

Buffalo County Minutes

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

Date of Meeting: Tuesday, August 2, 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

Member's present were Kim Beseler, Carol McDonough, Mary Anne McMillan-Urell, Brian Michaels, Richard Mueller, Nathan Nelson, and Liz Hoffmaster. Wendy Kleinschmidt and Brad Schmidt knecht were absent.

OTHERS PRESENT FOR ALL OR PART OF THE MEETING

Dave Rynders, Jamie Weaver, Felicia Decker and Ryan VanDeWalle.

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. Mueller and seconded by Ms. Hoffmaster to approve the July 7, 2022, minutes as presented. Motion approved.

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

Ms. Decker reported out that Ms. Christine Lorenz, who was recently hired as the Administrative Benefits Specialist, has completed required training and obtained her accreditation. Ms. Decker shared an update on Student Government Day, which collaborates in partnership with The American Legion Club. The event will resume after a 2-year hiatus due to the COVID-19 pandemic. A specific date for Student Government Day is still being worked out but will likely be in October. Ms. Decker also shared out about outreach efforts to acquire funding to make additions and repairs to the Veteran's Memorial wall outside the County Courthouse. Mr. Mueller suggested taking out an ad in the paper for funding at least the repair portion of the project. Ms. Decker laid out her plans focused on engaging media coverage and having a presence at the local county fair to do donation promotion and utilizing video slides. Ms. Decker then plans to assess the results and then make plans for additional efforts to include newspaper advertisement. Ms. Decker was able to use non-lapsing funds for the fair booth costs. There was also discussion on utilizing ARPA dollars for the memorial.

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

Veterans Services vouchers were reviewed. Motion to approve monthly vouchers was made by Mr. Mueller, seconded by Ms. Hoffmaster. Motion approved.

6. REVIEW/DISCUSSION/ACTION – PUBLIC HEALTH REPORT

The monthly case/investigation stats were presented by Ms. Jamie Weaver. Updates were shared on the Avian Influenza (HPAI), no change had occurred in affected bird populations in Buffalo County from the previous months report. There were 6 confirmed cases of monkeypox identified in WI as of 7/21/22. An update on PFAS testing in Arcadia was provided by Ms. Weaver. Arcadia participated in the voluntary testing program and received results that showed very little to no PFAS contamination in their municipal water supply.

COVID-19 vaccination clinics are being handled by AMI as of 6-16-22. There were 64 positive COVID cases reported this month. 36 out of 64 cases from 6/21 to 7/20 had their primary vaccine series completed. Series complete dates for these cases range from 2/4/2021 to 1/31/2022.

The activities of Darby DeGross, Public Health Educator, were shared.

The County Board requested an update on the After-Action Reports documentation, lessons learned and if anything was received after reminder cards were sent out in regard to the COVID Recovery Assessment.

7. REVIEW/DISCUSSION/ACTION – REFILL PUBLIC HEALTH NURSE POSITION

Mr. Rynders gave an update on the Public Health Specialist resignation. Her last day with the county will be 08/26/22. Mr. Rynders shared that Pepin County is willing to aid Buffalo County in providing nursing services and guidance for our reproductive health program. Discussions have been taking place to get a contract in place between Pepin and Buffalo Counties to mutually aid each other with resources and staff shortages. The nursing contract with Barb Barczak will remain in place. Mr. Rynders requested approval from the committee to move forward with filling the position. A motion was made by Ms. Beseler and seconded by Ms. Hoffmaster. Motion approved.

8. REVIEW/DISCUSSION/ACTION – PUBLIC HEALTH NURSE POSITION DESCRIPTION

Minor change to position description (omitted VCR operation). Mr. Rynders shared that he would like Heidi Stewart, RN at Pepin County, to sit in on interviews for prospective new RN applicants. She has been successful in hiring and retaining nursing staff. A motion was made by Ms. McMillan-Urell and seconded by Ms. McDonough. Motion approved.

