



**WRIGHT COUNTY
HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES
BOARD AGENDA**

March 8, 2021

Board of Commissioners:

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

- I. **1:30 P.M. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**
- II. **MINUTES - DISPENSE WITH READING. APPROVE AS WRITTEN/REVISED**
 - A. **2021-02-22 HHS BOARD MINUTES (DRAFT)**

Documents:

[2021-02-22 HHS BOARD.PDF](#)
- III. **REVIEW & APPROVAL OF AGENDA**
- IV. **CONSENT AGENDA**
 - A. **APPROVE REQUEST TO CANCEL 2021-03-22 HHS BOARD MEETING**
 - B. **ACCEPT PUBLIC HEALTH TASK FORCE APPLICATION**
 1. **Bryden Giving (District 1)**
- V. **NEW HIRE**
 1. **Lori Blaukat, Health Promotion Coordinator, Health Promotion Team, March 1, 2021**
- VI. **EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH - APRIL**
- VII. **REGULAR AGENDA**
 - A. **SOCIAL SERVICES/PUBLIC HEALTH/FINANCIAL SERVICES**
 1. **PROCLAMATION: MARCH AS SOCIAL WORKER MONTH (MICHELLE MILLER, JILL POOLER, 5 MINUTES)**

Documents:

[2021 MARCH SW MONTH PROCLAMATION.PDF](#)
 2. **UPDATE: CHILD SUPPORT TEXTING PILOT (KIMBERLY JOHNSON, 10 MINUTES)**
 - B. **ADMINISTRATION**
 1. **DIRECTOR'S COMMENTS**



BOARD MINUTES

WRIGHT COUNTY HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES BOARD

February 22, 2021

DATE APPROVED:

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

THESE MINUTES ARE IN DRAFT FORMAT AND REQUIRE APPROVAL BY THE HHS BOARD

I. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Wright County Health & Human Services Board met in regular session at 1:31 p.m. with Husom, Vetsch, Daleiden, Wetter and Kaczmarek present. Chair Vetsch called the meeting to order.

STAFF PRESENT:

Christine Treichler, Social Services Supervisor (remote)
Diane Erkens, Social Services Supervisor (remote)
Jami Goodrum Schwartz, Director
Jill Pooler, Social Services Manager (remote)
Kimberly Johnson, Financial Services Manager (remote)
Lee Kelly, County Administrator (remote)
Michelle Miller, Social Services Manager (remote)
Noami Blomberg, Administrative Specialist
Sarah Grosshuesch, Public Health Director

II. MINUTES APPROVAL

ACTION: Husom moved, Wetter second, to approve the February 8, 2020 minutes. Motion carried.

III. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

IV. REGULAR AGENDA

A. Social Services/Public Health/Financial Services

1. DISCUSSION: FIVE-YEAR WIC CONTRACT

(JAMI GOODRUM SCHWARTZ, SARAH GROSSHUESCH)

Goodrum Schwartz sought direction from the Board on the \$375K Women, Infants and Children (WIC) grant due to for renewal in 2022. The Request for Proposal (RFP) from the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) rolls out March 1, with the Letter of Intent due March 16, and the grant application by April 2.

Through the Federal Department of Agriculture, MDH grants WIC funding every five years, with counties having first right of refusal to administer the program. Wright County is one of only three counties statewide that exclude WIC operations from their Health and Human Services program, allowing WIC grants to be awarded to Wright County Community Action (WCCA).

Although WCCA can apply to renew the grant, HHS, the default administrator of the program, with Board consent, may choose to exercise its control of the right of first refusal with MDH. Grosshuesch outlined the positive and negative impact of this approach – ultimately, as affirmed by Husom and Goodrum Schwartz, HHS' absorbing WIC provides efficient and comprehensive services to clients, which according to Husom, may outpace any other consideration.

