

Buffalo County Minutes

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

Date of Meeting: Tuesday, April 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, Carol McDonough, Mary Anne McMillan-Urell, Brian Michaels, Richard Mueller, and Nathan Nelson; Liz Hoffmaster and Wendy Kleinschmidt were excused absences.

OTHERS PRESENT FOR ALL OR PART OF THE MEETING

Dave Rynders, Jamie Weaver, 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. Mueller and seconded by Ms. Beseler to approve the March 2, 2023, minutes as presented. Motion approved.

4. REVIEW/DISCUSSION/ACTION – ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIRMAN

Ms. McMillan-Urell explained that in the rules of government the Chair and Vice-Chair must be County Supervisors and made a request to members present at the meeting if anyone would like to volunteer to fill the Vice-Chair position. Mr. Nathan Nelson volunteered. A motion was made by Ms. McDonough and seconded by Mr. Mueller to nominate Mr. Nelson as Vice-Chair. Motion Approved.

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

Ms. McMillan-Urell presented the Veterans report in Ms. Decker's absence.

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

The March vouchers were reviewed. A motion was made by Mr. Michaels and seconded by Ms. Beseler to approve the March 2023 vouchers as presented. Motion approved.

7. REVIEW/DISCUSSION/ACTION – PUBLIC HEALTH REPORT

Ms. Weaver presented the monthly numbers highlighting that WIC participation is running the same as usual and reported that WIC clinics will be offered in-person starting 09/09/2023 with hopes to increase blood lead testing for the children. WIC requirements will be in place for those choosing to remain virtual. Ms. Kai Jiang has been busy with completing inspections and recently attended DNR training for TNC (Transient Non-Community) well sampling program.

PH Updates & Activities:

- ❖ Article in paper on Narcan training and free Narcan available through the health department as well as prescription lock bags, and drug deactivation kits.
- ❖ Well sampling project current recruits:

- 176 participants
- 14 declined

❖ Bar condom tour

Ms. Rheana Thewis, Public Health Nurse, and Ms. Molli Eckelberg, Public Health Specialist visited 36 bars promoting our services for Reproductive Health with flyers offering attention grabbing facts and provided free condoms for the restrooms. They will be working with the health departments in the area schools to present a reproductive health presentation.

Ms. Weaver reported a Church in Mondovi requested a booster clinic which will be held next month.

Public Health Educator activities were shared. Ms. Darby De Gross's last day was Monday, April 3, 2023.

Ms. McMillan-Urell inquired about the well water sampling project. Ms. Weaver explained the goal is to have 200 participants with a cut-off date of April 15th. The list of participants will be sent to UW-Stevens Point who will print out waterproof labels with names of participants and attach them to sample bottles and return to Buffalo County Health Department by May 1st. We will have (1) 40-hour intern and (1) part-time intern from La Crosse working on the project.

8. REVIEW/DISCUSSION/ACTION – PUBLIC HEALTH EDUCATOR VACANCY

Ms. Darby DeGross, Public Health Educator resigned, and her last day was April 3, 2023. Ms. DeGross has accepted a position with Pierce County. Ms. Jamie Weaver and Mr. Dave Rynders discussed the vacancy and recommend not filling the vacancy.

9. REVIEW/DISCUSSION/ACTION – PUBLIC HEALTH ARPA CORONAVIRUS FISCAL RECOVERY FUNDING

Ms. Weaver along with her public health team came up with the following ideas on how to use the ARPA Coronavirus funding of \$262,575.

- ❖ Western Dairyland is looking to purchase a home in Mondovi for individuals experiencing homelessness in the county. Public Health would like to donate PH ARPA funds towards the purchase of a home. The goal is to raise \$500K and purchase a duplex by June/July of 2024. The fundraising campaign will go public this fall.
- ❖ Hold a community services fair showcasing the resources available in Buffalo County
- ❖ Cochrane is seeking donations (\$15K) to rebuild a playground
- ❖ Hydroponics project: Learn how to grow and harvest vegetables; place in schools, libraries, and/or meal sites

The committee was in support of these ideas and encouraged Ms. Weaver and Public Health staff to further develop them.

Ms. McMillan-Urell inquired about the mental health counseling in schools. Mr. Rynders explained that we were looking for a multi-year commitment from schools for therapists to come into the schools. The schools could not commit to more than a year in 2023. There is support for the idea, but we are waiting on how the state biennial budget comes out.

