

## **Buffalo County Minutes**

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

**Date of Meeting:** Thursday, October 6, 2022

**Electronic and Hard Copy Filing Date:**

**Location:** Department of Health and Human Services  
Buffalo County Courthouse  
2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Conference Room  
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-Urell, Brian Michaels, and Richard Mueller. Wendy Kleinschmidt attended via ZOOM. Kim Beseler and Brad Schmidt knecht were excused absences.

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

Dave Rynders, Ryan VanDeWalle, Jamie Weaver, Felicia Decker, Lee Engfer, 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. Hoffmaster to approve the September 1, 2022, minutes as presented. A roll call vote was taken. Motion approved.

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

Ms. Decker shared that the Buffalo County's Quilt of Valor crew donated 27 quilts to Camp Victory, a camp for Veteran Hunts and Healing. An update was given on the donations/pledges for the brick memorial. The Finance Committee approved the request for up to \$14K in ARPA funds to be used towards the memorial wall project.

Ms. Decker attended monthly training in St. Croix County on how to assist Veterans log-in to the MN Healthcare system and also learned about a farmer's organization that assists Veteran farmers.

The Fountain City Lions Club donated \$1000, not to be used for the wall project but for gas cards, clothing, and food gift cards. A \$50 Target gift card was donated to the Veterans office by a local Veteran to assist with the needs of Veterans. Stats were shared.

Ms. McMillan-Urell presented information on Operation Green Light which will be held November 7<sup>th</sup> through November 13<sup>th</sup> to light the buildings green in support of Veterans. Mr. VanDeWalle will contact maintenance to implement the event at the Courthouse.

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

The September vouchers were reviewed. A motion was made by Mr. Mueller and seconded by Ms. McDonough to approve the monthly vouchers as presented. A roll call vote was taken. Motion approved.

## **6. REVIEW/DISCUSSION/ACTION – PUBLIC HEALTH REPORT**

Ms. Weaver presented the monthly case/investigation numbers from August 20 – September 21, 2022, highlighting 3 health hazard investigations which included rat problems, hoarding, and water/sewer issues.

Updates:

- 75 confirmed cases of monkeypox in Wisconsin – widespread transmission is low.
- 13 cases of measles from June through September in a group of unvaccinated children in MN.
- Buffalo County Courthouse is now an approved site for used sharps disposal.

Ms. Weaver shared that the COVID clinics are being held the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Fridays of the month. AMI cancelled the 10-7-22 clinic and rescheduled the clinics for 10-14-2022 and 10-21-2022. The vaccine rate update was presented as of 9-30-2022 as well as the Public Health Educator activities.

Mr. Rynders reminded the Committee that we are contracted with Pepin County Health to provide nursing services for flu shots. Mr. Rynders shared that while Ms. Ganschow, Community Health Educator is on maternity leave, Ms. DeGross, Public Health Educator will step into the COVID recovery activities including the Botvin Lifeskills training which COVID recovery funds can be used. The funds need to be spent by 7-31-2024.

Ms. McMillan-Urell inquired about the water sampling project; Ms. Weaver confirmed the project will start in Spring 2023.

## **7. REVIEW/DISCUSSION/ACTION – COVID-19 AFTER ACTION REPORT**

Mr. Rynders presented the DHHS after-action report which utilized everyone available to the health department to contribute to the document covering all phases of COVID-19. Ms. McMillan-Urell was looking for more information on the county's response to the pandemic, recommending there be a complete County after action report. Mr. VanDeWalle reported the State required each department to submit a COVID plan. Ms. McMillan-Urell suggested adding information on the essential vs non-essential businesses to the after-action report and present the report next month.

## **8. REVIEW/DISCUSSION/ACTION – 2023 DHHS BUDGET REDUCTION PLAN**

The 2023 budget reduction plan (reducing the levy budget by 10%) was presented by Mr. Rynders. Mr. Rynders explained how the 10% reduction is achieved; new information comes in after the budget is originally submitted.

