

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BROWN COUNTY
HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE

Pursuant to Section 19.84 Wis. Stats., a regular meeting of the **Brown County Human Services Committee** was held on Wednesday, June 24, 2015 in Room 200 of the Northern Building, 305 E. Walnut Street, Green Bay, Wisconsin.

Present: Chair Evans, Supervisor Hoyer, Supervisor La Violette, Supervisor Haefs, Supervisor Robinson
Also Present: Erik Pritzl, Chua Xiong, Rob Gollman, Chad Weinger, Luke Schubert and other interested parties

I. Call Meeting to Order.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Patrick Evans at 5:30 p.m.

II. Approve/Modify Agenda.

Motion made by Supervisor La Violette, seconded by Supervisor Hoyer to approve. Vote taken.
MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

III. Approve/Modify Minutes of May 27, 2015.

Motion made by Supervisor Hoyer, seconded by Supervisor La Violette to approve. Vote taken.
MOTION CARRIED (Supervisor Robinson abstained).

Comments from the Public

-Robert Koury, 3636 Shawano Avenue, Green Bay, Wisconsin addressed the Committee. He noted that he had addressed the Committee several months ago to discuss the problem with heroin addiction and the lack of places for people to go in Brown County. Since that meeting, Koury has encountered a gentleman who had a son who was clean for almost a year and went back to heroin and passed away. This was a Brown County resident. Koury recalled that he had provided the Committee with information on programs that are working in Dane County and other areas. At that time the Committee said they would look into this as well as looking into when and why services stopped in Brown County and he is looking for an update. Koury also noted that he recently met a couple with a 25 year old daughter on heroin who recently took off. He continued that there are many obituaries in the newspaper where people die unexpectedly and he feels that many of these deaths are related to heroin. Koury is just wondering what is being done in Brown County and what can be done by the County to help the people who don't have any insurance and are not working. He felt that too much tax money was going to pay to keep these people in Jail and funds could be better spent.

-Mandy Suthers, 1126 Lina Lane, Green Bay, Wisconsin addressed the Committee. She stated that she is the owner, founder and president of Dar June Café Recovery Community that opened less than a year ago. They have a large group but they are now out of money and nobody there makes a salary. Some employees work at the café to satisfy community service hours for Drug Court. Suthers continued that it is a daily thing that she comes into work which is an old, converted bar and finds several people detoxing from heroin on their couches. Suthers continued that the family member Koury discussed earlier was brought to Dar June and she cried and asked why Brown County can't just have a bed that she can go in for one week. The problem with heroin is that although insurance companies and counties do not see it as something that is a deadly withdrawal, it isn't, it's a deadly thing when they go back out.

These addicts need someone to hold their hand while they get sober. Right now Brown County does not have any facilities for this. Dar June is broke from taking care of these people on their couch and on their deck. She is here tonight because they have a solution, but they have lack of funding. Currently the building is up for sale and the main goal is to open a 3/4 house for heroin only detox once the building is sold. They will be asking for assistance from Brown County and Suthers knows from talking to Mayor Schmitt that the problem is there are not enough resources in Brown County. Suthers said they have all the resources that are needed and volunteers ready to step up. She does not think that the Committee understands that they have people come in daily. They had a kid dropped off in their parking lot a few weeks ago that needed a Narcan injection to save his life. She felt that something needs to happen on a County level or the future generation will take up all the cemetery space and she sees this happen daily.

Report from Human Services Chair, Patrick Evans

Evans stated that he has heard from Representative David Steffen that Sanimax has been working with lobbyists in Madison to take away local control from counties and hand it to the DNR so the counties would not have any say. He appreciated the help he received from Supervisor Robinson in following up with Representative Gingrich. Evans found it interesting how Sanimax says they want to be good neighbors and want to work with the County, but they have two or three lobbyist groups in Madison attempting to get the DNR to take over control. Evans continued that his understanding is that this has been pulled and he hopes that it stays that way. He has not had a chance to have conversations with Sanimax but he wanted to advise the Committee and the Health Department to be aware of this.

