



BOARD MINUTES

WRIGHT COUNTY HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES BOARD

July 12, 2021

DATE APPROVED: August 9, 2021

Christine Husom,	District 1
Darek Vetsch,	District 2
Mark Daleiden,	District 3
Mary Wetter,	District 4
Michael Kaczmarek,	District 5

I. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Wright County Health & Human Services Board met in regular session at 1:30 p.m. with Husom, Daleiden, Wetter and Kaczmarek present. Vetsch absent. Vice Chair Kaczmarek presided.

STAFF PRESENT:

Carla Colvin, Case Aide
Christina Kollman, Social Worker
Christine Partlow, Business Manager
Christine Treichler, Social Services Supervisor
Diane Erkens, Social Services Supervisor
Erin Kodesh, Social Worker
James O'Dell, Technology Supervisor
Jami Goodrum Schwartz, Director
Jill Pooler, Social Services Manager (remote)
Joshuah Kwolik, Technology Coordinator
Kimberly Johnson, Financial Services Manager
Lee Kelly, County Administrator
Mason Coaty, Information Systems Analyst
Michelle Miller, Social Services Manager
Noami Blomberg, Administrative Specialist
Samantha Pettit, Social Worker
Sarah Grosshuesch, Public Health Director

Other:

Linda Carlson
Amy Peterson, SAFE Families Coordinator
Teresa McNamee, Rivers of Hope Executive Director

II. MINUTES APPROVAL

ACTION: Daleiden moved, Husom second, to approve the June 14, 2021 minutes. Motion carried

III. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Wetter moved to add the 2021-07-26 HHS Board meeting cancellation as *Item C* under *Item IV - Consent Agenda*. Goodrum Schwartz requested removal of *Item VII, A, #4 - Code of America Update*.

ACTION: Daleiden moved, Husom second, to approve the agenda as amended. Motion carried.

IV. CONSENT AGENDA

Kaczmarek requested to pull *Item #2 - Public Health Task Force* under *A* for discussion and move forward with approval of the other items listed.

ACTION: Daleiden moved, Husom second, to approve the consent agenda as proposed. Motion carried.

A. ACCEPT ADVISORY COMMITTEE REAPPOINTMENTS

1. Mental Health Advisory Council (MHAC)
 - a. Stephanie Barnes – District 4
 - b. Tammi Dahlman – District 5

2. Public Health Task Force (PHTF)
 - a. Melissa Pribyl – District 5
 - b. Jason Franzen – District 5
 - c. Joshua Ryder – District 5
- B. ACCEPT MENTAL HEALTH ADVISORY COUNCIL RESIGNATION
 1. Rodney Wurm – District 2
 2. Kristy Potter – District 2
- C. APPROVE REQUEST TO CANCEL 2021-07-26 HHS BOARD MEETING

Discussion of A – Item #2 – Public Health Task Force reappointments:

Kaczmarek questioned the current process of submitting recommendations for reappointments twice a year even when the term-end may be months away. This, Kaczmarek said, potentially holds up the spot which could be filled by other applicants who have the interest and ability to serve immediately [there is a new applicant waiting for approval]. Additionally, Kaczmarek asked if the candidates for reappointment are assessed to meet certain measures such as attendance expectation. Kaczmarek also called for more transparency and disclosure such as the number of terms served and the two-year term's end-date when recommending appointees for Board acceptance.

Goodrum Schwartz confirmed that members do not hold a spot and that the committees consider applications on an ongoing basis if the required ratio of representation is met.

Husom agreed that recurring unexcused absences be grounds for membership removal as it affects the quorum, delaying actionable items. Goodrum Schwartz recalled that the various attendance records were brought to the Board a year ago to demonstrate participation level.

Husom sought clarification from Kaczmarek if he favors reappointing members two months prior to their terms' ending versus the current practice of every January and July group approvals. Kaczmarek was open to that idea while Goodrum Schwartz also expressed she is open to suggestions going forward.

RECOMMENDATION: Continue discussion on consistent policy at a future Board meeting, present attendance records, include “*excused*” and “*unexcused*” status on the meeting minutes going forward; introduce bylaws amendment, if any, after committee meetings in August.

Kaczmarek asked if the Board agrees to reappoint the two [of the three members] PHTF members with the highest attendance record and table the least for later consideration, or approve the new applicant now to replace that member. Goodrum Schwartz recommended to bring the new candidate to the next meeting and not hold off the currently presented appointees. Kaczmarek countered that he would rather trade the spot with the current applicant who is “able and willing” to serve – citing that a 38 percent meeting attendance over the two and half years, in a vice-chair role, is not acceptable. Public Health Director Grosshuesch explained the steps required in the bylaws prior to an applicant's acceptance.

ACTION: Kaczmarek asked for a motion to approve the top two PHTF members with the highest attendance record and leave the one with the lowest participation level for later discussion. Husom moved, Daleiden second, to reappoint Melissa Pribyl and Joshua Ryder to the Task Force, postpone Jason Franzen's for later consideration. Motion carried.

