

## PROCEEDINGS OF THE BROWN COUNTY HUMAN SERVICES BOARD

Pursuant to Section 19.84 Wis. Stats, a regular meeting of the **Brown County Human Services Board** was held on Thursday, October 10, 2013 in Board Room A of the Sophie Beaumont Building – 111 North Jefferson Street, Green Bay, WI

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**Present:** Chairman Tom Lund  
Craig Huxford, Helen Smits, Paula Laundrie, Susan Hyland, Carole Andrews,  
John Van Dyck, Bill Clancy

**Excused:** Susan Hyland, JoAnn Grashberger

**Also**

**Present:** Jeremy Kral, Executive Director  
Tim Schmitt, Finance Manager  
Brent Miller, Director of Administration

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1. **Call Meeting to Order:**  
The meeting was called to order by Chair Tom Lund at 5:15 pm.
2. **Approve/Modify Agenda:**  
LAUNDRIE/SMITS moved to approve the agenda.  
The motion was passed unanimously.
3. **Approve Minutes of September 12, 2013 Human Services Board Meeting:**  
HUXFORD/LAUNDRIE moved to approve the minutes dated September 12, 2013.  
The motion was passed unanimously.

The group went around the room and introduced themselves.

4. **Executive Director's Report**

Executive Director Jeremy Kral presented and handed a written report to the board (attached).

Q: Chairman Lund asked what the difference between paying for a juvenile versus an adult going to court.

A: Kral stated that it is more expensive to house and treat juvenile offenders but the investment pays for itself as they are more likely not to become an offender as an adult. \$600,000 is one of our more conservative estimates as to what it would cost for Brown County to implement this.

Q: Citizen Board Member Huxford stated that when they instituted the act in 1995, there was a mechanism at the time that allowed for 17-year olds could be sent to juvenile court and asked if something has changed since 2000 when he retired.

A: Kral stated he could only speak from 2004 to present but during that time period, that has not been allowed.

Q: Citizen Board Member Laundrie asked if we could compile some data to prove that this initiative is a success.

A: Kral stated that is not an option that is on the table right now. It is likely to pass whether unfunded or funded and it would not be the most valuable use of our resources.

Q: County Board Member Van Dyck stated that we need to be proactive if this comes to pass and look at both sides of the equation. There should be some savings on the adult justice side and asked what that would be.

A: Kral stated that most of the services in our estimate are not for housing the juvenile, but for treatment and support. It could affect the costs of operating the jail because it would move some offenders from adult facilities to juvenile facilities.

VAN DYCK/ANDREWS moved to receive and place on file.  
Motion was carried unanimously.

## **5. Veteran's Treatment Court.**

- Jeremy Kral stated that Brown County is a leader in diversion and treatment focused courts. He introduced Brent Miller who is one of the steering committee members and a mentor for the Veteran's Treatment Court. Craig Huxford is also a mentor and passed out informational brochures. Kral stated this court gives veterans who have had some errors in judgment seek treatment and help to reduce or eliminate their sentence.
- Miller stated that one of the requirements to become a mentor is that you have to be a veteran. There are 29 participants in the program and he is a mentor to two young men. Miller has been a mentor since January. At first, it is hard to communicate with participants. You meet on a weekly basis to discuss budgeting and make sure they are making their commitments (i.e. Alcoholics Anonymous, treatment, etc.) The participant also has to be in school or get a job. If they complete the program through the treatment court, the felony gets taken off their record.
- Huxford added that it is a minimum of an 18 month process. It takes two years for many of them who are participating through probation/parole. There are a few who are scheduled to graduate November 15<sup>th</sup>.
- Miller stated that as a mentor, you build a rapport with the participant(s). They also hold each other accountable in a sense of brotherhood. He stated it is a blessing beyond belief that he has become involved with this. We are definitely a leader with this court and the mentor program makes a huge difference. It helps the participants succeed and reminds them they are not alone.
- Huxford stated that the current court coordinator is limited in doing case management for the vet court participants as her full-time role is helping with drug court. In going through a LEAN event, we need to have a coordinator to have sole focus on vet court and coordinate all the areas, to go beyond where we are at now.

Q: Citizen Board Member Laundrie asked about what support is needed from the board in order for Human Services to get a coordinator position.

A: Due to the fact that all treatment courts function the same (treatment in lieu of incarceration), the position most likely would be under our organizational chart but the person would also get direction from the judges.

Q: Citizen Board Member Andrews asked if we have a mechanism for people with ongoing pain issues to get them back in the medical system.