Mr. Rynders also explained that \$750K of non-lapsing funds were transferred to the levy budget to help close the deficit with a remaining balance of \$550K in the non-lapsing funds.

Mr. Rynders shared that a \$25K ARPA Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS) grant was applied for, which if approved, will be used toward the budget reduction plan. Mr. Rynders will report on the result of the grant at the next meeting.

#### **9. REVIEW/DISCUSSION/ACTION – TELECOMMUTING PLAN MODIFICATION**

Mr. Rynders shared the DHHS floor plan of office spaces and the proposed plan to resolve the shortage of office space which involves telecommuting of CLTS-W staff, along with one fiscal staff returning to telecommuting. Two of the approved telecommuting positions are currently in-house. After discussion, Ms. McMillan-Urell recommended bringing back the modification plan next month after the budget modifications are resolved and staff changes are made.

#### **10. REVIEW/DISCUSSION/ACTION – SCHOOL MENTAL HEALTH COUNSELING ARPA PROPOSAL**

Mr. Rynders introduced a concept to provide school-based mental health counseling for all students who need services, regardless of insurance status. Mondovi schools are currently providing counseling to students if they have insurance; students without insurance have limited resources.

Family Therapy Associates is looking to provide services to all schools. Mr. Rynders has had conversations with school Superintendents and guidance counselors to identify the need. Mr. Rynders has asked for projected costs from Family Therapy Associates as well as contributions from the schools and what is available through the county with ARPA funds to determine what is needed to increase access for counseling for the children in 2023 and 2024. The committee recommended proceeding with gathering numbers and bring back next month.

#### **11. REVIEW/DISCUSSION/ACTION – EXPANDING MINIMUM QUALIFICATION CRITERIA FOR SOCIAL WORK POSITIONS TO INCLUDE CASE MANAGER ELIGIBLE CANDIDATES**

Mr. Rynders explained it was learned in 2017 in the child welfare field, it is not necessary to be a Social Worker in order to provide those services. At that time, two social work positions in child welfare were expanded by the HR Committee to also allow case managers to fill those roles. Rynders recommendation is to broaden the criteria so a Case Manager could apply for vacancies in CLTS-W, Mental Health AODA, and CCS.

The Committee agreed to move the idea of expanding the qualification criteria for Social Worker positions to include Case Manager candidates who meet the State criteria to Human Resources.

#### **12. REVIEW/DISCUSSION/ACTION – DHHS FINANCIAL UPDATE**

The Agent of the State and DHHS financial update through August 2022 was presented by Mr. Rynders. Rynders reported that budget corrections needed to be made for 2021 before moving forward to 2022. Currently, Ms. Zeman is working on finishing March 2022 and projects within the next two months the budget will be up to date.

Discussion was held on the new computer financial system which will go live on 01-01-2024.

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

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

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

The monthly unit reports were reviewed. Ms. McMillan-Urell inquired about the meal site shortage of drivers. Mr. Rynders shared that Ms. DeWyre will present information on the meal site driver shortage at the joint meeting on 10-17-2022.

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

Ms. McMillan-Urell attended the meeting sharing that Western Dairyland receives \$20 million in grants. A survey was taken on the Headstart program which received lots of positive comments on how great the program benefits the community.

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

None

**17. REVIEW/DISCUSSION/ACTION – CHAIRPERSON’S REPORT**

Ms. McMillan-Urell announced Mr. Lee Engfer accepted the position of Administrative Coordinator for the Buffalo County Courthouse replacing Mr. Ryan VanDeWalle.

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

The next meeting will be held on Monday, October 17<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 PM with Pepin County at the Government Center in Durand in the county board room.

Mr. Schmidtknecht and Mr. Michaels are excused absences. Ms. Kleinschmidt will attend in person and Ms. Hoffmaster will attend via Zoom.

There will be no meeting in November 2022.

The next DHHS/Veterans Home Committee meeting in Alma will be held on Thursday, December 1<sup>st</sup> at 6:30 PM.

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

None

**20. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Hildebrand