



BOARD MINUTES

WRIGHT COUNTY HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES BOARD

December 12, 2022

DATE APPROVED: January 9, 2023

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, Daleiden, Wetter and Kaczmarek present.

STAFF PRESENT:

Alison Dudek, Public Health Nurse
Benjamin Grimm, Public Health Nurse
Christine Treichler, Social Services Supervisor
Clay Wilfahrt, Assistant County Administrator
Eleanor Vanasse, Public Health Nurse
Gavin Woodland, Health Promotion Coordinator
Jami Goodrum, Director
Jill Pooler, Social Services Manager
Jon Young, Health Promotion Coordinator
Joshuah Kwolik, Business Process Analyst
Kathryn Nevala, Office Technician I
Kelsey Collier, Public Health Supervisor
Kimberly Johnson, Financial Services Manager
Kristie Rathmanner, Public Health Nurse
Kristine Hamm, Eligibility Specialist
Lisa Spencer, Office Manager
Maria Magyar, Eligibility Specialist
Michelle Miller, Social Services Manager
Noami Blomberg, Administrative Specialist
Pamela Giordano, Eligibility Specialist
Rebecca Waddell, Eligibility Specialist
Richelle Kramer, Social Services Supervisor
Sarah Dearhamer, Lead Eligibility Specialist
Sarah Gregerson, Eligibility Specialist
Sarah Grosshuesch, Public Health Director
Stephanie Wiley, Financial Services Supervisor
Tarynn Anderson, Social Services Supervisor
Terri Aarvig, Case Aide

II. MINUTES APPROVAL

ACTION: Wetter moved, Husom second, to approve the 2022-11-14 minutes. Motion carried

III. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

IV. CONSENT AGENDA

- A. ACCEPT \$884,020K FAMILY PLANNING SPECIAL PROJECTS (FPSP) 5-YEAR GRANT RENEWAL FOR PERIOD 2023-01-01 TO 2027-12-31
- B. APPROVE CONTRACT RENEWAL FOR GUARDIAN/CONSERVATOR SERVICES THROUGH COURT ADMINISTRATION FOR PERIOD 2023-01-01 TO 2024-12-31:
 - 1. LUTHERAN SOCIAL SERVICE OF MN
 - 2. NEW CHALLENGES INC. DBA DAKOTA CONSERVATORS
- C. APPROVE AMENDMENT TO NICHOLE A. MEYER LLC GUARDIAN/CONSERVATOR SERVICES THROUGH COURT ADMINISTRATION TO EXTEND CONTRACT FROM 2022-12-31 TO 2023-03-31, MAXIMUM PAYMENT INCREASED FROM \$79,200 TO \$89,100
- D. APPROVE PUBLIC HEALTH TASK FORCE 2-YEAR TERM REAPPOINTMENT
 - 1. Mona Volden – District 1 (1st Term Ends 2023-01-11)
 - 2. Ann Bajari – District 5 (1st Term Ends 2023-02-08)
 - 3. Dave Nelson – District 2 ((7th Term Ends 2023-02-02)
- E. APPROVE REQUEST TO CANCEL 2022-12-27 HHS BOARD MEETING

ACTION: On Husom's motion and Vetch's second, to approve the consent agenda, Kaczmarek requested consensus to remove Item A (FPSP Grant) for a separate vote, and approve the remaining items. Daleiden moved, Husom second, to approve the consent agenda, with Item A removed. Motion carried 5-0.

ACTION: Daleiden moved, Wetter second, to approve Item A - \$884,020 Family Planning Special Projects Grant 5-Year Renewal for Period 2023-01-0 to 2027-12-31. Motion passed, 4-1, with Kaczmarek opposing for religious reasons regarding the provision of contraceptive services in the grant.

V. REGULAR AGENDA

A. Staffing Announcement

- 1. NEW HIRE
 - i. Maria Magyar, Eligibility Specialist, METS Team, 2022-10-17
 - ii. Kathryn Nevala, Office Technician I, Office Support Team, 2022-12-01
 - iii. Gavin Woodland, Health Promotion Coordinator, Collaborative Health Services Team, 2022-12-05
- 2. EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH – JANUARY
Rebecca Waddell is January Employee of the Month.