1. **Review Minutes of:**
 - a. **Aging & Disability Resource Center of Brown County (April 23, 2015).**
 - b. **Community Options Program Planning Committee (May 18, 2015).**

Motion made by Supervisor Hoyer, seconded by Supervisor La Violette to receive and place on file Items 1 a&b. Vote taken. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Reasons for Turnover Report:

2. **Human Services - Month of April, 2015.**

Motion made by Supervisor Haefs, seconded by Supervisor La Violette to receive and place on file. Vote taken. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Communications

- 2a. **Communication from Supervisor Haefs re: Discussion on providing services by setting a tax levy or a property tax goal.**

Supervisor Haefs thanked the County Board staff for having this item added to the agenda. The essence of this communication is that what the Committee does with these goals is probably more important than what is done at the budget meeting. He continued that department heads are given a goal and in the past it has been a tax levy zero increase and the department heads say they have met their goals and the Committee does not talk about things like wait lists and things like the Committee just heard. Haefs noted that virtually zero changes have been made to the budget. He would like to hear department heads say where the gaps are or the tough decisions they must make to meet their goals. Haefs would like to know where the needs are that are not being met. He continued that there are two philosophies. One is the zero tax levy

and one is raising property taxes. Haefs stated that he is in his 24th year on the Board and he has never heard a constituent complain that the tax levy has been raised. They all say you raised my property taxes or you lowered my property taxes. Haefs stated that he would never know if the tax levy was raised if he was not on the County Board. Historically speaking, if we would have stuck to the tax levy increase from ten years ago we would be millions behind. Haefs said that everyone knows that last year there was money that could have been spent if there was a need that still would not have raised property taxes. All Haefs is asking is that instead of having a budget dropped in our laps with a goal decided by the Executive and staff, that the Committee partake in these things ahead of time. He has heard that the goal this year is going to be last year's levy plus \$1 million dollars. He felt perhaps the Committee wants to get in early and say that they do not want to raise property taxes, but if there is a need that goes unmet in order to miss a tax levy target, there is something wrong with that. We can still do more for the public without raising property taxes. Haefs continued that in today's economy jobs are coming around better but people are still not gaining much and he is not interested in raising property taxes, but he believes that the gap is significant if there are needs to fill. He noted that there are wait lists and he felt that the department heads should be saying at budget time that there are wait lists that need to be dealt with. Haefs continued that taxes were raised in the past and they did not take a pounding as long as things were done logically. Haefs would like it on record that this Committee knows there are needs and we need to work in the established goal for staff ahead of time. Haefs would like for staff across the board to say what is missing. He just wants to know what needs are not being met. He cannot say what the three biggest needs in the Human Services Department are and these are the things that should be known so they can be addressed prior to the budget meeting in October. Haefs said that in the past he supported a million dollar score board and if there are human needs, he is willing to address them. Somewhere along the line, we look at the staff and applaud that they do such a nice job, but they don't hear about the needs of the people. The Board is here to serve the people and not rubber stamp budgets. Haefs continued that last year two committees rubber stamped their budgets with hardly any changes and the employees took a pounding. He also looks at the employees and he felt that with the gap in money we could lessen the pain of having the employees pay more in insurance. He is willing to look at the needs this year and take it to the top and maintain a zero property tax increase to the best of the ability.

Haefs continued that he would like to go to the County Board and says that the Human Services Department has the largest budget in the County and there are needs that need to be addressed and we do not want to arbitrarily meet a goal. He would like to not raise property taxes but doesn't care so much about the levy and see what happens. Haefs felt that the County Board wants to maintain a tax levy goal and that is the end of it and he felt that this is wrong. We need to know what the needs are and find a way to take care of them. Haefs felt that unless this is addressed ahead of time, we will be in the same place in October. He would like to ask department heads where the help is needed and what help is needed.

Robinson felt that Supervisor Haefs makes a good point and supports the Committee looking into the needs. He felt that it may also be appropriate that all departments submit their needs for consideration prior to the budget hearings as the County Board is ultimately responsible for all departments.

La Violette agreed wholeheartedly with Haefs and she does not like to be kept in the dark. She felt that the administration works hard to put together a responsible budget, but she also wants to know what is not being funded. She does not want to raise property taxes unless necessary

and she noted that her constituents do not tell her not to spend money. They tell her to spend money wisely. She pointed out that the taxpayers of Brown County voted to tax themselves \$57 million dollars for NWTC because they believe in NWTC and think they do a great job educating people in the community. La Violette felt that if her constituents heard some of the stories she hears, they would be surprised and shocked.

Haefs thanked the public in attendance for coming to the meeting to express their concerns. He noted that at one time the taxpayers voted to tax themselves to build a stadium and he is hoping that somehow, someway they can convey to the County Board and have the Chair of this Committee say that the Committee is looking at the needs and they do not want a goal attached to the tax levy as much as they would like to have a goal of not raising property taxes and they want all department heads to let the Board know what the needs are. He would like to have some consensus on property taxes versus tax levy goals as that is where the gap occurs. Haefs would like to convey as 1/26th of the Board that the goal should be not to raise property taxes, but when push comes to shove, he could go for that too if necessary.

