

Buffalo County Minutes

Committee/Board: Health and Human Services and Veterans Service Committee

Date of Meeting: Tuesday, February 1, 2022

Electronic and Hard Copy Filing Date:

Location: Department of Health and Human Services
Buffalo County Courthouse
2nd Floor Conference Room
407 S 2nd Street, Alma, Wisconsin

1. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL OF MEMBERS

A roll call was taken. Member's present were Kim Beseler, Larry Grisen, Liz Hoffmaster, Carol McDonough, Mary Anne McMillan-Urell, Richard Mueller, Steve Nelson, and Brad Schmidt knecht. Wendy Kleinschmidt attended via ZOOM.

OTHERS PRESENT FOR ALL OR PART OF THE MEETING

Dave Rynders, Mary Hildebrand, Felicia Decker, Stephen LaValla, Danielle Schalinske, Jen Severson, Tom Bilski, Max Weiss, and Dr. Rick Stoughton. Jamie Weaver, Darby DeGross, and Cammi Catt-DeWyre attended via ZOOM.

2. PUBLIC COMMENT REGARDING ANY MATTERS THAT WILL BE TAKEN UP BY THE COMMITTEE AT THIS MEETING.

None

3. REVIEW/DISCUSSION/ACTION – MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

A motion was made by Mr. Grisen and seconded by Ms. McDonough to approve the January 4, 2022, minutes as presented. Motion approved.

4. REVIEW/DISCUSSION/ACTION – VETERANS SERVICES MONTHLY REPORT

Ms. Decker participated in training with the Buffalo County Law Enforcement to explain the role of the CVSO and the resources available for Veterans. The 2022 project goals were presented by Ms. Decker to offer to the Sheriff's department. The American Legion mid-winter conference outreach involved participation of CVSO's from several counties. A representative from the VA worked with and shared information with the Veterans and dependents who attended the outreach. The VFW mid-winter conference will be held February 4-6, 2022. Ms. Decker reported on the Veteran Memorial Project meeting that was held on January 11th, 2022. A contractor was selected by the committee for the project. Ms. Decker requested approval of a \$2000 donation. The January stats were shared.

5. VETERANS SERVICES MONTHLY VOUCHERS

No vouchers this month.

6. REVIEW/DISCUSSION/ACTION – LEAD PREVENTION AND MITIGATION INITIATIVE

Ms. Darby DeGross, Public Health Educator gave a presentation on lead prevention and mitigation initiative. Ms. DeGross shared a brief explanation of lead poisoning and the negative health effects it has on children:

- Damage to the brain and nervous system
- Slows childhood growth and development

- Learning and behavior problems
- Hearing and speech problems

WI DHS provided criteria to determine whether a child has an increased risk for lead poisoning:

- Does a child live in or visit a house built before 1950?
- Does a child live in or visit a house/building built before 1978 with recent or ongoing renovations?
- Does the child have a sibling or playmate with lead poisoning?
- Is the child enrolled in Medicaid or WIC?

Ms. DeGross provided a graph showing Buffalo County having a greater percentage of homes that meet these criteria of potential risk compared to Wisconsin as a whole, with over 36% of homes built before 1950 in Buffalo County and 25% built before 1950 in Wisconsin.

A Lead Project (ARPA) timeline meeting is scheduled for February 25, 2022.

7. REVIEW/DISCUSSION/ACTION – PROPOSED REVISION OF MISSION STATEMENT

Mr. Rynders presented a proposed revision to the DHHS mission statement, adding the following sentence: *The mission will be achieved using scientific evidence and clinical expertise.* After extensive discussion, a suggestion was made by Mr. Grisen to add the word *proven* to the proposed revision before *scientific evidence and clinical expertise.* A motion was made by Mr. Mueller and seconded by Ms. Hoffmaster to approve the revised mission statement to include the following sentence: *The mission will be achieved using proven scientific evidence and clinical expertise.* A roll call vote was taken. 4 No and 5 Yes: Carol McDonough-No, Kim Beseler-No, Mary Anne McMillan-Urell-No, Steve Nelson-No, Larry Grisen-Yes, Brad Schmidt-knecht-Yes, Richard Mueller-Yes, Liz Hoffmaster-Yes, and Wendy Kleinschmidt-Yes. Motion approved.

Mr. Grisen made a motion to approve the amended mission statement adding the word *proven* to the revised mission statement and Mr. Schmidt-knecht seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken. 4 No and 5 Yes: Carol McDonough-No, Kim Beseler-No, Mary Anne McMillan-Urell-No, Steve Nelson-No, Larry Grisen-Yes, Brad Schmidt-knecht-Yes, Richard Mueller-Yes, Liz Hoffmaster-Yes, and Wendy Kleinschmidt-Yes. Motion approved. The approved amended mission statement will read as follows:

The mission of the Buffalo County Department of Health & Human Services is to empower individuals, families, and communities to live well by preventing disease, protecting health, and assuring safety while encouraging independence. The mission will be achieved using proven scientific evidence and clinical expertise.

