

FAMILY POLICY BOARD COMMITTEE

Monday, August 6, 2012

Health & Human Services Building – Basement Auditorium

12:00 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Mike Boehm, Vicki Burke, Tina Cannon, Janet Chaney, Chris Crye, Mike Desmond, Megan DeVore, James Falvey, Mary Fitzpatrick, Sheila Garrity, Troy Harcey, Ann Kappauf, Jane Klekamp, Catherine Kolkmeier, Ann Kramer, Monica Kruse, Janet Kusch, Lorie Lautz, Kathryn Mayer, Mary Meehan-Strub, Linnea Miller, Pat Ruda, Ruthann Schultz, Beth Sullivan, Jeffrey Trotnic, Jodi Widuch, Jason Witt and Mary Kay Wolf

GUESTS: Jeff Hoch

CALL TO ORDER

Mike Desmond called the meeting to order and then asked for a motion to approve the June 29, 2012 meeting minutes.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM 06/29/12 MEETING

MOTION by Ann Kramer/Catherine Kolkmeier to approve the June 29, 2012 minutes as presented; **Motion carried unanimously.**

Mike Desmond then introduced Troy Harcey as Troy Harcey wanted to provide information regarding the upcoming La Crosse Community Summit: Rebuilding for Learning II on Thursday, August 16, 2012, 8:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. If you wish to attend you can contact Sharon Jindrick at sjindric@lacrosseschools.org or call (608) 789-7654.

SUMMARY OF JUNE 29TH MEETING . . . WHAT'S NEXT? – Mike Desmond

Mike Desmond asked everyone to review the Prioritization of Needs, the last paragraph of the June 29th meeting minutes and look at the last sentence. Mike asked “aren’t we trying to incorporate this in all areas meaning the Coordination of Services, Cultural Competence and Advocacy and Prevention”. Mike states we will review this more at our September meeting.

PAT RUDA TAKES NEW POSITION (still plans on being on the Family Policy Board):

Pat Ruda reports that she has taken a new position at the AMS of Wisconsin and will remain a part of the Family Policy Board. AMS of Wisconsin is a new clinic in Onalaska and they work with opiate addictions.

AGENCY PRESENTATIONS:

- **The Salvation Army – Tina Cannon and Jeff Hoch**

Tina Cannon reports that the Salvation Army is an Emergency Shelter and has an 83 bed capacity. They have gone as high as 91 residents on July 27th and today they have 63 residents (28 males and 35 females). They offer breakfast, lunch, dinner and snacks. They provide 7,000-8,000 meals per month. The residents there are assigned a case manager; they provide counseling, they offer energy assistance, rental assistance, etc.

Jeff Hoch reports that he takes care of the Seasonal Programs: Feed the Kids, Steppin' Back to School, Angel Giving Tree and Coats for Kids. The Feed the Kids program provides meals to children and this year beginning the end of the school year until school begins they will make about 26,000 lunches for children and they added Onalaska this year. They have 75 volunteers a week who help make these lunches. Steppin' Back to School is a program in which they provide a new outfit for kids for school. The Angel Giving Tree is where community members can sponsor a family at Christmas time. Jeff states that the Salvation Army is an army of volunteers. A handout was provided of the services provided by Salvation Army.

- **YWCA – Mary Kay Wolf**

Mary Kay Wolf reports that the YWCA is an agency that has been in La Crosse since 1906 and that it is its own entity. They provide Teen Services and they are trying hard not to duplicate services and have looked at what services are not being met. They provide the YWCA Bridges Mentoring Program and they provide group activities, etc. The Teen Lead Program started with 3 girls and now they have 20 girls. They work with the girls to help them hone their skills to become leaders. They have a Truancy Intervention Program in which they work with the schools to catch kids before they become truants. The YWCA provides a wide variety of services as listed in the handouts provided at today's meeting.

HUMAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT AND BOARD UPDATES:

- **HHS Board Update/Family Policy Board Executive Committee: Monica Kruse**

Monica Kruse reports that it was recommended to the Board that Mike Boehm of the Family and Children's Center be part of the Executive Committee to replace Jodi Widuch of the Parenting Place. It was also recommended that Janet Chaney remain on the Executive Committee as a citizen member and this has been approved.

There were 3 resolutions:

- 1) Department of Health Services was requested to adopt an Income Maintenance funding formula that is more equitable.
- 2) The Department of Children and Families is requested to suspend the Wisconsin Works RFP and selection process to gather more input and create a process that is more balanced.
- 3) Support of policy tax equity – tobacco products, i.e., chewing tobacco (they will tax these products).

