

Buffalo County Minutes

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

Date of Meeting: Thursday, May 4, 2023

Location: 3rd Floor County Board Room
Department of Health and Human Services
Buffalo County Courthouse
407 S 2nd Street, Alma, Wisconsin

1. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL OF MEMBERS

Members present were Kim Beseler, Wendy Kleinschmidt, Chris Lindstrom, Carol McDonough, Mary Anne McMillan-Urell, Brian Michaels, and Nathan Nelson; Liz Hoffmaster and Richard Mueller were excused absences.

OTHERS PRESENT FOR ALL OR PART OF THE MEETING

Dave Rynders, Jamie Weaver, Carri Renchin, Felicia Decker, Mary Hildebrand

2. PUBLIC COMMENT REGARDING 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. Michaels and seconded by Ms. Beseler to approve the April 4, 2023, minutes as presented. Motion approved.

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

Ms. Decker presented the GDX report, which reports on benefits paid out nationwide, statewide, and countywide.

An update was given on the Veterans Memorial brick project noting that funds are available, and the project will be moving forward mid-June. The April expenses were reviewed. Ms. Decker shared Veterans Services will be receiving a \$1500 donation from the American Legion Riders at the Eleva Broiler Festival in June. Ms. Decker presented an itemized proposal on how the Veterans supplemental grant funds will be used and asked for input and/or approval from the committee on the proposal. A motion was made by Ms. Beseler and seconded by Ms. McDonough to accept the itemized proposal as presented on how the Outreach grant will be used. Motion approved. The April monthly stats were presented.

A motion was made by Ms. Beseler and seconded by Ms. McDonough to accept the \$1500 donation from the American Legion Riders. Motion approved.

5. REVIEW/DISCUSSION/ACTION - VETERANS SERVICES MONTHLY VOUCHERS

The March vouchers were reviewed. A motion was made by Ms. Beseler and seconded by Mr. Michaels to approve the April 2023 vouchers as presented. Motion approved. Ms. Decker reported she will be attending an online course for \$350 for National accreditation in the CVSO Association.

6. REVIEW/DISCUSSION/ACTION – REFILL ADMINISTRATIVE BENEFIT SPECIALIST VACANCY

Ms. Decker reported that Christine Lorenz, Administrative Benefit Specialist resigned at the beginning of April. A request was made to approve refilling the Administrative Benefit Specialist. Ms. Decker inquired about hiring her current volunteer (4 hours/week) to do clerical work using the Outreach funds.

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Ms. McMillan-Urell noted since funds are available, it would be OK to pay the volunteer to do the clerical work.

A motion was made by Ms. McDonough and seconded by Ms. Kleinschmidt to approve refilling the Administrative Benefit Specialist. Motion approved.

7. REVIEW/DISCUSSION/ACTION – PUBLIC HEALTH REPORT

Ms. Weaver shared the monthly numbers. The Public Health activities and updates included an update on the well sampling project:

- 220 Participants
- 14 Declined
- 1 FT intern and 1 PT intern to assist starting June 5, 2023.

8. REVIEW/DISCUSSION/ACTION - ARPA RECOVERY FUND UPDATE

Ms. Weaver presented information on the hydroponics gardening system which teaches students how to grow and harvest vegetables. Ms. Ganschow, Community Health Educator, reached out to the area schools about their interest in getting a hydroponics system. A report was shared on the number of systems each school requested with a total cost for the systems of \$11,900.50. A motion was made by Mr. Nelson and seconded by Ms. McDonough to approve the purchase of the hydroponics requests of \$11,900.50 for the schools. Motion approved.

Ms. Weaver met with Garrett Martin, Mondovi City Administrator, to discuss Western Dairyland's idea to purchase a home in Mondovi for use as a homeless shelter. Mr. Martin shared that the city of Mondovi would be interested in using their ARPA funds to match what the County contributes to Western Dairyland for the homeless shelter. Ms. Weaver reported the County has not yet decided on the amount. Ms. Weaver gave an update on the use of ARPA recovery funds to help a local park and discovered other cities are looking for assistance for their parks as well. Ms. Weaver suggested reaching out to all city parks in the county. The estimated cost of sponsoring a Community Resource Fair would be in the hundreds.

