

FAMILY POLICY BOARD

Monday, May 6, 2019

Health & Human Services Building – Basement Auditorium

12:00 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Tita Yutuc, Kristi Arenz, Sue Mathison, Jessie Fortuna, Tracy Puent, Jenni Loging, Ann Kappauf, Ashley Santolin, Jane Klekamp, Lisa Duncanson, Gloria Doyle, Isaac Hoffman, Mary Kay Wolf, Catherine Kolkmeier, Chris Crye, Elizabeth Wright, Sharon Hampson, Jake Erickson, Barbara Mc Peak, Amanda Mather, Katie Berkedal, Carrie Jick, Hetti Brown

GUESTS/OTHERS PRESENT

Audra Martine

CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Tita Yutuc called the meeting to order at 12:05 pm

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION by Jane Klekamp and Catherine Kolkmeier to approve the April 1, 2019 minutes as presented. **Motion carried unanimously.**

HUMAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT AND BOARD UPDATES

HHS Board Update: Sharon Hampson

Sharon reports that the county board has been working on clean water in relation to run off from farms.

HS Director Update: Audra Martine

- Audra Martine attended the meeting in lieu of Jason Witt this month. Jason was the recipient of the Wisconsin County Human Services Association Distinguished Service Award.
- The Aging and Disability Resource Center has been working closely with the Alliance to HEAL on drug takeback. April 27th was National Drug Take Back Day and 243 pounds of unused medications were dropped off at the Health and Human Services collection site on that day.

Family and Children's Section Update: Tracy Puent

- On Monday April 15 several La Crosse County employees traveled to UW-River Falls to speak to the Joint Finance Committee and provide advocacy and feedback on the proposed 2019-2021 Wisconsin State Budget.
- The Family and Children supervisory team is now fully staffed since Kari Heal began her position as Supervisor of the Permanency Resource Unit.

FOCUS GROUP DISCUSSIONS

Tita distributed a draft letter to the Joint Finance Committee, edits to the letter were requested to be submitted to her by Friday May 10th. Legislators will be coming to our June 3rd meeting and a draft agenda was also shared for this. Suggestions from members to make the most of our time with the legislators included not serving lunch and having legislators make their remarks after the Family Policy Board presentations. The rationale for this being we want as much time as possible to present our priorities. To prepare for the upcoming meeting board members broke into five groups focusing on the priorities we want to present. The five priorities include: home visiting supports, child and family aides, homeless prevention programs, school mental health services, and the juvenile justice system. Each group will have 3 to 5 minutes to present and should be prepared and focused on keeping the legislators listening.

Agencies can bring a guest from their organization to attend the meeting if they choose. Groups were tasked with answering the following questions to prepare for June 3rd:

- What would you like to see shared with our local legislators about this priority issue and how it impacts La Crosse County?
- Do you have data or personal stories that could be included in the presentation or discussion?
- Do you have any other ideas for the presentation or discussion of this priority?

Lisa Duncanson from Aptiv requested an additional 1-2 minutes to discuss a 6th priority, the crisis situation in the direct care work force. Specifically, she shared that 1 of every 5 direct care staff positions are currently vacant. The pay rate for these positions is \$10.50 to \$11.00 per hour which is not a living wage. In addition to speaking with our legislators about this please encourage anyone you may know to apply for these positions. Finally, Audra provided the following link to factsheets for each Wisconsin County stating what DHS feels would be the benefits of Medicaid Expansion - <https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/budget/county.htm>.

QUARTERLY DATA DASHBOARD & AGENCY ROUNDTABLE

The YWCA is recruiting for a new executive director.

The Justice and Peace fund grant deadline is May 22nd.

Coulee Cap has \$7,000 grants available for down payment assistance for low income people purchasing homes.

ADJOURNMENT TO THE NEXT MEETING TO BE HELD MONDAY, JUNE 3, 2019, AT NOON

Chairperson Tita Yutuc adjourned the meeting at 1:00pm.

APPROVED July 1, 2019, Rachel Klistai, Recorder