Hoyer also appreciated Haefs asking this as he feels it is important. He felt that his earlier committee work as a supervisor involved different sorts of things and he felt that this was important for this Committee as there is the human element. Hoyer did think we needed to be careful when it comes to tax rates because these things fluctuate through time and if we want to sustainably support organizations, we need to do so in a way that we can combine continued growth to gather the money we need. Hoyer noted that every group that the Committee has talked to could use a little more, but accept what they get.

Evans appreciated what Haefs brought forward and agreed with the philosophy of it. He will pull this at the next County Board meeting as he sees the needs all over in the Human Services Department and some are more pressing than others. Evans continued that he would never make a pledge not to raise taxes and he feels that he represents his area strong enough that the people who have elected him over the years think he is doing a decent job. He keeps in touch with his constituents and lets them know where we are at. Evans has found that the people who are concerned about the levy and property taxes typically don't have a very good understanding of what the scope and direction and focus of government is and what we should be doing with the dollars. He will state that the Human Services Committee is taking an active role and are not in support of frozen levy limits and that we do not have a problem going up to the tax rate of last year and even higher if necessary. Evans also addressed the department heads in attendance and stated that the Committee does know the constraints they are under in reporting to the County Executive, and he is not telling them not to do that. What he is saying is that the County Executive says where they have to come in, and that's fine, but if the Human Services Committee is saying there is leeway, to let the Committee know what the amount is and what the items are that are not funded or under-funded and we, as a Committee can undertake that. He would like to see open lines of communication.

Haefs stated that if Evans phrases it that way at the County Board meeting it would sum it up in a nutshell and convey to the Executive and staff that there are needs that need to be addressed and the Committee will support those needs. It would also convey to the Executive that in the crunch time of the budget and the tax levy thing if there is a veto, there are supervisors that are looking forward to not having such a stringent limit and we are trying to gather support for some of the services. He noted that people work hard to pay their taxes and those who cannot help themselves need to be helped.

Motion made by Supervisor Robinson, seconded by Supervisor La Violette that the department heads reporting to the Human Services Committee report to the Committee the top three unfunded or underfunded needs with an attached dollar amount and that this information be provided by the August meeting. Vote taken. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

3. **Communication from Supervisor Robinson re: That the new County Human Services Director and the Human Services Department staff put together a report to be presented at the August Human Services Committee, with monthly updates to the Committee that examines: CTC/In – patient Mental Health & AODA County Services; community Mental Health and AODA County Services; Mental Health and AODA services offered by the community in general with which the County has a partnership. *Standing item.***

Robinson stated that there have been a number of issues that have come up in the County over the last year regarding mental health issues as well as alcohol and other drug addiction services and not just in County services but in conversations going on in the community as well. This communication was put in to have a general assessment of what the status of the services are that the County offers and what the gaps might be and how the gaps can be addressed moving forward. Robinson acknowledged that not all gaps can be addressed at once and the needs will need to be categorized. He continued that he met with Human Services Director Pritzl recently to talk about this and adjust the timeline a little bit and Robinson turned this over to Pritzl at this time.

Pritzl stated that he did meet with Robinson to talk about this report and what was being requested. He noted that since coming to the County on April 1 this has been one of the things in front of him to figure out what had been done in the past and what can be done moving forward. Pritzl took what was in the communication and summarized it for department staff to figure out how to move forward and what the scope of this is in terms of a report. He is concerned about the amount of time and resources they have available to commit to this because they are trying to address so many needs and the infrastructure to address those needs sometimes is not what he wants it to be. They are looking at what they can do internally and what they can produce that is of value to the Committee. Pritzl stated that the first thing he did was form a work group within the department and he has a model they are using to evaluate the services under the continuum of care that is from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration which looks at promotion, prevention, treatment and recovery. They are looking at services the Human Services Department provides and cataloging those within the continuum to see where they are missing things and what needs to be developed. They will also look at what is being done in partnership in the community and look across the different divisions and what is being done. Pritzl continued that some of these areas are broad and are more than just what is in the mental health area or outpatient services. Promotion, for example, could involve what is being done to promote people's health so they have a better start and maybe some of the mental health issues then do not become so symptomatic. They are looking at this more comprehensively in terms of that model, but limit themselves as to what they can produce.