B. Social Services/Public Health/Financial Service

- 1. ANNUAL APPROVAL OF [HHS POLICIES & PROCEDURES](#) (JAMI GOODRUM)
Goodrum presented the HHS Policies and Procedures, including the recently amended County Burial and Cremation Policy, for approval.
ACTION: Daleiden moved, Husom second, to approve the HHS Policies and Procedures. Motion carried.
- 2. PRESENTATION: [INTEGRATED SERVICES](#)

(KIM JOHNSON, SARAH DEARHAMER)

Dearhamer gave an overview and the goals of Integrated Services (IS), an initiative that HHS implemented in 2021. The IS Team is composed of existing HHS staff from different areas, taking a unified role to identify client needs, providing comprehensive and “one-stop-shop” service. The top three programs identified with significant needs are housing, transportation and domestic violence.

3. UPDATE: [IMMUNIZATION](#)

(KRISTIE RATHMANNER, ALISON DUDEK)

Wright County Public Health (WCPH) in 2022 administered 18,221 total doses of COVID19 vaccine and 512 Influenza vaccine. WCPH also sent three rounds of letters to parents on upcoming or overdue recommended immunizations for children.

4. REPORT-BACK: 2022 OCTOBER 24-28 [HEALTH EQUITY AWAKENED CONFERENCE](#), OAKLAND, CA

(BENJAMIN GRIMM, ELEANOR VANASSE)

Reported program takeaways from the Health Equity Awakened Conference, focusing on building relationships and buy-in with community partners and families, using a health equity focus.

C. Administration

1. DIRECTOR’S COMMENTS

Currently, more than 2K patients [60 percent were children] visited the dental clinic in Buffalo, mostly from Wright County, but also with significant draw from surrounding areas. Wetter shared that the new clinic generated favorable feedback at the Association of Minnesota Counties (AMC) conference; northern counties and Ottertail are looking at sites for potential future community dental clinics in their areas.

HHS Business Manager Christine Partlow resigned effective January 11, 2020. Partlow will be joining Stearns County.

Pooler apprised the Board on the MnCHOICES program and its need for additional staff to remedy ongoing backlog in assessments. Currently, 100 (or more) people are waiting nine to ten weeks for services, at an average of 60 new requests per month. This outpaces staff capacity, resulting in non-satisfactory service especially to the elderly and disabled, and non-compliance on statutorily required number of days to complete assessments. Currently, seven staff are doing ten assessments per month – the maximum recommendation by State Statute – projecting to reduce the waiting list at this rate by ten each month, anticipating catching up in May 2024; this is outside the consideration of caseload growth and staffing volatility.

HHS is requesting two new social worker positions for MnCHOICES assessments in 2023 to meet higher assessment needs, anticipating reducing the waiting list by 30 monthly, catching up by June 2023. The two assessors are then targeted to switch to case management in 2023 to meet higher reassessment needs. Completing the waiting list will add approximately 435 new reassessments for 2024.

The total levy increase for the two new staff is \$164K. This was discussed and approved for consideration at today’s Personnel Committee, which will be brought to the December 20, 2022 County Board for decision. Vetsch recommended to bring the discussion to today’s HHS Board to

apprise the other Board members of the urgency and significance of the issue, giving the Board the chance to consider it ahead of the upcoming Board meeting. Vetsch advocated to move this request forward so that HHS can begin the hiring process.

Goodrum bid farewell to Commissioners Husom, Daleiden and Wetter and thanked them for their support especially on significant projects such as the new building, the dental clinic, HHS remote work initiative and many others. Husom looked back on her ten years of service, reflecting on different priorities that commissioners pursue among many projects. Daleiden said, "Thank you, HHS, for a good job well done."

Meeting adjourned 2:31 p.m.

Submitted by Naomi Blomberg, Administrative Specialist