-neutral staffing options. Vetsch questioned whether there was an opportunity to streamline the process to reduce the backlog. He suggested that when MA is denied due to missing paperwork and when paperwork is received, whether HHS could use the same initial assessment, reducing the need for full second assessment.

Congratulations to Sherry Muehlbauer for winning the Minnesota Family Support & Recovery Council (MFSRC) Outstanding Individual Achievement Award on October 4, 2022. Muehlbauer was nominated by Child Support Officer Georgina Turner and Assistant County Attorney Karen Wolff.

October 12 is Minnesota County and Tribal Financial Worker and Case Aide Day.

A reminder from Commissioner Wetter that October is Breast Cancer Awareness month.

Meeting adjourned at 2:33 p.m.

Submitted by Naomi Blomberg, Administrative Specialist