Pritzl continued that they agree that the preliminary report will give general direction. If Pritzl were asked to name three things that could be of value to fund, he could do that without going through the exercise. Pritzl stated that what they heard tonight was very valuable and he appreciated the comments from the public so much because it puts a face out there of who is

affected by these issues every day. He applauds them for coming forward to identify the needs. Pritzl can talk about what they do, index what they do and explain the services and identify gaps in treatment as well as other areas and present it to the Committee. He did not think this would go to the depth that was originally identified and he has discussed this with Robinson. In order to do that, they would need to look at other resources and they have discussed use of higher education institutions to help with that. Pritzl has contacts at UWGB and they will see if there is anything they can do to help to bring to another level to look at next year. What they are doing right now is figuring out what they are doing as a department, what they are doing in the community and how to move forward in some different directions.

La Violette thanked Pritzl for his report and reminding the Committee that this is a work in progress. She noted that when she was the Library Director it was not uncommon that she would get an assignment from the Committee and she would work on the assignment with staff and spend all sorts of hours and then come back to the Committee to report and many times whoever requested the report did not even recall they had requested it. La Violette stated that the County Board, rightfully so, wants to save taxpayer dollars. One way that taxpayer dollars are wasted is having staff do work to produce reports that never go anywhere. She stressed that she is not being critical and has the greatest respect for Robinson and feels that he is one of the best things that has ever happened to the County, but she just wanted everyone to be aware that these things do not happen overnight.

Supervisor La Violette was excused at 6:07 pm

Robinson thanked Pritzl for his report and mentioned that in light of the motion passed earlier about departments providing a list of unfunded or underfunded priorities that did not make the budget, it would be nice to hear one idea for something that would give us the biggest bang for the buck moving into 2016 if in Pritzl's judgment these mental health and AODA issues are not one of the top three issues. Pritzl said he would try to limit himself to three.

Robinson continued that Pritzl had made comments regarding what was shared earlier on heroin detox. Pritzl stated that he has been at several events in the last month and one of the things that comes up over and over is residential services for people with significant substance abuse issues. He stated that the history of the decisions related to his facilities go back about three years which limit the ability to provide some of these services. Pritzl noted that they cannot be and are not a detox facility at this time. He stated that he is asked over and over what can be done and he is aware that some groups are addressing this with small pieces of the population and efforts are being made and different things are being done. Pritzl thought providing services that are safe and effective for people who present motivated for treatment and engaged is very important. They do have outpatient services for substance abuse and people can generally have an assessment and be seen in two weeks. Pritzl continued that there is still the other piece that does not seem to be coming together and different areas in the community are looking at that. He would be very interested in hearing any ideas and solutions that may be out there. He has not heard from any group that has a proposal but if someone has a solution he would like to hear it.

Robinson stated that Suthers indicated earlier that her group had an idea and he encouraged Pritzl to talk to her. Robinson continued that he is also aware of another group working on an alcohol detox proposal. Robinson empathized with patients and stated that he has also had conversations with people facing life or death situations with alcohol detox and those needs

need to be looked at as well and he urged Pritzl to talk to those people. Robinson recalled that the first time Mr. Koury addressed the Committee there was some sense that the State may be funding something as a regional piece to this and it is Robinsons' understanding that that is still in the conversation, but may or may not happen. What Robinson wants to communicate is that just because something hasn't happened to this point, doesn't mean that we as a County or the Human Services Committee or the Human Services Department are not aware of these needs and willing to address them.

Pritzl added that we need to move towards an understanding of what the needs are and what the number of people is that need a service and from there start to look at how much can be devoted in resources to that issue. A request for proposal can then be crafted so that people can respond to it and the best services can be found. Pritzl stated that his Department needs to look at what the data is telling us the needs of the community are and then a dollar amount needs to be attached to establish funding and then we can move forward with how to get people to submit proposals to address the needs. Pritzl does not see the Human Services Department being able to address all of the needs so they will have to work with community partners to find solutions.

Evans encouraged Pritzl to talk to Koury and Suthers after the meeting to hear what they have to say. He felt that the biggest needs are probably in the areas of AODA and heroin.

Motion made by Supervisor Robinson, seconded by Supervisor Haefs to hold until next meeting. Vote taken. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Health Department

4. **Customer Service Survey – Public Health Inspector. *Referred from June Exec Cmte.***

Evans stated that this came about at the Executive Committee and some supervisors made a request that pertained to the Health Department and sanitarians. Administration worked with it and the Internal Auditor worked with it and Evans felt this was somewhat out of line. He does not like that supervisors are saying that they should be going out doing surveys about the employees when it is not regarding all employees. Evans felt the way this came about was inappropriate and he has had conversations with Supervisor Erickson and Chad Weininger and it was asked that this be referred to the Administration Committee.

