

## Buffalo County Minutes

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

**Date of Meeting:** Tuesday, June 6, 2023

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

### **1. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL OF MEMBERS**

Members present were Liz Hoffmaster, Carol McDonough, Mary Anne McMillan-Urcell, and Brian Michaels; Kim Beseler and Nathan Nelson attended via ZOOM. Richard Mueller was an excused absence. Wendy Kleinschmidt and Chris Lindstrom were unexcused absences.

### **OTHERS PRESENT FOR ALL OR PART OF THE MEETING**

Dave Rynders, Jamie Weaver, Felicia Decker, Mary Hildebrand, Steve Schiffl, Lee Bailey

### **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. Hoffmaster to approve the May 4, 2023 minutes as presented. Motion approved.

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

Ms. Decker reported the Administrative Benefit Specialist position has been filled by Ms. Lori Smolen. A recap was given on the Student Government Youth Day. Ms. Decker was a guest speaker at the Memorial Day services at Nelson and Lyster Cemeteries on May 29, 2023. An update was given on the Veteran Memorial Wall project. Ms. Decker reported that Mr. Craig Turnbull will be coming into the office to sign formal documents and set the date for the start of the brick project. The May stats were presented, and vouchers were reviewed.

### **5. REVIEW/DISCUSSION/ACTION – VETERANS SERVICES MONTHLY VOUCHERS**

A motion was made by Ms. Beseler and seconded by Ms. McDonough to approve the May 2023 vouchers as presented. Motion approved.

### **6. REVIEW/DISCUSSION/ACTION – THE COMMITTEE MAY GO INTO CLOSED SESSION TO INTERVIEW CANDIDATES FOR THE VETERAN CITIZEN COMMITTEE MEMBER POSITION**

A motion was made by Ms. McDonough and seconded by Mr. Michaels to go into closed session. A roll call vote was taken. Motion approved.

### **7. REVIEW/DISCUSSION/ACTION – THE COMMITTEE MAY RETURN TO OPEN SESSION**

A motion was made by Ms. McDonough and seconded by Ms. Hoffmaster to return to open session. A roll call vote was taken. Motion approved.

**8. REVIEW/DISCUSSION/ACTION – APPOINTMENT TO FILL VACANT VETERAN CITIZEN MEMBER POSITION**

Ms. McMillan-Urell announced that Mr. Steve Schiffli has been appointed to fill the Veterans Citizen Member position. The appointment of Mr. Schiffli will be moved forward to the County Board.

**9. REVIEW/DISCUSSION/ACTION – PUBLIC HEALTH REPORT**

Ms. Weaver presented the monthly numbers highlighting the communicable diseases are down. Ms. Weaver shared the high nitrate numbers that were found in Alma, Waumandee and Buffalo City. The following updates were provided:

Working with the Sheriff's Department to promote services to at-risk individuals:

- Menstrual supplies to female inmates with education on RHFP (Reproductive Health Family Planning) services and toxic shock syndrome
- Condom packs for all exiting inmates with information on RHFP services
- Information training video on opioid overdoses and Narcan to show inmates while incarcerated.

Ms. Weaver reported on the Private Well Sampling Project. Two interns from Winona State University, Morgan and Kathleen started June 5<sup>th</sup> and started collecting water samples from well owners.

All MOUs were signed by educators and UW-Extension who requested a hydroponics system via ARPA funds.

The Public Health department is making information available via the newspaper, not just social media. Articles included Tips for coping with floods and a SOS (Signs of Suicide) program presented by Public Health Nurse, Rheana Thewis.

Mr. Engfer shared a compliment he received on Kai Jiang from one of the establishments she inspects.

**10. REVIEW/DISCUSSION/ACTION – LEAD STUDY PROJECT**

Ms. Weaver led a discussion on the lead study project after reviewing the project with her PH staff. The Treasurer's office has a record of homes built prior to 1978. Ms. Weaver explained the extensive staff hours involved in this project. Ms. Hoffmaster recommended including homes with small children which could include Headstart, B-3 and WIC. Ms. McMillan-Urell suggested developing criteria for testing. Mr. Engfer confirmed \$39,600 is allotted for this project and needs to be spent by the end of 2026. After discussion, it was decided Ms. Weaver will put together ideas and options and present them at the July meeting.