V. NEW HIRE

- A. Christina Kollman, Social Worker, Child Protection (CP1) Team, June 21, 2021
- B. Samantha Pettit, Social Worker, Mental & Chemical Health Team, July 6, 2021
- C. Carla Colvin, Case Aide, Mental & Chemical Health and Youth Services Teams, July 6, 2021

D. Joshua Kwolik, Technology Coordinator, Technology Team, July 12, 2021

VI. EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH – AUGUST

Erin Kodesh is the August Employee of the Month.

VII. REGULAR AGENDA

A. Social Services/Public Health/Financial Services

1. ACCEPT RESOLUTION HHS 21-02: JUNE DONATION

ACTION: Daleiden moved, Husom second, to accept Resolution HHS 21-02. Motion carried 4-0 via voice votes.

2. INFORMATION: [RIVERS OF HOPE](#)

(EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TERESA McNAMEE)

Rivers of Hope (ROH) provides a community coordinated response to end violence through advocacy, education and inter-agency collaboration, working closely with county agencies, schools, law enforcement, the county attorney's office, shelters, mental health providers and others.

ROH in 2020 served 721 individuals in Wright and Sherburne counties, with approximately 52 percent of these in Wright. As of June this year, ROH has already served close to 500 individuals between their youth and adult programs. The average monthly contacts increased by over 50 percent from 2019 – 2020, and trending up to 60 percent this year. These contacts focus more on mental health resources, housing needs and economic security.

In Wright County, nine percent of male and 20 percent of female 11th grade students experienced verbal abuse and controlling behaviors in teen dating relationships; nine to eleven percent of 8th – 11th grade students said a parent or other adult in their household physically hurt them in any way. ROH saw steady improvements this year on youth programs after a 70 decline in spring last year due to school closing – ROH's continued presence online and the social media significantly contributed to the steady numbers of youth contacts.

3. INFORMATION: [SAFE FAMILIES](#)

(COMMUNITY COORDINATOR AMY PETERSON)

Safe Families is a faith-based volunteer organization supporting parents and children in crisis, actively stepping into gaps to avert placement and preserve family units. Safe Families hosts children ages 0-18 years old, 70 percent of whom are under the age of six. Volunteers can serve as a family friend, coach, host or as a resource, with the goal of moving people from being consumers to contributors.

Wright County currently serves four families [seven children total] in the Wright County area while also serving a family in Sherburne; Anoka County serves two children living in Wright while another family in Wright is being served by North Hennepin. Wright County has 13 approved volunteers – and needing more volunteers. Volunteers go through background check processes and assessments.

~~4. UPDATE: CODE OF AMERICA MNBENEFITS PILOT PROGRAM (STEPHANIE BRIDGETTE WILEY, 10 MINUTES)~~

B. Administration

1. DIRECTOR COMMENTS

Governor Walz proclaimed July 27 as County Staff Appreciation Day. Goodrum Schwartz thanked the Board for its support to the HHS staff.

Public Health proposed to reorganize teams to better align program distribution, staff ratio and supervision, and billing management. The teams' names will also be renamed: Collaborative Health Services, Healthy Children and Family Services, Health Promotion and Protection. Kelsey Collier, Public Health Nurse, accepted the new supervisor position in Public Health.

The Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) under the local Public Health Grant awarded Wright County an additional \$87K to the \$269K base grant in 2021. Public Health in the 2021 budget was granted a new full time Public Health Nurse (PHN) position for the Evidence-Based Home Visiting (EBHV) Programs to start in July 2021. With the EBHV programs merging into one program – MESCSH (Maternal Early Childhood Sustained Home-Visiting) – Goodrum Schwartz proposed to reallocate the funds from the already approved EBHV PHN position (2021 budget) to the \$87K local Public Health grant fund and use this position toward underserved long-term care centers and school-aged children. Goodrum Schwartz sought Board direction to either bring it to the Personnel Committee or discuss at the HHS Board. Goodrum Schwartz clarified that this position is budget-neutral and that the only difference is funding source. This position requires \$97K annually and HHS will pull from other funding sources to offset the \$10K difference. Should this position fail to get fully funded in future years, Goodrum Schwartz committed to bring it back to the Board to discuss what direction to take.

CONSENSUS: The Board and County Coordinator Lee Kelly agreed to move the request for approval to the County Board Consent Agenda for records purposes.

Connelly Development is moving forward with a new 55-unit housing development in Delano – four long-term homeless units and four units for persons with disability. Connelly Development is asking for a housing support letter of commitment – a requirement for federal funding application and in return, the county can refer clients to their units. The application deadline to the Minnesota Housing Finance is on July 15, 2021.

The meeting adjourned at 2:54 p.m.

Submitted by Naomi Blomberg, Administrative Specialist