



BOARD MINUTES

WRIGHT COUNTY HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES BOARD

April 11, 2022

DATE APPROVED: May 9, 2022

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, and Kaczmarek present. Wetter and Vetsch absent. Chair Kaczmarek presided.

STAFF PRESENT:

Jami Goodrum Schwartz, Director
Christine Partlow, Business Manager
Daisy Blanchette, Social Worker
Emily Anderson, Social Worker II
Jill Pooler, Social Services Manager
Jodi Martin, Child Support Officer (remote)
Joel Torkelson, Planner
Jon Young, Public Health Supervisor
Karen Popken, Child Support Supervisor (remote)
Katharine Bright, Office Technician II
Kimberly Johnson, Financial Services Manager
Lisa Spencer, Office Manager
Mary Ross, Office Technician I
Mason Coaty, Information Systems Specialist
Michelle Miller, Social Services Manager
Molly Martie, Social Services Supervisor
Noami Blomberg, Administrative Specialist
Rachel Nelson, Health Promotio Coordinator
Rebecca Langaard, Social Worker
Richelle Kramer, Social Services Supervisor
Sarah Grosshuesch, Public Health Director

Other:

Amy Walz
Willow Grace (Therapy Canine)

II. MINUTES APPROVAL

ACTION: Husom moved, Daleiden second, to approve the 2022-03-14 minutes. Motion carried.

III. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

IV. CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Approve Request to Apply for *DHS Family Group Decision-Making to Promote Family Preservation Grant* [\$150,000] for Period 2022-03-30 to 2024-06-30 to Expand FGDM Services to Individuals and Families
- B. Approve 2022-04-25 Public Health All Staff Retreat, Nye Park
- C. Approve 2022-05-12 Reassessment & Supports Team Retreat, Spirit of Joy Church, Buffalo

- D. Approve HHS Advisory Application
 - 1. Lashale Eskridge, District 4
- E. Accept Mental Health Advisory Council Resignation
 - 1. Eric Nagel, District 1, Community Provider for Adults (WCCA)
- F. Approve Request To Cancel 2022-04-25 HHS Board Meeting
ACTION: Husom moved, Daleiden second, to approve the agenda. Motion carried.

V. REGULAR AGENDA

A. Staffing Announcement

- 1. New Hire
 - i. Rachel Nelson, Health Promotion Coordinator, Health Promotion & Protection Team, March 16, 2022
 - ii. Rebecca Langaard, Social Worker, Assessment Services Team, April 4, 2022
 - iii. Mary Ross, Office Technician I, Office Support Team, April 4, 2022
 - iv. Katharine Bright, Office Technician II, Child Protection Team, April 4, 2022
- 2. Employee of the Month – May
Daisy Blanchette is May Employee of the month.

B. Social Services/Public Health/Financial Services

- 1. PROCLAMATION: [APRIL 30 AS NATIONAL THERAPY ANIMAL DAY](#)
(WRIGHT COUNTY CONSTITUENT AMY WALZ)
Walz shared her personal mental health crisis experience that led to [You're Not Alone](#) and its mission to equip all Minnesota schools with therapy dog teams to share hope and support to families experiencing mental and emotional challenges. *You're Not Alone* aims to create a network of volunteers such as retirees in the educational and government sector – anyone with a well-trained dog may complete an assessment test for enrollment. *You're Not Alone* needs publicity and funding statewide – it is holding an indoor/outdoor concert in Monticello on June 29 to raise funds. The Board acknowledged that therapy canine, Willow, brings positive impact to the Monticello middle school students, as shared by Monticello Middle School Library Media Specialist Kari Green in her letter.

ACTION: Daleiden moved, Husom second, to proclaim April 30 as National Therapy Animal Day in Wright County. Motion carried via roll call vote.

- 2. UPDATE AND NEXT STEPS: TRUANCY AND EDUCATIONAL NEGLECT
(MICHELLE MILLER)
As a follow-up to the Wright2School program discussion at the January 10 HHS Board meeting, Miller clarified that two departments significantly impact the truancy program - HHS and the County Attorney's Office (CAO). The Departments will develop a joint survey to send to schools for their perspectives on the County truancy presence in the schools. It was also mentioned that the wRight Choice program, although limited to schools' exclusive authority for placement referral, will be considered for discussion.

CONSENSUS: Bring this item to the May HHS Board to set the Committee of the Whole meeting date.

- 3. PRESENTATION: [2021 COMMUNITY HEALTH SURVEY](#)
(JOEL TORKELESON)
Approximately 1,550, out of 8,000, responded to the random community health survey conducted by Public Health, Wright County Community Action, Allina Health and CentraCare Monticello in October 2021 to January 2022. The top-five health issues facing Wright County are: distracted driving – 73 percent, obesity – 72 percent, other mental health issues – 59 percent, use of e-

cigarettes/vaping of nicotine products – 59 percent, depression among adults – 58 percent. Additionally, there were over 700 comments from respondents related to COVID19 and its impact.

The Community Health Assessment is a collaborative project by Public Health, WCCA, Allina Health-Buffalo Hospital, CentraCare Health Monticello.

4. PRESENTATION: [HHS SCORECARD](#)
(EMILY ANDERSON, JOEL TORKELSON, CHRISTINE PARTLOW, ~~JODI MARTIN~~ KIM JOHNSON)

Torkelson, Anderson, Johnson and Partlow presented the proposed public-facing Agency scorecard, highlighting program measures and outcomes that resonate to the public. HHS also maintains an internal scorecard to track and measure performance expectations. Daleiden suggested to include the number of cases/families in Child Support Effectiveness measure and a “story behind the curve.”

C. Administration

1. DIRECTOR’S COMMENTS

Proclamation: April 4-11 as National Public Health Week.

ACTION: Husom moved, Daleiden second, to proclaim April 4 – 11 as Public Health Week. Motion carried via roll call voting.

The Department of Human Services (DHS) commended HHS staff for its perfect performance in meeting the DHS financial reporting requirements for Calendar Year 2021. Business Manager Christine Partlow commented that HHS’ cohesive Fiscal team generated this success and that there are concerns of a team breakup with the currently proposed Finance centralization. Partlow asked the Board to keep this in mind throughout the ongoing centralization discussions.

Wright County resulted to a zero-percent error rate compared to 7.75 percent Statewide error rate from the State’s Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP) case reviews for State Fiscal Year 2021. Reviews are completed monthly statewide for error awareness and assessment for additional training.

Safe Families is closing its Minnesota-based locations and looking at merging with another chapter, after which, will improve its infrastructure to accommodate its programs. HHS will look at the contracts and anticipates that Safe Families will again take referrals in June this year. The faith-based non-profit organization faced significant challenges to best serve families due to sharp increase of family needs during the pandemic.

Goodrum updated the Board on her leave from office in the last week of April.

Meeting adjourned at 2:43 p.m.

Submitted by Naomi Blomberg, Administrative Specialist