

FAMILY POLICY BOARD

Monday, March 1, 2021

Meeting Held via Zoom

12:00 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Kristi Arenz, Nicole Brei, Hetti Brown, Mandy Bisek, Chris Crye, Megan DeVore, Isaac Hoffman, Ann Kappauf, Lacie Ketelhut, Sue Mathison, Melisa Myers, Heidi Odegaard, Roberto Partarrieu, Lisa Stablier, Ryan Stotts, Bridget Todd-Robbins, Tina Tryggestad, Jodi Widuch, Jason Witt, Mary Kay Wolf, Elizabeth Wright, Tita Yutuc

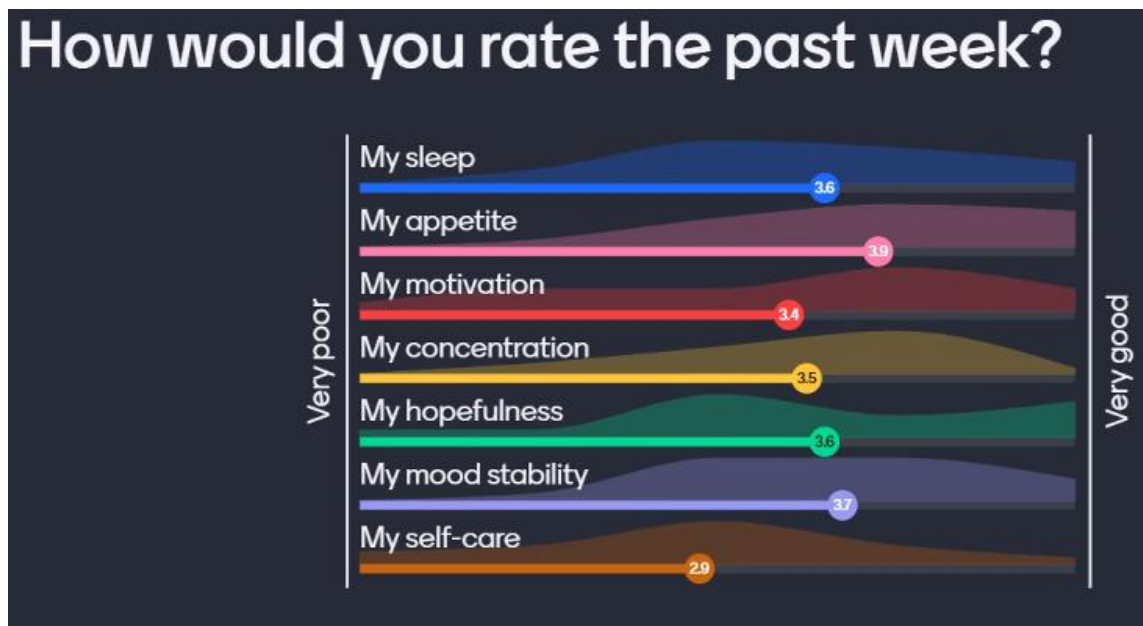
GUESTS/OTHERS PRESENT

None

CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Ann Kappauf called the meeting to order at 12:03pm

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 Roberto Partarrieu, seconded by Jodi Widuch to approve the February 1, 2021 minutes as presented. **Motion carried unanimously.**

HUMAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT AND BOARD UPDATES

HHS Board Update: Tina Tryggestad – there was a resolution to approve an agreement between Econolodge and La Crosse County to provide voluntary temporary shelter in order to mitigate the spread of COVID-19 in the unsheltered population. There was also a resolution for an application for 2020-21 Community Development Block Grant which provides COVID-19 relief funds for both business assistance and housing assistance. Lastly, there was a resolution in support of increased county child support funding which requests that state funding for county child support agencies be increased by \$4 million which will generate \$7.7 million in additional federal funding each year.

HS Director Update: Jason Witt –Governor Evers released his biennial budget proposal. There are a lot of items impacting child welfare, youth justice and other human services areas. More to come. No other updates within Human Services currently.

HS Service Section Update – none currently.

PRESENTATION:

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

1. **Recommendations from the Early Childhood Advisory Council** – Jodi Widuch shared the Early Childhood Advisory Council 2020 report, which can be found here:
<https://www.lacrossecounty.org/humanservices/docs/Family%20Policy%20Board/03%2001%202021%20Wudich%20Handout.pdf>.
2. **Priorities related to Domestic Violence** – Ann shared a PowerPoint, which can be found here:
<https://www.lacrossecounty.org/humanservices/docs/Family%20Policy%20Board/03%2001%202021%20Kappauf%20PowerPoint.pdf>.

Jason shared a PowerPoint that outlined the current timeline and the breakout questions for the day, which can be found here:
<https://www.lacrossecounty.org/humanservices/docs/Family%20Policy%20Board/03%2001%202021%20Witt%20PowerPoint.pdf>.

- Activities & Timeline
 - January-March was for us to **learn** about policy priorities of advocacy and different organizations with connections to Family Policy Board.
 - The following were shared with the group:
 - 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 in February
 - Early Childhood Advisory Council (ECAC) shared this month (March)
 - In April we will discuss and finalize priorities & advocacy strategies
 - In May & June we will advocate
 - 2021-23 State Budget: Priorities for Advocacy in Governor's Budget:
 - Housing Accessibility – (WISCAP) Hetti
 - Mental Health – (WAFCA) Tita
 - Youth Justice Reform – (WCA) Mandy/Jason
 - Early Childhood Development – (ECAC) Jodi
 - Domestic Violence – Ann
 - Child Welfare Reform – (WCA) Tracy/Jason
 - Home Visiting

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

Breakout rooms were not working, so we had a large group discussion, notes from that discussion are below:

1. Are there additions or deletions that you would recommend to the advocacy topic areas? We didn't discuss this question.
2. Would you like to participate in the presentation at the legislative meeting in any of the topic areas? We didn't discuss this question.
3. Are there any local examples or points of emphasis you would like to consider under the identified topic areas?
 - a. It was discussed to have Hetti share more information on specific housing categories:
 - i. Affordable Housing for families
 - ii. Homeless Youth (that are not being represented)
 1. Home-like shelter options
 2. Home-like bridge/transitional housing
 3. Long term affordable housing units

AGENCY ROUNDTABLE – Hetti shared with the group that there will be a press release going out today to share information with the public about the new rental assistance that is available through Coulee Cap. This is called the Wisconsin Emergency Rental Assistance (WERA) program which offers eligible households assistance with current or late rent, energy or utility bills, and other housing costs dating back to the start of the pandemic. Applicants must be a Wisconsin resident who has experienced a significant income loss or costs due directly or indirectly to COVID-19, is at risk of experiencing homelessness or housing instability, and has a household income at or below 80% of the county median income.

ADJOURNMENT TO THE NEXT MEETING TO BE HELD MONDAY, APRIL 5, 2021, AT NOON

Chairperson Ann Kappauf adjourned the meeting at 12:59 pm.

Approved April 5, 2021, Tiffany Cornell, Recorder