Mr. Nelson inquired about the School Resource Officer. Mr. Rynders updated members stating Eric Atkinson, Menomonie Chief of Police, was going to oversee the regional drug abuse prevention grant. Mr. Atkinson was promoted to City Administrator of Menomonie. The decision was made to not expect the new Chief of Police to manage this multi-million-dollar grant but instead to hire a grant administrator.

10. REVIEW/DISCUSSION/ACTION – REFILL ADULT PROTECTION AND TRANSPORTATION SUPERVISOR AND ANY SUBSEQUENT VACANCIES CREATED BY FILLING THAT POSITION

Mr. Rynders announced that Stephen LaValla, Adult Protection and Transportation Supervisor submitted his resignation effective April 27, 2023. Mr. Rynders requested permission to refill the position serving both Buffalo and Pepin County. A motion was made by Mr. Michaels and seconded by Mr. Nelson to approve refilling the vacancy of Adult Protection and Transportation Supervisor and any subsequent vacancies created by filling that position. Motion approved.

11. REVIEW/DISCUSSION/ACTION – REFILL ECONOMIC SUPPORT SPECIALIST

Mr. Rynders reported that Ms. Aly Strain, Economic Support Specialist resigned, creating a vacancy in ES. A motion was made by Ms. Beseler and seconded by Ms. McDonough to refill the Economic Support Specialist position. Motion approved.

12. REVIEW/DISCUSSION/ACTION – RECOVERY WELLNESS CONSORTIUM FUNDING

Mr. Rynders gave an informational presentation on the RWC (Recovery & Wellness Consortium) and its funding. The consortium was established in 2015, which deals with chronic mental health disorders and substance abuse. Nine counties are involved in the consortium serving over 700 individuals and \$20 million a year services of which Chippewa County is the host county. The consortium is very consumer-run with decisions being made by individuals who have lived with mental health disorders and substance abuse and are in recovery. Funds are paid through medical assistance. Wisconsin participates in a fully funded medical waiver that pays for the full cost of the program which has reduced Buffalo County levy costs in the areas of AODA and mental health.

Mr. Rynders provided an explanation of the resolution that was passed in 2018 where Buffalo County's working capital contribution provided \$49,790 for Chippewa, the lead county to use for provider costs. In October 2020, Buffalo County provided an additional \$83,778 of working capital with a current total contribution of \$133,568.

Rynders shared the definition of working capital: providers are paid the full cost of their services up front by the RWC lead county while the RWC is reimbursed 80% of these costs by State Medicaid up front, the remaining reimbursement comes a year later. The lag in full reimbursement creates a cash flow problem which the lead county has been shouldering on behalf of the providers serving the nine counties. The use of the working capital money is used for paying providers of Buffalo County CCS participants and removes the burden for the lead county. The working capital amount remains Buffalo County's property. The amount will be returned to Buffalo County in the event Buffalo County withdraws from the RWC.

13. REVIEW/DISCUSSION/ACTION – DHHS FINANCIAL UPDATE

Mr. Rynders presented the financial update through Feb 2023.

14. REVIEW/DISCUSSION/ACTION – DHHS MONTHLY VOUCHERS

A motion was made by Mr. Mueller and seconded by Ms. McDonough to approve the monthly vouchers as presented. Motion approved.

15. REVIEW/DISCUSSION/ACTION – MONTHLY UNIT REPORTS

The monthly unit vouchers were reviewed. Ms. McMillan-Urell inquired when the next ADRC committee meeting will be held, noting that Mr. Brad Schmidtnecht was on the committee and that the vacancy needs to be filled. Mr. Rynders will find out the next meeting date. Filling the vacancy will be brought back at the May meeting.

Mr. Rynders reported that Social Services has 34 participants enrolled in the CCS program.

Ms. McMillan-Urell shared that ADRC is having a community outreach on May 5th at Gilmanton American Legion from 11:30 to 1:45 PM.

Ms. McMillan-Urell inquired about the grocery transportation trips; Mr. Rynders will check on the trips and report back.

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

Ms. McMillan-Urell reported that Headstart is at approximately 86% filled.

17. REVIEW/DISCUSSION/ACTION – DHHS DIRECTOR REPORT

Mr. Rynders explained that General Relief is a program used 3-4 times a year to meet a very basic need such as food and shelter. We loan money at 0% interest and people repay. The most recent request was for approval of a dumpster to avoid eviction and a homeless situation.

18. REVIEW/DISCUSSION/ACTION – CHAIRPERSON’S REPORT

None.

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

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, May 4, 2023 @ 6:30 PM.

Mr. Mueller will not be present at the May 4th meeting.

20. PUBLIC COMMENT NOT RELATED TO AGENDA ITEMS

None

21. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 7:56 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Hildebrand