We received a number of grants:

- We received a \$450,000 Harvest of the Month Grant (for 3 years)
- We received two Transformation Grants; the University System applied for this. Our county got \$450,000 to fight obesity, smoking cessation, etc.
- We received \$160,000 Grant for making residency tobacco fees.

- **HS Director Update: Jason Witt**

Jason Witt provided updates on three areas:

- **Income Maintenance (IM):** The Wisconsin County Human Services Association (WCHSA) adopted a resolution calling from the Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS) to increase the amount of State IM funding available in 2013 and that the additional dollars go to the Western and Northern IM consortia. It was positive that WCHSA passed the resolution, but it is unknown whether DHS will be able to find the additional funds to make this happen. The resolution reflected a short-term compromise to provide more time for WCHSA to discuss and evaluate what its recommendation will be for the IM funding formula for 2014 and beyond.
- **Wisconsin Works (W2):** La Crosse County received notice that it was not selected to be a W-2 provider beginning in 2013 under the new regional W-2 provider model. Human Services had submitted a proposal to the Department of Children and Families (DHS) even though it knew the odds were long, as the selection criteria heavily favored private entities. Workforce Connections will be awarded the regional contract. The Department will work its best to assure a smooth transition for the program and its clients.
- **Mental Health/Substance Abuse:** We received word that the joint proposal of La Crosse and its partner counties (Jackson and Monroe) was selected by DHS as one of two three-year pilot projects for a regional shared service model for mental health and substance abuse. We are very excited about this as this pilot is being used by DHS to learn from and drive the redesign of these service areas statewide.

- **Family and Children's Section Update: Nancy Pohlman**

- **Administration for Children and Families (ACF) – Family Connections grant:**

Our application for a federal Family Connections – Combined Family-finding and Family Group Decision Making grant was successfully submitted on 7/18/12, two days ahead of the required submission date. The three year project would provide funding in CY 2013 in the amount of \$499,944.00; 2014 & 2015, \$471,000.00 each year.

Within the grant we have allocated full funding to cover salary and fringe for two FTE Social Workers and a .5 FTE Social Service Specialist as county positions to be hired beginning of 2013. In addition we will be contracting for 2 FTE positions from the Parenting Place. Over half of the grant on an annual basis will support the 4.5 FTE positions for three years. The remainder of the grant will provide significant staff training, technical assistance, program evaluation and direct services to children, youth and families within La Crosse County.

If we are successful in obtaining the grant the sustainability plan proposed includes aggressive restructuring of our current out-of-home care budget as well as either marketing to other counties for purchase of service contracts or regionalization of our family connections program. If we were to regionalize this program the financial resources of other counties as well as our own would be used to sustain positions and the program within our county. For more information contact Nancy Pohlman at npohlman@lacrossecounty.org or call 785-6060.

- **2012 Quality Service Review:**

The Child Welfare Quality Service Review (QSR) orientation meeting was held on July, 19. DCF staff presented information on the review tools that have been added and will be included during our QSR week, Oct. 15 – 18, 2012. Child Protective Services (CPS) Access and Initial Assessment will be reviewed; CPS in-home cases; CPS and Juvenile Justice out-of-home care cases and post TPR cases. For more information contact Nancy Pohlman at npohlman@lacrossecounty.org or call 785-6060.

- **2012 CLTSW Audit:**

The Children's Long-term Support Waiver Audit will occur September 24 – 26, 2012. A team from DHS will be on-site to review 25 cases. For more information contact Nancy Pohlman at npohlman@lacrossecounty.org or call 785-6060 or Keith Keller at kkeller@lacrossecounty.org or call 789-4819.

AGENCY UPDATES:

- Mary Fitzpatrick of Catholic Charities reports that they are having a School Supply Drive in which they need backpacks and school supplies and she reports that there are bins all over the city for these items. You can obtain applications for the School Supply Drive at Catholic Charities and they are open from 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Monday through Thursday and you can also obtain applications at La Crosse County.
- Mary Kay Wolf reports that the YWCA is redesigning their website so you may want to wait to take a look at it until next week when the redesign is finished.
- Mike Desmond shared a thought for the day "You can't become complete as a person unless you become a part of something greater than yourself" one of the greatest basketball coaches from Duke, Mike Krzyzewski, made this quote.

ADJOURN: Today's meeting was adjourned at 1:00 p.m. by Mike Desmond

NEXT MEETING: Monday, September 10, 2012

Approved: September 10, 2012, Tammy Hoskins, Recorder