

HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES BOARD

Tuesday, July 12, 2011

Administrative Center

5:30 P.M. – BUDGET HEARING, BASEMENT AUDITORIUM

6:30 P.M. – HHS BOARD MEETING, ROOM 3220

PUBLIC HEARING ON HUMAN SERVICES AND HEALTH DEPARTMENT 2012 BUDGET

MEMBERS PRESENT: Jill Billings, Bill Brockmiller, James Glasser, Monica Kruse, Margaret Wood

MEMBERS EXCUSED: Sharon Hampson, Loren Kannenberg, David Trapp

MEMBERS ABSENT: Bill Feehan

STAFF & GUESTS: Jason Witt, Doug Mormann, Dean Ruppert, Sara Koopman, Margaret Norden, Lorie Graff, Jane Klekamp, Gary Ingvalson, Matt Strittmater, Janet Kusch, Bev Mach, Jessica Larsen, Jo Glasser, Bob Allen, Beth Hartung, Kristin Peters, Marilyn Hempstead, John Hempstead, Sister Leclare Beren

HUMAN SERVICES BUDGET

Jason Witt provided an overview on the impact of the State budget on the County's funding for services. He stated that there is more uncertainty going into the new budget than usual. He gave a summary of services the department provides, and showed the expected State cuts that will have to be made up with efficiencies in service and/or County tax levy. There are also unknown impacts in areas of Medical Assistance reduction, Family Care caps, and funding for Regional Income Maintenance Administration.

HEALTH DEPARTMENT BUDGET

Doug Mormann gave a summary of funding sources for department services, including County levy, fees, insurance, and contracts with federal, state, and private entities. He also showed projected changes and the numbers of people who could be impacted. He showed federal grant programs under the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act that could be available.

TESTIMONY

- Janet Kusch, director of Options in Reproductive Care, spoke on behalf of continuing their current vendor contract for STD diagnosis and treatment. She emphasized that they serve a low income, at-risk population.
- Jo Glasser, representing Advocating, Mobilizing and Organizing in Solidarity (AMOS), a consortium of congregations in the La Crosse area, spoke about their concern for restorative justice and health care. She urged a strong safety net for people with chronic mental illness and people with serious and chronic health care needs.
- Bob Allen, president of the Boys and Girls Club, said that County funds have been used for teenage programs to help youth make good decisions. He said they serve nearly 5,000 children in neighborhoods that need help.

CLOSING REMARKS

Vice-Chair Billings thanked the speakers and others attending for their interest. She stated that the 2012 budget will be the most challenging in her experience on County Board.

ADJOURNMENT

The public hearing adjourned at 6:15 p.m.

REGULAR MEETING

MEMBERS PRESENT: Jill Billings, Bill Brockmiller, Bill Feehan, James Glasser, Monica Kruse, Margaret Wood (exc. 7:45 p.m.)

MEMBERS EXCUSED: Sharon Hampson, Loren Kannenberg, David Trapp

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

STAFF & GUESTS: Doug Mormann, Jason Witt, Dean Ruppert, Margaret Norden, Sara Koopman, Matt Strittmater, Lorie Graff, Nancy Pohlman, Jane Klekamp, Linda Lee, Marilyn Hempstead, Josh Miner, Maggie Smith, Mike Gasper

ANNOUNCEMENTS

June County Board Action

The Board had the first consideration of the Ordinance creating the Mental Health Recovery Services Advisory Council. It also passed the Resolution Re: Adjusting Staffing Levels and Programming at the Juvenile Detention Facility.

Board Members Report on Conferences/Meetings/Workshops

Margaret Wood reported that the national conference of NALBOH is coming up, and encouraged reviewing their community guide to preparing for accreditation. She also provided copies of a WAHLDAB letter to encourage the State to accept federal funds.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None requested.

BOARD EDUCATION

Policy, Practice, People of Health Department – Nutrition

Linda Lee introduced Josh Miner, who is coordinating distribution of local produce through existing channels, and Maggie Smith, who is coordinating education in the Farm to School program. They were accompanied by Michael Gasper, food service director at the Holmen School District. Gasper spoke about implementing fresh, local foods in school menus. The HHS Board viewed two videos on exposing schoolchildren to healthy eating and introducing new foods. Gasper reported that apple consumption has tripled, and schoolchildren are becoming more willing to try new foods. Educational materials and recipes are provided to parents and teachers. The program is now a national model. Discussion was held regarding the cost to farmers of trucking their own produce to schools that is reduced by use of local distributors; the efforts to establish a consortium to purchase farmer liability insurance at a reduced, group cost; and long-term studies to gauge health effects on participating schoolchildren.