9. REVIEW/DISCUSSION/ACTION – REFILL ECONOMIC SUPPORT SPECIALIST POSITION

Mr. Rynders shared that another vacancy has taken place in Economic Support, resulting in two total vacancies. He has requested to refill that position. A motion was made by Ms. McDonough and seconded by Mr. Nelson. Motion approved.

10. REVIEW/DISCUSSION/ACTION – ECONOMIC SUPPORT SPECIALIST JOB DESCRIPTION

Mr. Rynders shared changes made to the Economic Support Specialist job description. Language was also added to the job description to support eligibility for 100 percent remote work. Discussion was had on employees telecommuting to provide a photo of their at-home work space as documentation of a confidential work space. Availability of upload/download speed reports were also discussed. A motion was made by Ms. Beseler and seconded by Ms. McDonough. Motion approved.

11. REVIEW/DISCUSSION/ACTION – ACCOUNT CLERK/ECONOMIC SUPPORT SPECIALIST JOB DESCRIPTION REVISIONS

Mr. Rynders shared updates to the above listed job description. A motion was made by Mr. Michaels and seconded by Mr. Mueller. Motion approved.

12. REVIEW/DISCUSSION/ACTION – PLAN TO ADDRESS SENIOR NUTRITION STAFFING SHORTAGES

Mr. Rynders shared that the Nutrition Coordinator for the Senior Nutrition Program has resigned following difficulty recruiting and retaining volunteer drivers to deliver meals to home bound senior citizens. Recruitment may be affected by the new Kwik Trip in Durand and higher paying job availability. Mr. Rynders shared that this is not a Buffalo County / Pepin County problem, but a nationwide problem. Pepin is looking at shifting to paid drivers or mileage rate increases to try and recruit drivers. Mr. Rynders, Mr. LaValla and Ms. DeWyre will be present at 6 local community meetings to share with the community the need for drivers and the impact to home delivered meals if drivers are not available.

There was discussion on options for bulk frozen meals being delivered, as well as advertising for drivers in church bulletins and local businesses.

13. REVIEW/DISCUSSION/ACTION – REQUEST APPROVAL FOR UNPAID LEAVE FOR MEAL SITE MANAGER

Mr. Rynders shared that staff coverage for the meal site manager is in place while she is out for medical reasons. A motion was made by Mr. Nelson and seconded by Ms. McDonough. Motion approved.

14. REVIEW/DISCUSSION/ACTION – REQUEST APPROVAL TO PAY OUT COMP TIME FOR ACCOUNT CLERK SUPERVISOR

A motion was made by Ms. Hoffmaster and seconded by Ms. Beseler to pay out comp time for the Account Clerk Supervisor. Motion approved.

15. REVIEW/DISCUSSION/ACTION – DHHS FINANCIAL UPDATE

Mr. Rynders presented the DHHS/Agent financial update through June 2022 for review.

16. REVIEW/DISCUSSION/ACTION – DHHS MONTHLY VOUCHERS

After review of the monthly vouchers through June 2022, a motion was made by Mr. Mueller and seconded by Mr. Michaels to approve the vouchers as presented.

Motion approved.

17. REVIEW/DISCUSSION/ACTION – MONTHLY UNIT REPORTS

The monthly unit reports were reviewed. No questions.

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

Ms. McMillan-Urell stated Western Dairyland did not meet in July.

19. REVIEW/DISCUSSION/ACTION – DHHS DIRECTOR REPORT

Mr. Rynders shared that referrals for the Birth to 3 program have been very strong. They are looking to add 2-4 hours/week to the program for staffing. The Birth to 3 program is not eligible to have a waiting list.

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

None

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

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, September 1, 2022, at 6:00 PM.

22. PUBLIC COMMENT NOT RELATED TO AGENDA ITEMS

None

23. ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn made by Mr. Mueller and seconded by Ms. Hoffmaster. The meeting adjourned at 7:36 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Jamie Weaver and Dave Rynders