

FAMILY POLICY BOARD

Monday, August 1, 2022

Hybrid Meeting (option to meet in person or via Zoom)

12:00 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Mike Baroni, Karolee Behringer, Sandy Brekke Hetti Brown, Chris Crye, Ann Kappauf, Catherine Kolkmeier, Carla Lundeen, Jodi Widuch, Jason Witt, Tita Yutuc, Michelle Burkhardt, Elizabeth Wright, Vie Matty, Heidi Odegaard

GUESTS/OTHERS PRESENT

Lori Graff

CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Ann Kappauf called the meeting to order at 12:08pm

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION by Tita Yutuc and Jodi Widuch to approve the June 6, 2022 minutes as presented. **Motion carried unanimously.**

HUMAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT AND BOARD UPDATES

HS Director Update: Jason Witt shared that Human Services recently received notice of some additional and continued federal and state level funding awarded to La Crosse County related to enhancing mental health services. The first grant is a continuation of funding aimed at enhancing children and youth mental health services. The grant is for \$116,000 annually for the next five years for this purpose. The other grant provides \$95,500 in seed money to add 2.0 FTE social workers that will allow expanding hours for the crisis mental health co-responder program with the City of La Crosse Policy Department. This is a collaboration where crisis workers and law enforcement arrive together when responding to certain situations where mental health issues are present. The additional staffing also adds capacity for short-term case management for individuals engaged through the crisis program while they are connecting with more long-term services. We will be asking members of the crisis team and co-responder program to present at a future Family Policy Board meeting.

HHS Board Update: No updates currently.

FOLLOW-UP ON JUNE MEETING'S ASSET MAPPING PRESENTATION/DISCUSSION WITH CINNAIRE SOLUTIONS

Hetti shared that Cinnaire is a community development financial institution focused on investment-related projects and identified areas in which they could potentially invest on projects within the community. The idea was to establish partnerships to take their findings and work more closely with stakeholder workgroups to advance what is already out there. Tita recalled that most items in the list of recommendations involved housing but not mental health. Coulee Cap has met with Cinnaire several times over the years and asset mapping for childcare through Parenting Place was being established which created the idea of the group partnering with Cinnaire.

CHILD CARE UPDATE - Jodi Widuch (The Parenting Place)

Prior to the pandemic in 2020, childcare was losing slots in the County. Because of the pandemic and the ARPA dollars, there are more resources for new strategies in an effort to reverse the trend in childcare. La Crosse County and the City of La Crosse have designated portions of their ARPA dollars to fund projects specific to childcare.

Jodi shared a handout with the group that can be found here: <https://lacrossecounty.org/docs/default-source/human-services/08-01-2022-fpb-la-crosse-county-child-care-initiatives.pdf>

UPDATE ON ECONOMIC SUPPORT COMMUNITY POSITIONS - Lorie Graff (La Crosse County Human Services - Economic Support Services)

Two certified Economic Support Specialists were added in 2022. They mainly work in the community and assist customers with completing all steps of the application process including confirming eligibility. They answer questions about community partners and troubleshoot issues such as malfunctioning healthcare and/or Foodshare cards. They are trained to work with all programs in the Economic Support Department. The Specialists are located at the Reach Center each Monday and Wednesday. They are hoping to add Fridays and are coordinating with community partners for additional locations and events. Until a set schedule is in place, customers can call Economic Support to ask about the location.

POTENTIAL SUBGROUP ON THERAPIST LICENSING & SUPERVISION

Jason recapped the discussion from a prior meeting regarding the need in the community for Clinical Therapists and the difficulties around licensing. The State has a backlog of approvals to be processed. Locally, becoming licensed requires supervision hours but there is a lack of qualified resources for this. The group was asked about interest in a subgroup to work toward solutions on these issues. Tita and Ann expressed interest, and it was also mentioned this may be a role for area universities. Tita and Ann will take the lead in forming this subgroup and report back status at future meetings.

AGENCY CHECK-INS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Sandy shared that Tellurian received a grant from the State to start a regional crisis stabilization facility and they are looking for physical space.

ADJOURNMENT TO THE NEXT MEETING TO BE HELD MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, 2022, AT NOON

Chairperson Ann Kappauf adjourned the meeting at 12:49pm.

Approved September 12, 2022 Connie Bublitz, Recorder