Pursuant to Section 19.84, Wis. Stats. A regular meeting of the HUMAN SERVICES BOARD was held on September 20, 2007, 5:15 p.m. at Brown County Human Services, 111 North Jefferson Street, Green Bay, Wisconsin.

Present: Tom Lund, Barb Bauer, Dave Nelson, Paula Geishirt, JoAnn Graschberger, Dottie Schoenleber, Patty Hoeft

Present: Mark Quam, new Human Services Director, Tom Eggebrecht, Diane Pivonka and Mary VandeLeest of the Human Services Department.

OCT 2007
Received
Board of
Supervisors

PROCEEDINGS OF THE HUMAN SERVICES BOARD

1. INTRODUCTION OF NEW HUMAN SERVICES DIRECTOR.

   Tom Eggebrecht, who had served as Interim Director for Brown County Human Services, introduced new Human Services Director Mark Quam who began with the Department on September 18.

2. ELECTION OF PRO TEM CHAIR.

   MOTION WAS MADE BY TOM LUND AND SECONDED BY JOANN GRASCHBERGER TO NOMINATE PAULA GEISHIRT AS PRO TEM CHAIR.

   There were no other nominations.

   MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

3. CALL MEETING TO ORDER.

   Chair Geishirt called the meeting to order at 5:17 p.m.

4. APPROVE/MODIFY AGENDA.

   MOTION WAS MADE BY TOM LUND AND SECONDED BY DAVE NELSON TO APPROVE THE AGENDA AS WRITTEN. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

5. APPROVE MINUTES OF JULY 26, 2007 HUMAN SERVICES BOARD.

   MOTION WAS MADE BY PATTY HOEFT AND SECONDED BY TOM LUND TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE JULY 26, 2007 HUMAN SERVICES BOARD. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

6. CITIZENSHIP VERIFICATION AND ROLE OF ECONOMIC SUPPORT STAFF.

Tom Eggebrecht referred to the attachment saying that the issue of citizenship and illegal aliens is a topic of conversation at the Human Services Committee and County Board levels. The tone of the dialogue is emotional and challenging as members of the committee perceive there is a problem with regard to illegal aliens and their accessing benefits. Brown County Human Services employs two fraud investigators and a fraud investigator aide. The Statutes are very specific as to determining eligibility benefits for the Economic Support programs. If a child is born in this country, that child is eligible for benefits whether or not the child's parents are illegal. Within Economic Support individuals are screened in or out based on their eligibility for services. A lengthy discussion was held regarding our ability to catch fraud and how the department does its investigations within the State guidelines and being consistent with Economic Support policies and the rules and regulations which it operates under. The department has met with its Economic Support staff to see if it can do things different and there is a very short list. Lengthy discussion was held on obtaining illegal alien information from our department; the HIPPA privacy laws; whether or not the department could provide any type of statistics on illegal alien applicants; how to identify the magnitude of the problem and if it can't be identified how do we know how large the problem is; forms applicants need to present at the time of application, these include Birth Certificate, social security number and income verification; tracking illegal aliens at application. Mark Quam also talked about a new regulation coming out of Social Security and Homeland Security which would ultimately penalize employers $10,000 if they keep in their employ a person with a false/invalid social security card and further discussion was held on this. Discussion was held on keeping focus on the right questions regarding immigration and illegal immigrants and as there are so many layers regarding this issue and we need to be careful not to create an atmosphere of racism. Comment was made if the County is truly interested in solving the illegal immigrant issue it needs a solution that quantifies the problem and results in partnering with the city and others in talking with the major employers in the area. It was agreed that enforcement of any type of legislation would be difficult. Discussion was held on obtaining statistics from Human Services on illegal immigrants in the future.

7. DEVELOPMENT OF PERSPECTIVE CHILDREN'S ADVOCACY CENTER.

In May Family Services approached the Human Services Committee with the concept of developing a local Children's Advocacy Center, a child friendly environment involving law enforcement, child protection and healthcare professionals coming together in the spirit of trying to keep kids from needing to be re-traumatized through multiple interviews, multiple segments of investigations and getting the community to work together on creating that model. The original approach would have required some funding from the Human Services Department. The department didn't feel it had dollars in the budget to be

dedicated to this effort right now and this has been conveyed to Family Services; and that Brown County is very supportive of this project. Human Services has three staff currently certified as forensic interviewers and have had training to be able to perform within the context of the Children's Advocacy Center. Brown County agreed in principle with Family Services that our staff will be made available to help with getting started. Over the next year we can determine how much Human Services would utilize the Center. Mark Quam said Children's Advocacy Centers are best at linking with the medical community so you have specialists to assess the injuries of children. Discussion ensued on why there is an increase in abuse cases reported, the role of the Intake Worker and the reporter especially when the reporter is a teacher or counselor and the fact that the teacher/counselor are not allowed to be present during an interview. Mark Quam said staff are trained that only the interviewers are present to keep things clear when a case is prosecuted. Comment was made as to whether or not police officers who take part in interviews are trained and how are they trained and do they specialize in the area of abuse. Question was asked as to what problem the Human Services Board was trying to decide? Further discussion was held and in summary Tom Eggebrecht said this year Brown County Human Services created the Children's System of Care Coordinating Committee with agencies, law enforcement and schools participating. Issues talked about this evening such as officer training would be a relevant topic to bring to this Committee.