9. REVIEW/DISCUSSION/ACTION – NARCAN POLICY REVISION

Ms. Weaver presented the revised NARCAN policy. People receiving the free NARCAN from the Buffalo County Public Health Department must attend a training hosted by a trained staff member within the Public Health department on how to identify an opioid overdose and how to use NARCAN to reverse the overdose. A motion was made by Mr. Lindstrom and seconded by Mr. Michaels to accept the revisions to the NARCAN policy. Motion approved.

10. REVIEW/DISCUSSION/ACTION – DHHS 2023 RESTRUCTURING POSSIBILITIES

Mr. Rynders reported active recruitment has been taking place to fill the (Adult Protection Service) APS/Transportation Manager, noting the position is still open. Mr. Rynders explained last year there were 125 referrals for APS between Buffalo and Pepin counties with two staff positions, Ms. Chelsey Herold, Social Worker, and the vacant manager position. Mr. Rynders explained Ms. Herold will start a 3- month leave in August. The recommendation by Mr. Rynders is to increase the options for filling the vacancy by also looking to fill it with a line staff case manager/social worker position before Ms. Herold goes on leave. Ms. Carri Renchin, Social Services Manager, is temporarily supervising APS. Mr. Rynders proposed filling the position with either a line staff/case manager/social worker or Supervisor and then possibly in the Fall if there are changes in the manager structure from the Carlson Dettman study, we will offer the Supervisor position internally. A motion was made by Ms. Beseler and seconded by Mr. Michaels to approve filling the position with a case manager/social worker position on the condition that if one of the two positions is filled, the other will be taken off the table. Motion approved.

Mr. Rynders explained the Department of Transportation requires DHHS to have a Transportation Supervisor in their job description in order to receive the \$80K grant but does not require worker effort. Mr. Rynders is currently in that role.

11. REVIEW/DISCUSSION/ACTION – 2022 UNPAID EXPENSE

Mr. Rynders reported an unpaid bill of \$650 for a dumpster, explaining that last October, the (ADRC) Aging & Disability Resource Center I & A, Ms. Susan Henry approved payment of a dumpster from the Family Caregiver fund to prevent a client from losing their home. When the caregiver turned in the bill, it did not get paid. Mr. Rynders requested using levy dollars to pay the \$650 bill. A motion was made by Mr. Michaels and seconded by Ms. Beseler to authorize payment for the dumpster. Motion approved.

12. REVIEW/DISCUSSION/ACTION – DHHS FINANCIAL UPDATE

Mr. Rynders presented the DHHS financial update and Agent of the State (inspection of restaurants, etc.) through March 2023.

13. REVIEW/DISCUSSION/ACTION – DHHS MONTHLY VOUCHERS

A motion was made by Ms. Beseler and seconded by Ms. Kleinschmidt to approve the monthly vouchers as presented. Motion approved.

14. REVIEW/DISCUSSION/ACTION – MONTHLY UNIT REPORTS

The monthly unit reports were available for review by the committee members. Mr. Rynders shared information on the Social Services/APS cases for both Buffalo and Pepin County.

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

Ms. McMillan-Urell reported Western Dairyland went to a 36-hour work week with 40 hours per week pay.

16. REVIEW/DISCUSSION/ACTION – DHHS DIRECTOR REPORT

Mr. Rynders announced that Mr. Richard Mueller is giving notice to resign from his DHHS/Veterans committee member position. The vacancy is being advertised in local newspapers, posting notices at the local legions and VFWs, and putting it on FB and the Buffalo County website.

Ms. Renchin, Social Service Manager submitted a grant application for \$22K to fund inmate services.

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

None.

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

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, June 6, 2023 @ 6:30 PM. **Note: Change of date.**

19. PUBLIC COMMENT NOT RELATED TO AGENDA ITEMS

None

20. ADJOURNMENT

Ms. McDonough made a motion and Mr. Beseler seconded the motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:01 PM. Motion approved.

Respectfully submitted,