8. REVIEW/DISCUSSION/ACTION – RATE INCREASE FOR 2022 AND 2023 SENIOR MEALS USING ARPA GRANT

Ms. Cammi DeWyre, Manager of ADRC, shared information on a temporary rate increase using ARPA funds for the Senior congregate meal sites and HDM in Buffalo and Pepin counties. Pepin County has approved the rate increase of an additional \$.35/meal from January 2022 through September 30, 2022. Ms. Jennifer Severson, Lead Account Clerk presented a breakdown of the additional cost associated with the \$.25/meal vs the \$.35/meal for HDM and congregate meals. After discussion, Mr. Schmidt-knecht made a motion and Mr. Nelson seconded it to approve a rate increase of \$.35/meal for the meal sites providing HDM and congregate meals from January 1, 2022, through September 30, 2022. A roll call vote was taken. Motion approved.

9. REVIEW/DISCUSSION/ACTION – GRANT TO PAY ROOM AND BOARD COSTS FOR MEDICAID MEMBERS WITH AN OPIOD USE DISORDER IN INPATIENT SUBSTANCE ABUSE TREATMENT

Mr. Rynders provided information on a grant request to serve 4 individuals in 2022 with opioid use disorders to pay room and board costs for in-patient substance abuse treatment. Buffalo County’s grant request of \$11,536 was determined by considering the 4 individuals x 28 days x \$103 per day.

10. REVIEW/DISCUSSION/ACTION – DHHS FINANCIAL UPDATE

Mr. Rynders presented the DHHS and Agent of the State financial update for review through December 2021. Mr. Rynders highlighted the office expense activity and will clarify how that impacts the budget. Mr. Rynders will follow up with a breakdown of office expenses at the March meeting.

11. REVIEW/DISCUSSION/ACTION – DHHS MONTHLY VOUCHERS

The monthly vouchers were reviewed. A motion was made by Mr. Mueller and seconded by Ms. Beseler to approve the vouchers as presented. A roll call vote was taken. Motion approved.

12. REVIEW/DISCUSSION/ACTION – MONTHLY UNIT REPORTS

Monthly unit reports were reviewed. Mr. LaValla, Aging Manager shared a potential system breakdown within the adult protection system. When some people are hospitalized to be treated for acute medical issues, because of dementia related behavior challenges and declining nursing home and group home availability, sometimes an appropriate placement cannot be found. When hospitalization is determined no longer to be medically necessary, but the person remains at the hospital because of a lack of placement options, the cost of the stay switches to the county. Ryan inquired how long before the county has to assume placement costs. Mr. LaValla wasn’t able to pinpoint the time; it’s up to the medical facility.

13. REVIEW/DISCUSSION/ACTION – 2022 VETERANS/DHHS MEETING SCHEDULE

Mr. Rynders communicated the change in date that Pepin County is proposing of Monday, October 17, 2022, at 6:00 PM for the joint Buffalo/Pepin Veterans/DHHS meeting at the Pepin County Government Center in Durand.

14. REVIEW/DISCUSSION/ACTION – WESTERN DAIRYLAND COMMUNITY ACTION

Mr. Nelson reported that Headstart has children that would like to enroll in the program, but they do not have the manpower to handle more kids; hopefully this will be resolved in 90 days.

15. REVIEW/DISCUSSION/ACTION – DHHS DIRECTOR

Mr. Rynders shared that Buffalo County DHHS received a letter from the Trempealeau County Healthcare Center who is a CCS provider with full Medicaid funding for behavioral health or substance abuse issues except for room and board is ending March 1, 2022, the CCS due to lack of staff. Mr. Rynders reported this will become a \$90K/year loss of revenue for Buffalo County and if the placement there continues, the majority of the expenses will become the responsibility of Buffalo County. More details will be provided at the March committee meeting.

16. REVIEW/DISCUSSION/ACTION – REVIEW OF CONTACT TRACING, JOB DESCRIPTION AND POLICY

Ms. McMillan-Urell presented questions that came up after a press release was sent out on January 7, 2022, by Ms. Josie Knauber, Health Officer & Public Health Supervisor that the Buffalo County Department of Health and Human Services (BCDHHS) has reached its capacity to contact all COVID-19 cases received.

- Why can’t Buffalo County continue to do contact tracing?
- Why can’t the Covid team handle the increased cases?
- Who is monitoring the work the contract tracers are doing?

- How many calls are being done a day?

Mr. Rynders shared a hand-out of the duties of the COVID team and addressed the question of the phone records that appear to be off including weekends worked by the COVID team and no phone records indicating calls were made during that time. Mr. Rynders explained that phone calls are not the only piece of each COVID case. Mr. Rynders invited committee members into the DHHS office to investigate the phone records and suggested a report be run with a breakdown of the stats of what the COVID team is doing.

After a lengthy discussion, Ms. McMillan-Urell indicated there is a misunderstanding on what the COVID team's priorities are.

Emily King, attending via ZOOM, from the Mondovi School District stated DHHS is only allowed to give recommendations and guidance.

17. REVIEW/DISCUSSION/ACTION – Closed Session to Review Performance Data

Roll Call Vote *The Committee may enter into closed session pursuant to WI State Statutes 19.85 (c) Considering employment, promotion, compensation, or performance evaluation data of any public employee over which the governmental body has jurisdiction or exercises responsibility.*

The Committee did not go into closed session.

18. REVIEW/DISCUSSION/ACTION – The Committee May Return to Open Session

The Committee did not go into closed session.

19. REVIEW/DISCUSSION/ACTION – CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

None

20. REVIEW/DISCUSSION/ACTION – NEXT MEETING DATE AND TIME

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, March 1, 2022, at 6:00 PM.

21. PUBLIC COMMENT NOT RELATED TO AGENDA ITEMS

None

22. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 8:49 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Hildebrand