Public Health will explore ways to accommodate the shift such as staffing acquisition or reorganization of existing staff, depending how other program funding impacts workload. The probable funding cut to the Child and Teen Wellness Program potentially allows reallocation of staff time to WIC operations. Wright County HHS could also opt for multi-county partnership to provide the resource and coordination, giving clients the convenience of cross-county enrollment and some sharing of staff resources.

Goodrum Schwartz reminded the board that whatever direction it decides, HHS has multiple programs aligned and in place to complement WIC; prioritizes the community's best interest, ensuring that families receive the resources they need. She added that she is confident that HHS can effectively administer the program.

CONSENSUS: The Board agreed to entertain an exploratory study whether to bring WIC in-house or retain WCCA as the program administrator if they decide to renew; discuss at the Committee of the Whole on March 11 or 12; WCCA is invited to present information if interested to retain WIC.

ACTION: Provide cost benefit analysis and comparison from both agencies: number of WCCA referrals, county partnership, benefit over risk to the WCCA/HHS relationship, staffing, WIC utilization as a percentage of the population and the percentage of the population receiving SNAP versus WIC, other beneficial information.

B. Administration

Material handout: letter of support for WCCA's Proposal to the MN Pollution Control Request for Proposal (RFP) for Prevention of Wasted Food and Food Rescue Grant.

Goodrum Schwartz informed the Board of her resignation from the Workforce Development Board effective June 30, 2021.

The COVID Response Team expressed its appreciation of the Highway Department's partnership throughout the vaccination process.

HHS is working on the details for Agency response to the January 27 letter from DHS regarding the 2019 State Audit Review.

The meeting adjourned at 2:28 p.m.

Minutes submitted by Naomi Blomberg, Administrative Specialist



Wright County Health & Human Services
Wright County, Minnesota

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, the Social Work Profession for decades has been dedicated to improving human well-being and enhancing the basic needs of all people—especially the most vulnerable among us;

WHEREAS, this year’s Social Work Month theme, “Social Workers Are Essential,” embodies the heroic contributions of the Social Work profession to our nation, including the work Social Workers have done to heal our nation during these times of pandemic, racial unrest, economic uncertainty and political divisiveness;

WHEREAS, Social Workers have always been present in times of crisis, helping people overcome issues such as death and grief and helping people and communities recover from natural disasters such as fires, hurricanes and earthquakes;

WHEREAS, Social Workers have helped this nation live up to its values by successfully advocating for equal rights for all people, no matter their race, sexual identity, gender, gender expression, culture or religion;

WHEREAS the Social Work Profession is one of the fastest growing professions in the United States, with nearly 800,000 people expected to be employed as Social Workers by 2028;

WHEREAS Social Workers work in all parts of our society to empower people to live to their fullest potential;

WHEREAS, School Social Workers have worked with families and school throughout the pandemic to ensure students reach their full academic and personal potential;

WHEREAS, Social Workers play a crucial role in our nation’s health care system and have played a key role in this nation’s response to COVID-19 and helping individuals, families and communities cope with the epidemic;

WHEREAS, Social Workers for generations have advocated for positive changes that have made our society a better place to live, including urging policymakers to adopt the minimum wage, improve workplace safety, and enact social safety net programs that help ameliorate hunger, homelessness, and poverty;

WHEREAS, Social Workers are one of the largest groups of mental health care providers in the United States, and work daily to help people—whether in person or remotely—overcome substance use disorders and mental illnesses such as depression and anxiety;

WHEREAS, Social Workers will continue to stand ready to assist our nation in overcoming present and future challenges, including pushing for racial equity, ending gun violence, improving health care and mental health care for all and urging lawmakers to adopt immigration reforms;

NOW, THEREFORE, in recognition of the numerous contributions made by America’s Social Workers, the Wright County Health & Human Services Board proclaims the month of March 2021 National Social Work Month and call upon all citizens of Wright County to join the National Association of Social Workers and Wright County Health & Human Services in celebration and support of the Social Work Profession.

MARCH 2021: NATIONAL SOCIAL WORKER MONTH

Jami Goodrum Schwartz
Director, Wright County Health & Human Services