Child Protective Services County Data Leadership Project and Permanency Roundtables

Jason Witt reported that the County Data Leadership Pilot fits in with the Human Services Department focus on becoming more data driven. It is a partnership between the State and counties for effective child welfare data management and decision-making. The goal is to use data consistently to understand and improve performance. La Crosse County is participating in a pilot group with three other counties that will look at the timeliness of initial contact assessments, and zero in on what is slowing that process. They will also use data to identify their "sweet spots." Nancy Pohlman provided an overview of the department's plans to apply for State funding to implement Permanency Roundtables in La Crosse County. The goal of the initiative is to expedite safe, legal permanency in the child welfare system, impacting outcome measures in areas of legal permanency, placement restrictiveness, rate of re-entry, and rate of discharge through reunification, adoption, or guardianship. She cited specific issues where La Crosse County is below the state average

in length of time that children progress toward permanency. Use of permanency roundtables could help. The department would use start up funds to hire an outside coordinator for the process during the first year, with the hope of ultimately transitioning coordination in-house through the use of current staff.

NOTE: Vice-Chair Billings proposed taking the following agenda items out of order in consideration of a Board member needing to be excused, and ensuring a quorum on the items requiring approval.

MOTION by Glasser/Wood to move up the approvals of the Director Reports and Consent Agenda. **Motion carried unanimously.**

DIRECTOR REPORTS

Health Department Written Director's Report

Human Services Written Director's Report

MOTION by Feehan/Kruse to approve the Director Reports. **Motion carried unanimously.** Hampson, Kannenberg, Trapp excused.

CONSENT AGENDA

MOTION by Feehan/Glasser to receive and file the following Consent Agenda items:

Minutes

Health and Human Services Board 6/7/11

Coulee Region Childhood Obesity Coalition 6/14/11

Mental Health Advisory Council 6/24/11

Labor/Management 5/31/11

W-2 Community Steering Committee 5/17/11

Criminal Justice Executive Committee 5/11/11

Motion carried unanimously. Hampson, Kannenberg, Trapp excused.

CARE Center Update

Matt Strittmater gave an update after a full year of operation. Highlights of the data he presented included:

- Psychiatric admissions and readmissions to health care centers have been reduced; 35% of CARE Center admissions were diversions from emergency rooms or step-downs from inpatient care;
- Chapter 51 emergency detentions are projected to be reduced by 40%, and is on track to be reduced another 40%;
- Overall crisis contacts are projected to increase by 2%, while law enforcement referrals are projected to be reduced by 23%
- Costs to the County for continuum of care has been reduced by 48%; County funded detox expense increased by 14%.

Strittmater also spoke about the ongoing fiscal challenges. Discussion was held regarding the current Tellurian contract, and changes that have been made to the billing process. Jason Witt provided a financial summary that showed the cost of the CARE Center is being borne by La Crosse County. It appears there is overall system savings when including likely savings by local hospitals. The department, however, is shouldering just about all of the costs. Progress is being made regarding private insurance coverage. There will be a \$157,716 deficit in 2011, and a \$155,643 deficit projected in 2012.

POLICY

Status on Development of Income Maintenance Consortia

Jason Witt reported on efforts on forming an Income Maintenance Consortium with eight neighboring counties. Local IM staff will be maintained in each county with the assumption that staff/case ratio will be at 715 cases per IM worker. Funding will come from tax levy,

state allocation and federal match. Planning has also focused on the following: Being results-focused to ensure effectiveness and efficiency; accountability by the consortia as a whole, rather than by individual counties; planning to meet the Budget Bill requirements; and gaining sufficient efficiencies to free the partner counties from their tax levy contribution in 2014. Witt reported that the eight Human Services directors are strongly committed. They are looking at alternatives to the current partnership if the State increases the minimum size of local consortium membership to 10 counties, which is a likely possibility. Hopefully, two additional counties can be added to the current eight. Current relationships and the history of effective collaborations with this group make this the best option. Otherwise, the current eight may be split off to join other consortia.

Upcoming State AODA Technical Assistance

Jane Klekamp provided statistics on numbers of clients receiving substance abuse services from 2005-2010, and a Chemical Health Services flowchart that illustrated the progression of services from inpatient detoxification through ongoing monitoring. She reported having asked for a State technical assistance to review current practices for conformance with state laws, guidelines and best practices. Jason Witt reported there has been a shift in the use of residential treatment towards more use of non-residential that is less restrictive and takes into account client motivation. Some community partners are questioning the change in practice. It will be good to get feedback from the State on this issue.

Human Services Policy for Letters of Support

At the recommendation of Corporation Counsel, Jason Witt presented a guide for letters of support to be attached to grant applications. The policy includes seeking approval from the HHS Board for any letters that would result in the expectation for additional staff or funding should the grant application be approved, or any letters that commit the Department to a practice or policy change that would otherwise be Human Services Board decision.

ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS

Farm to School Program update (six month follow-up)
Putting Prevention to Work
Youth out-of-home care

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION by Brockmiller/Feehan to adjourn to the next meeting to be held on Tuesday, August 9, 2011. **Motion carried unanimously.** Hampson, Kannenberg, Trapp, Wood excused. The meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

APPROVED, August 9, 2011, Margaret Norden, Recorder