A: Huxford stated there is a veteran's justice officer who has contact with the VA. She services Brown, Outagamie and Sheboygan counties and she's qualified to address those exact issues.

Q: County Board Member Van Dyck asked why we do this court for just veterans and no other groups of people.

A: Miller said that everyone in the group does have the same bond of military. You have accountability and a chain of a command that you cannot shut off. The camaraderie of this specific group makes it work so well.

Q: Citizen Board Member Smits asked if there are other counties who have these treatment courts up and running for longer that we can learn from.

A: Huxford stated we have been working with a vet court in Buffalo, New York, who is a leader in the nation. Through some donations received, we have been able to bring some of the representatives from that court for some training. This program is new to other Wisconsin counties as well so there is no standard set. The VA is endorsing it now due to its success.

- Huxford added that we have 29 participants which is three times as much as other counties. We also have 8 pending referrals since we do not have enough mentors to cover.

Q: Citizen Board Member Andrews asked what could be done to get more mentors.

A: Lund suggested more advertising needs to be done and suggested to get a story in the Sunday Press Gazette. Huxford stated that the Press Gazette has done two stories in the past. All the mentors thus far have come from word of mouth. He encouraged the group to pass on the brochures and talk about it to get more people involved.

Q: Citizen Board Member Andrews asked if mentors have to be located in Brown County.

A: Miller stated they do not, as it is the Northeast Wisconsin veterans treatment court. Mentors do need to meet with their participants on a weekly basis.

CLANCY/ANDREWS moved to receive and place on file.  
Motion was carried unanimously.

## **6. Financial Report**

Schmitt had submitted a written report with the board packet agenda.

VAN DYCK/ANDREWS moved to receive and place on file.  
Motion was carried unanimously.

## **7. Statistical Reports:**

Please refer to the packet which includes this information.

## **8. Approval for New Non-Continuous Vendor:**

Please refer to the packet which includes this information.

**9. Request for New Vendor Contract:**

Please refer to the packet which includes this information.

**10. Other Matters:**

Next Meeting: Thursday, November 14, 2013  
5:15 p.m. – Sophie Beaumont Building, Board Room A

**11. Adjourn Business Meeting:**

LAUNDRIE/VAN DYCK moved to adjourn; motion passed unanimously. Chairman Lund adjourned the meeting at 6:14 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kara Navin  
Recording Secretary

*Brown County Human Services*

Executive Director's Report to the Human Services Board

October 10, 2013

Members of the Board:

The CTC Hospital Redesign is well underway at this time. The hospital has begun operating with a capacity of 16 beds, which has not been a problem. We are aware of one construction issue, that being windows that will likely take until late December to receive and install. Other than that, the project is moving along well and services to consumers during the construction have remained smooth and uninterrupted.

Ian Agar has accepted the position of Behavioral Health Clinic Manager. Ian was previously in the role of Long Term Care Manager. We look forward to the work of Ian and the team in Behavioral Health and their successes yet to come. This of course creates an opening in the Long Term Care Manager role and recruitment is underway to fill that.

In the area of Child Protective Services, the department applied to participate in a state pilot program focusing on "post-reunification services". What that means is providing support and services that a family needs when a child who had been placed out of the home has been returned home. It is exciting that the state is providing this direction and opportunity to serve more families in these situations. Safe, successful reunification of a family is an outcome that everyone can support and we are hopeful that Brown County will be selected to participate in this initiative.

At the state level there are two active bills with direct impacts to county human services. AB387/SB303 has been called the "Second Chance Act". It seeks to return 17 year-old, non-violent, first-time offenders to the juvenile justice system. In theory, this act represents social policy consistent with science around brain development and recidivism rates. However, as it is written this bill would not provide any additional financial support to counties which will be providing case management and services to the youth. Wisconsin Counties Association and Wisconsin County Human Services Association have presented amendment language to the legislature which would provide funding state funding equal to the cost of providing services to this potential new population of juveniles whose offenses have been addressed through the adult court system for the past 18 years.

The second bill is not yet numbered but would create a structure for Managed Care Organizations and state government to share in the responsibility for behavioral health stabilization of Family Care participants. Since the inception of Family Care there has been a misalignment of incentives when it comes to behavioral health crisis. If a Family Care participant becomes hospitalized for mental health reasons, counties are required to pay for the hospitalization costs, but no longer control the resources which would facilitate a return from the institution. This bill seeks to address that situation by requiring crisis planning for identified Family Care participants and providing a means for counties to share responsibility for costs with the other relevant entities.

Respectfully Submitted By:



Jeremy Kral  
Executive Director