**11. REVIEW/DISCUSSION/ACTION – CHILD SUPPORT SERVER**

Mr. Rynders reported on the servers that went down and how it affected Child Support. He explained that this was an unexpected cost for hardware and Itchra labor specific to Child Support. Mr. Rynders shared there is an allocation we receive and when funds are spent for Child Support service activity over the allocation amount you can submit all your expense claiming information to the federal government and they will reimburse 2/3 the amount. The Itchra invoice for \$3645 will be paid by DHHS, of which \$2400 will be reimbursed to DHHS.

**12. REVIEW/DISCUSSION/ACTION – CHILD SUPPORT AWARD**

Mr. Rynders announced that the department's Child Support unit received a Certificate of Outstanding Achievement Award for its achievement of DCF set outcome standards in its service of Pepin County.

**13. REVIEW/DISCUSSION/ACTION – 2023 BUDGET: PRINTER/COPIER/SCANNER LEASE**

Mr. Rynders reported DHHS has two machines in the office, one of which we own and one we lease. Loffler, who provides service and support on the machine we own recently informed us the support would expire June 1<sup>st</sup>, 2023. Mr. Rynders informed the Committee that DHHS will proceed with a lease for a new printer/copier/scanner which will be HIPAA compliant for faxing. This lease purchase has been

determined to be cost neutral for the 2023 and future budgets because of the per copy service cost reduction and elimination of a phone line offsets the new lease cost.

**14. REVIEW/DISCUSSION/ACTION – REVIEW OF TELECOMMUTING STATUS**

Ms. McMillan-Urell reported the County Board approved 24 days per year of telecommuting starting June 1, 2023, through May 31, 2024. Telecommuting Example: If 4 hours are taken working at home (telecommuting) and 4 hours in the field, it is considered one day of telecommuting. Any partial day of telecommuting would count towards the 12-month allocation of 24 days.

**15. REVIEW/DISCUSSION/ACTION – DHHS FINANCIAL UPDATE**

Mr. Rynders presented the financial report through April 2023. (Note: Typo of April 2024)

**16. REVIEW/DISCUSSION/ACTION – DHHS MONTHLY VOUCHERS**

The monthly vouchers were presented and reviewed. A motion was made by Ms. McDonough and seconded by Ms. Hoffmaster to approve the monthly vouchers as presented. Motion approved.

**17. REVIEW/DISCUSSION/ACTION – MONTHLY UNIT REPORTS**

The monthly unit reports were available for review.

**18. REVIEW/DISCUSSION/ACTION – WESTERN DAIRYLAND COMMUNITY ACTION**

Ms. McMillan-Urell shared an update on the Capital Campaign to purchase two homes to be used as homeless shelters in Arcadia and Mondovi. The campaign was started in the Fall of 2022 to raise \$500K. The goal is to raise 50% of the funds with grants and corporate donations before opening the campaign to the public in the Fall of 2023.

Head Start is expanding to a Birth to 5 daycare at the C-FC school.

**19. REVIEW/DISCUSSION/ACTION – DHHS DIRECTOR REPORT**

Mr. Rynders reported on a grant opportunity they're working on with the Buffalo County Sheriff's Department (in the form of a mini grant) for the Sheriff's department only to stretch the use of the opioid settlement dollars. The request is to get funding for additional drug drop off boxes and drug deactivation units which are bags that neutralize the drug.

**20. REVIEW/DISCUSSION/ACTION – CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT**

None.

**21. REVIEW/DISCUSSION/ACTION – NEXT MEETING DATE AND TIME**

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, July 6<sup>th</sup>, 2023, at 6:30 PM.

**22. PUBLIC COMMENT NOT RELATED TO AGENDA ITEMS**

None

**23. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Hildebrand

06-06-2023 DHHS/Veterans