



BOARD MINUTES

WRIGHT COUNTY HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES BOARD

September 13, 2021

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

DATE APPROVED: October 11, 2021

I. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

STAFF PRESENT:

Belynda Pageau, Information Systems Specialist
Beth Hammer, Social Worker
Christine Partlow, Business Manager
Erika Pillatzke, Eligibility Specialist
James O'Dell, Technology Supervisor
Jami Goodrum Schwartz, Director
Jill Pooler, Social Services Manager
Kimberly Johnson, Financial Services Manager
Mason Coaty, Information, Systems Specialist
Michelle Czech, Financial Services Supervisor
Michelle Miller, Social Services Manager
Noami Blomberg, Administrative Specialist
Sarah Grosshuesch, Public Health Director
Shannon Tucker, Social Worker

OTHER:

Heather Brooks, AmeriCorps Program Coordinator
Jennifer Wucherer, AmeriCorps Program Director

II. MINUTES APPROVAL

ACTION: Daleiden moved, Husom second, to approve the August 9, 2021 minutes. Motion carried

III. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF AGENDA

ACTION: Daleiden moved, Kaczmarek second, to approve the agenda. Motion carried.

IV. CONSENT AGENDA

ACTION: Kaczmarek requested to pull *Item C, 1 & 2* for questions and moved, Husom second, to approve remaining items. Motion carried.

A. ACCEPT MENTAL HEALTH ADVISORY APPLICATION

1. Caroline Malone – District 2
2. Dallas O'Dell – District 2
3. Samantha Bavage – District 3

B. ACCEPT MENTAL HEALTH ADVISORY RESIGNATION

1. Stephanie Kantola – District 1 (Provider, Village Ranch)

C. APPROVE TEAM RETREAT

1. APPROVE 2021-10-01 LICENSING & THERAPEUTIC SERVICES TEAM RETREAT, NEY PARK
2. APPROVE 2021-10-08 CHILD PROTECTION TEAM RETREAT, NEY PARK
3. APPROVE 2021-10-14 INTAKE & INTERVENTION TEAM RETREAT, JUSTICE CENTER

D. APPROVE REQUEST TO CANCEL 2021-09-27 HHS BOARD MEETING

Discussion of Item C, 1 & 2:

Question if team retreats have monetary cost for speakers and non-county-facility venues. Goodrum Schwartz confirmed that training budget is allocated for speakers, approximately \$500 per retreat, no cost for Ney Park. The Board also preferred all team retreats of more than four hours, regardless of venue, be brought to the Board for approval.

ACTION: Kaczmarek moved, Husom second, to approve *Item C, 1 & 2*. Motion carried.

V. NEW HIRE

A. Erika Pillatzke, Eligibility Specialist, Adult, Family Financial Services & LTC Team, September 7, 2021

VI. EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH – OCTOBER

Belynda Pageau is October Employee of the Month

VII. REGULAR AGENDA

A. Social Services/Public Health/Financial Services

1. APPROVE RESOLUTION HHS 21-03 AUTHORIZING LUTHERAN SOCIAL SERVICES (LSS) TO BE THE ADMINISTRATOR OF THE MINNESOTA HOUSING FINANCE AGENCY FAMILY HOMELESSNESS PREVENTION AND ASSISTANCE PROGRAM IN WRIGHT COUNTY

ACTION: Daleiden moved, Wetter second, to approve Resolution HHS 21-03. Motion carried 5-0 via voice vote.

2. APPROVE RESOLUTION HHS 21-04 – AUGUST DONATION

ACTION: Daleiden moved, Wetter second, to approve Resolution HH 21-04. Motion carried 5-0 via voice vote.

3. INFORMATION: AMERICORPS SENIORS

(AMERICORPS PROGRAM DIRECTOR JENNIFER WUCHERER; AMERICORPS PROGRAM COORDINATOR HEATHER BROOKS)

Overview on AmeriCorps Seniors RSVP (Retired Senior Volunteer Program) – a volunteer service program for people 55 years and older, supporting communities and organizations. AmeriCorps St. Cloud Area, covering counties Benton, Sherburne, Stearns and Wright, partners with approximately 150 local organizations and non-profits – producing 61K volunteer hours in 2020 – half of the hours produced in 2019, due to the COVID pandemic. AmeriCorps Seniors RSVP highly impacts sectors in food security, healthy aging, K-12 education, financial stability, disaster response, wellness, transportation, and others.

AmeriCorps recently expanded its services to Wright County, actively hosting 38 RSVPs, partnering with local providers such as Guardian Angels, CentraCare, WCCA, Buffalo Food Shelf, Rivers of Hope, while seeking expansion for more partnerships, including Wright County Health and Human Services.

AmeriCorps anticipates at least 50 volunteers for Wright County in 2022, with the goal of 100 volunteers.

To help meet its future goals in Wright County, AmeriCorps sought Board guidance on networking and sharing program needs, consideration of a county representative in its advisory council, dedicated physical space at a county facility to meet with volunteers, and to secure future financial funding. AmeriCorps requires local government funding to match its federal dollars, anticipating \$8K – 12K matching funds from Wright County, applicable for three years.

HHS is interested to consult with the Board regarding future space allotment in the new building.

4. PRESENTATION: ADULT PROTECTIVE SERVICES

(SHANNON TUCKER, BETH HAMMER)

Overview on policy and practices based on MN Statute 626.557, defining what constitutes maltreatment – abuse, neglect, or financial exploitation – of a vulnerable adult. Wright County uses a team approach in screening forms, which include law enforcement, mental health case managers, supervisors – this team determines criteria for vulnerable adult status, makes referral for MN CHOICES assessments, coordinates with families, providers, adult outreach, victim’s advocacy and more. Wright County screened 679 reports in 2020 – this number may include multiple reports of the same individuals; 18 percent of these were screened-in and 82 percent screened-out. Financial exploitation was the largest report in 2020, with six substantiated finding, out of 15 different allegations.

5. INFORMATION: [FAMILY FIRST PREVENTION SERVICES ACT](#) (FFPSA)
(MICHELLE MILLER)

The Family First Prevention Services Act (FFPSA), a child welfare federal law passed in 2018, is expected to take effect at the end of September 2021. Although the well-intended focus is on a child welfare prevention approach, the anticipated pre-emptive requirements potentially pose hurdles for the current systems and practices such as FFPSA’s 10 to 12-hour assessments, foster care clearing requirements and system overhaul. FFPSA is cost-neutral as the changes only involve movement of funding sources. Potential clog on the process is expected, considering the short timeframe until enactment.

B. Administration

1. DIRECTOR’S COMMENTS

Handout – letter of support – Suicide Prevention Strategic Planning Cohort.

Handout –2020 Tobacco Compliance Strategic Planning Cohort report.

Update on follow-me printing – enhanced system features ability to print to and pick up from any of the eight Cannon printers, automated corresponding code allocation and cost-effective paper use.

HHS stands to lose \$5,941 from State funding due to being out of compliance from the Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA) program audit last year. Wright County, one of 28 out of 53 counties being placed on Performance Improvement Plan (PIP), yielded only one erroneous case. Commissioner Kaczmarek asked if this can be appealed, as the error did not create a lack of services and was relatively minor. Kaczmarek offered to contact the State on behalf of HHS.

Meeting adjourned at 2:54 p.m.

Submitted by Naomi Blomberg, Administrative Specialist