

FAMILY POLICY BOARD

Monday, February 1, 2021

Meeting Held via Zoom

12:00 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Kristi Arenz, Karolee Behringer, Nicole Brei, Hetti Brown, Mandy Bisek, Megan DeVore, Gloria Doyle, Lisa Duncanson, Ann Kappauf, Jane Klekamp, Catherine Kolkmeier, Sue Mathison, Vie Matty, Barbara McPeak, Melisa Myers, Heidi Odegaard, Roberto Partarrieu, Tracy Puent, Heather Quackenboss, Stacey Smith, Bridget Todd-Robbins, Tina Tryggestad, Jodi Widuch, Jason Witt, Mary Kay Wolf, Tita Yutuc

GUESTS/OTHERS PRESENT

None

CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Ann Kappauf called the meeting to order at 12:02pm

The meeting began with members taking the “How would you rate the past week?” survey by Mentimeter at the request of Catherine Kolkmeier. Mentimeter (<https://www.mentimeter.com>) is a company that provides real-time polling tools for groups. This poll showed a snapshot in time of how members were feeling. Below are results for the instant feedback survey.



APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION by Mary Kay Wolf, seconded by Jane Klekamp to approve the January 4, 2021 minutes as presented. **Motion carried unanimously.**

HUMAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT AND BOARD UPDATES

HHS Board Update: Tina Tryggestad – no updates currently.

HS Director Update: Jason Witt – Jason will present on the different things Human Services and their programs have done during this difficult time at the County Board Planning Meeting on Monday February 8th. If you are interested in hearing his presentation you may attend.

HS Service Section Update – Mandy Bisek (Manager of Justice Support Services) shared with the group that they have a unique opportunity available through the State of Wisconsin, Department of Children and Families, which is a service called “Runaway and Homeless Youth (RHY). With this service we will be collaborating with many of our community partners. Once we receive the paperwork it will go through the board for a resolution. More information to come about this service.

PRESENTATION:

State Biennial Budget & Policy Priorities of Local Stakeholders and their Advocacy Organizations:

- **Wisconsin Association of Family & Children's Agencies (WAFCA)** – Tita shared a powerpoint with the group, which can be viewed here:
<https://www.lacrossecounty.org/humanservices/docs/Family%20Policy%20Board/02%2001%202021%20Tita%20PowerPoint.pdf>
 - Wisconsin Association of Family & Children's Agencies (WAFCA) is the united voice for more than fifty member agencies and leaders in the human services field serving more than 250,000 individuals and families throughout Wisconsin.
 - 2021 Legislative & Biennial Budget Priorities
 - Putting Family First
 - Invest in home visiting expansion and early care and education opportunities
 - Advance access to evidence-based services
 - Support increases in kinship care and foster care rates
 - Support foster youth transition to adulthood
 - Return 17-year-olds to the youth justice system
 - Moving Forward on Mental Health
 - Support Medicaid expansion to extend coverage and access for individuals up to 138% of FPL
 - Target additional mental health resources to support students and school staff
 - Support initiatives to remove mental health service access barriers
 - Increase Medicaid day treatment rates to recover from stagnant rates & to adjust for recent changes to day treatment rules
 - Support an increase in the clinical supervision grant program
 - Support expanded staff capacity & technology investments
 - Adopting Regulatory Reforms for Streamlined Services
 - Improve training tools and safety in youth congregate care settings
 - Adopt liability reforms for private child placing agencies, GH & RCC's to reduce risk exposure & enable more providers to care for youth
 - Require DHS & DCF to recognize national accreditation when renewing out of home care licenses & clinic licenses

Jason shared with the group the current timeline:

- January-March is for us to **learn** about policy priorities of advocacy and different organizations with connections to Family Policy Board.
 - The following will be shared with the group in these three months:
 - Wisconsin Counties Association (WCA) was shared in January
 - Wisconsin Community Action Program Association (WISCAP) was shared in January
 - Wisconsin Association of Family & Children's Agencies (WAFCA) was shared this month (February)
 - Early Childhood Advisory Council (ECAC) will be sharing with us in March
- April is for us to **discuss** and finalize priorities & advocacy strategies. We will continue small group discussions.
- May/June is for us to **advocate**
 - Bi-annual legislative meeting (May)
 - Letter to JFC
 - Other?

Small Group Discussion on Development of Family Policy Board State Biennial Budget & Policy Priorities & Large Group Report out:

We broke out into small groups and discussed the three questions listed below then came back as a large group to share those responses, which can be found below:

1. Of the items you learned about today, which do you feel most strongly about including as a priority for Family Policy Board advocacy? Of these, is there any information your agency has (data, anecdotal, etc.) that could help make the case to our legislators?
 - a. Mental Health
 - b. Families

- c. Housing needs to be dealt with before most other needs. We would suggest advocating especially for the State to make sure COVID resources that are not being used for other issues be directed there (we had heard that the State's federal dollars for COVID are not all being spent).
 - d. Wellness for youth in our communities
 - e. Return of 17-year old Youth to YJ system
 2. What other issues that were not discussed today would you like to see prioritized?
 - a. Remove barriers to accessing mental health system
 3. Are there a slate of issues from an advocacy organization you are connected with that you would like to present during a future month's Family Policy Board meeting?
 - a. None

AGENCY ROUNDTABLE – Hetti Brown with Coulee Cap shared with the group that the Community Action Network will have additional rental assistance available on the 15th of this month. They are also working with the county governments to request mortgage and property tax assistance.

Mary Kay Wolf with United Way shared with the group that the stakeholder meetings will be held in all of the surrounding counties. If you haven't received the information on when these meetings are, please send her an email and she will be sure you get a schedule.

ADJOURNMENT TO THE NEXT MEETING TO BE HELD MONDAY, MARCH 1, 2021, AT NOON

Chairperson Ann Kappauf adjourned the meeting at 12:48 pm.

Approved March 1, 2021, Tiffany Cornell, Recorder