Chair Geishirt asked that the following be on the record. She said the Human Services Board was getting a little off task; however by perception isn't the Human Services Board a body that is given some type of latitude to discuss issues. A lengthy discussion ensued with Human Services Board members agreeing they have some latitude in their discussions.

The Human Services Board feels if there is going to be a Children's Advocacy Center it should be done right and they would like to be kept in the loop and would like more information on the training of the interviewing staff, including the police officers.

8. DEVELOPMENT OF SEXUAL ASSAULT RESPONSE TEAM.

Tom Eggebrecht referred Human Services Board members to the Brown County Sexual Assault Response Team (SART) MOU in their packets. This MOU was development by Brown County Law Enforcement with the support of Brown County Human Services and other agencies to provide a victim sensitive coordinated response to sexual assault reports in Brown County.

MOTION WAS MADE BY TOM LUND AND SECONDED BY DOTTIE SCHOENLEBER TO ENCOURAGE AND SUPPORT THE DEVELOPMENT OF A PERSPECTIVE CHILD ADVOCACY CENTER. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

MOTION WAS MADE BY TOM LUND AND SECONDED BY BARB BAUER TO SUPPORT THE DEVELOPMENT OF A SEXUAL RESPONSE TEAM. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

9. MHC STATISTICS AND UPDATES.

Diane Pivonka said Unit 7 census is at 24; Nursing Home census is at 55 and there were more out-of-county admissions than in-county admissions to Unit 7 in the month of August. Letters have been sent to local discharge planners at hospitals and nursing homes regarding the Mental Health Nursing Home being open for admissions. Discussion was held regarding out-of-county admissions to Unit 7 and the Nursing Home accepting admissions. Diane said it is exciting to see the Mental Health building project move forward. The Mental Health Center had completed an application to participate in the Medicare Program and has been accepted. Further discussion was held on the Medicare Program acceptance process, acuity of the Nursing Home patients, readmits to Unit 7, co-occurring disorders and looking at more aftercare programs for next year.

Chair Geishirt wanted the record to show kudos for Diane Pivonka for sticking with the Mental Health Center with a positive attitude, her general concern for the residents and the Mental Health Center, and the fact that Diane remained consistent to her passion through adversity.

10. HSD FUNDING REQUEST STATUS LOG.

Human Services Board members were referred to the report in their packet. There were no updates to this report; however Grant Writer Elizabeth Schaff is working with the ADRC on a new grant.

11. CONTRACT REPORT.

The Human Services Department is sharing contract information monthly with the Human Services Committee and also with the Human Services Board. Tom Lund reported the County Board is very happy with the information they are now receiving on contracts.

12. BELLIN PSYCHIATRIC REPORT.

Tom Eggebrecht reported the relationship with Bellin is going well.

13. ANY OTHER MATTERS.

Patty Hoeft asked if the Human Services Board could be of help getting items/issues before the Human Services Committee now that the Board meets before the Committee. Tom Eggebrecht said this Board would be conducive to the process of moving issues along.

There will be two Human Services Committee meetings in October. There will be a regular meeting on October 1st and a Budget and Regular meeting on October 23.

Chair Geishirt asked about the mission statement and Human Services Board orientation. JoAnn Graschberger reported the mission statement hadn't been worked on in over a month. Mark Quam intends to have Human Services Board orientation once the Board is at full membership.

The Human Services Board members would also like to continue with staff and provider agencies making presentations as well as holding meetings at other sites.

Tom shared information on Ian Agar, Crisis Systems Coordinator and shared that our Economic Support staff was recognized for exceptional performance in Foodshare accuracy.

Discussion was held on the communication introduced at County Board to move the Fraud staff to the Sheriff's Department and the State's intent to regionalize fraud investigation in 2009 with Brown County having a .7 FTE according to the State.

Chair Geishirt on behalf of the Human Services Board gave a warm welcome to Mark Quam. Chair Geishirt asked that the record show that the Human Services Board is so glad to have Mark Quam back.

MOTION WAS MADE BY TOM LUND AND SECONDED BY BARB BAUER TO ADJOURN THE MEETING. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY. MEETING ADJOURNED AT 7:03 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted:

Mary Vande Leest
Mary Vande Leest