

Buffalo County Minutes

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

Date of Meeting: Tuesday, August 8, 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, Liz Hoffmaster, Chris Lindstrom, Carol McDonough, Mary Anne McMillan-Urell, Brian Michaels, Steve Schiffli; Wendy Kleinschmidt attended via Zoom. Nathan Nelson was an excused absence.

OTHERS PRESENT FOR ALL OR PART OF THE MEETING

Dave Rynders and Felicia Decker

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. Schiffli and seconded by Ms. Beseler to approve the July 6, 2023 minutes as presented. A roll call vote was taken. Motion approved.
(Due to technical difficulty, Ms. Kleinschmidt did not vote).

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

Ms. Decker met Wisconsin Department Veteran Affairs (WDVA) Secretary, James Bond at an event in Bayfield where discussion was held on housing concerns. The Caregivers Resource Fair was attended by many vendors enabling Ms. Decker to obtain useful information for programs in the Veterans department. Ms. Decker participated in the PACT Act (Promise to Address Comprehensive Toxics) outreach at the Tomah VA. The PACT Act is legislation that was passed in August 2022 to help Veterans exposed to toxins and to help their families recover as well as receive compensation. Claim assistance was available at the Outreach. An update was shared on the brick wall project. The July 2023 vouchers were reviewed, and the stats were shared.

Sidenote: Ms. Decker reported on a tentative summer pilot program in the Veterans office for high school student volunteers to scan and digitize historical documents from the Civil War, WWI, and WWII. They will receive a certificate and letter of recommendation for their next job.

Mr. Schiffli questioned Ms. Decker and Mr. Rynders on the audit and Compliance Review by the WisDOT on the transportation program reported in the ADRC Manager report which supports Veteran transportation. Mr. Schiffli noted the language sounds like the transportation program is out of compliance and asked if there are any concerns. Mr. Rynders assured Mr. Schiffli the program is not out of compliance. Ms. Decker shared the number of Veteran rides has decreased in Buffalo County and increased in Pepin County. Ms. Decker noted she has been in communication with Ms. Angie Schlosser, Transportation Coordinator, to work on improvements. Mr. Rynders stated all Veterans requesting rides are being served and noted there is less demand in Buffalo County.

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

The July vouchers were reviewed. A motion was made by Ms. Hoffmaster and seconded by Ms. McDonough to approve the July 2023 vouchers as presented. A roll call vote was taken. Motion approved.

6. REVIEW/DISCUSSION/ACTION – PUBLIC HEALTH REPORT

The Public Health report was presented by Mr. Rynders in Ms. Weavers absence. Mr. Rynders shared a comparison of the WIC participants (131) from a year ago to (150) current participants. In-person clinics will be offered starting 09/09/2023. The COVID-19 numbers decreased from 64 last year to 2 during this current time period. An update was given on the CHA (Community Health Assessment) survey. The United Way oversees the group of counties participating. Buffalo County currently has 78 responses to the survey. The private well sampling project has been completed. UW-Stevens Point is analyzing the samples and a report with the results is expected in a month. Mr. Rynders reported that with the Public Health nurse vacancy, ongoing nursing services are required by the State. Pepin County will be assisting with RHFP (Reproductive Health Family Planning) clients, and a contract has been put in place for an interim retired nurse from Pierce County for nursing coverage starting 08/02/2023.

Mr. Rynders provided information on the Delta-8 Environmental Scan in Buffalo County

- As of 8/8/2023, 27 establishments have had an environmental scan completed.
- 8 of 21 were found to be selling Delta products.
- Most common Delta-8 products found: Gummies, Seltzer, Pre-rolled Joints, Vape Cartridges
- Delta-8 is legal.

Action Plan

- Environmental scans (currently ongoing)
- Education to identified retailers.
- Press release for community awareness/good publicity for compliant retailers
- Discuss if further enforcement is needed based on the outcomes of the above process.

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

Mr. Rynders requested authorization to refill the Public Health Nurse position. A motion was made by Ms. Hoffmaster and seconded by Ms. McDonough to refill the Public Health Nurse position. A roll call vote was taken. Motion approved.

8. REVIEW/DISCUSSION/ACTION REFILL PUBLIC HEALTH EDUCATOR POSITION

Mr. Rynders requested authorization to refill the Public Health Educator position. A motion was made by Mr. Lindstrom and seconded by Mr. Michaels to refill the Public Health Educator position. A roll call vote was taken. Motion approved.

9. REVIEW/DISCUSSION/ACTION –CHILD SUPPORT AWARENESS MONTH

Mr. Rynders recognized August as Child Support Awareness month. Nationwide and Statewide statistics were shared; in FY2022, the child support program collected \$864 million.

10. REVIEW/DISCUSSION/ACTION – MCHS AMERICORPS RECOVERY CORPS AWARD

Mr. Rynders shared that Buffalo/Pepin County was awarded a one full-time member to the MCHS (Marshfield Clinic Health System) AmeriCorps Recovery Corps program. The program is a national volunteer program, similar to the Peace Corp, but domestic that provides training and supports volunteers and pays them to do AODA services for a year. A \$5000 cash match is required, and Mr. Rynders reported that Ms. Mary Wood, UW-Extension obtained a grant that will cover the \$5000 cash match. Ms. Carri Renchin, Social Services Manager will supervise the program.

A motion was made by Ms. Beseler and seconded by Ms. McDonough to accept the MCHS AmeriCorps Recovery Corps award and move forward with the program. A roll call vote was taken. Motion approved.

11. REVIEW/DISCUSSION/ACTION – DHHS FINANCIAL UPDATE

Mr. Rynders presented the financial update through June 2023.

12. REVIEW/DISCUSSION/ACTION – DHHS MONTHLY VOUCHERS

A motion was made by Mr. Schiffli and seconded by Ms. Hoffmaster to approve the monthly vouchers as presented. A roll call vote was taken. Motion approved.

13. REVIEW/DISCUSSION/ACTION – MONTHLY UNIT REPORTS

The monthly unit reports were reviewed.

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

Ms. McMillan-Urell reported there was no meeting in July. Ms. McMillan-Urell attended a school board meeting where discussion was held on Head Start adding B-3. The school enrollment has gone up adding an additional Kindergarten class; Ms. McMillan-Urell noted the B-3 will be put on hold due to space requirements.

15. REVIEW/DISCUSSION/ACTION – DHHS DIRECTOR REPORT

Mr. Rynders reported the Buffalo County Sheriff Dept was awarded a grant for the Opioid Abatement Efforts by Law Enforcement Agencies Funding Opportunity with the assistance of DHHS. The grant will provide (3) additional permanent drug disposal boxes to be located in high traffic business areas in Fountain City, Cochrane, and Nelson. The grant will also fund (444) drug deactivation units that will be available at the Sheriff/DHHS offices. Mr. Rynders, Birth to 3 Program Administrator reported the B-3 audit met requirements.

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

None

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

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, September 7, 2023, at 6:30 PM. Mr. Rynders reported there will be a Public Hearing at this meeting.

18. PUBLIC COMMENT NOT RELATED TO AGENDA ITEMS

None

19. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 7:55 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Hildebrand