Weininger stated that all he was asking for was for this to be referred to administration staff, not the Administration Committee, but when the survey is done he will bring it back to the Committee. Evans asked Weininger if he had had discussions with Corporation Counsel on this and he indicated that he has. Evans felt that if the Director of the Health Department says they want to do a survey and they need funding for it, he could give support for that, but he does not like other people jumping into the Health Director's business.

Robinson asked where the idea for the survey came from. Weininger said he would like this to be referred to staff and he will come back, but Robinson was emphatic that this be discussed now. Internal Auditor Dan Process was in attendance at the meeting and indicated that he had been approached by Weininger earlier in the year as well as some Supervisors. Weininger stated that how this started was that during the last budget a sanitarian was added and during the discussions on that there was some concern about if another sanitarian was really needed and there was also more of a philosophy of whether sanitarians were more enforcement based

versus compliance based. They decided to move forward with a survey to take a look at this. Robinson asked who the "we" was that Weinger referred to and Weinger responded that he had spoken with the Internal Auditor about this as well as Chua Xiong. Weinger stated that in order to discuss this any further they would need to go into closed session. Robinson stated that it was clear that Weinger was uncomfortable with this conversation. Weinger stated that he was not uncomfortable with it, but the survey results need to be done and a closed session needs to be held so they can discuss the results. Robinson stated that he would have preferred a closed session prior to the survey and Robinson was informed that the survey has already been done. Robinson asked who directed the survey and Weinger responded that it was done by administration. Process added that his understanding was that there were some supervisors involved in this as well.

Robinson advised Weinger that in the future if there is going to be things that cannot be talked about in open session, it would be nice to know that ahead of time rather than get to the point we are at now. Weinger responded stated that that is why he asked that this be referred to administration so that they could get it completed and then go through the proper channels. Evans agreed with Weinger but stated that he was still mad about how this all came together. Hoyer felt that the background was more important at this point than the survey results. Robinson noted that all he knows about this is from the one line on the agenda. Weinger stated that when the survey is done administration will present it to the Committee in closed session and talk about the full details. Evans responded that he is agreeable to that, but he wanted this Committee to be aware of this.

**Motion made by Supervisor Robinson, seconded by Hoyer to refer to staff. Vote taken.
MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

Human Services Department

5. **Resolution re: Helping families move from homelessness to self-sufficiency. *Standing Item until such time that there is action to be taken.***

Motion made by Supervisor Robinson, seconded by Supervisor Hoyer to hold for one month. Vote taken. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

6. **Executive Director's Report.**

Pritzl indicated that his Director's Report was included in the agenda packet. He said that things are going well and the three months that he has been here have gone quickly and he has a great staff which makes his job much easier.

Motion made by Supervisor Robinson, seconded by Supervisor Haefs to receive and place on file. Vote taken. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

7. **Financial Report for Community Treatment Center and Community Programs.**

Robinson stated that what the Committee has heard in the past with regard to the census reports is that the numbers are nowhere near what was budgeted for and this has been the theme. He asked what can be done about this. Pritzl responded that this is an opportune time to introduce the new Hospital and Nursing Home Administrator so he can talk about the discussions that have taken place on this. Pritzl stated that one of the last activities that the

interim director took on was going with the Director of Nursing for the hospital to the North Central which is the facility in Wausau that the Brown County facility was patterned after when Brown County decided to go in the CBRF direction. In terms of management, they wanted all staff involved in development of the program to familiarize themselves with what is this thing, what is the admission criteria, who comes in from other counties and how are they admitted and is the size correct. Pritzl noted that the census has not been hit ever and the census keeps going lower and it cannot go much lower. Pritzl continued that they have been looking at defining criteria so they can go out to the community providers and advise them of who we are and what we do and who can receive treatment here. He has heard from other counties that they do not know how the Brown County facility works, how to use it and they also thought it was for Brown County residents only, which is not true.

Luke Schubert was introduced to the Committee and stated that they are looking at admission criteria and defining the program before they can undertake any marketing strategies. He has had internal meetings to look at how to better utilize the facility and look at revising admission criteria. Pritzl stated that Schubert's perspective is there is this many beds, they accept that concept that they will not have that many people in the beds so they are looking at program changes or a split within the unit or things of that nature. Pritzl stated that Schubert has background in this and has great ideas. The facility is designed as a crisis stabilization CBRF and it is a matter of getting the criteria established for admission and then marketing it.

Robinson said that this has been an ongoing issue and he is looking forward to having some of the issues resolved.

Motion made by Supervisor Robinson, seconded by Supervisor Hoyer to receive and place on file. Vote taken. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

8. **Statistical Reports.**
 - a. **CTC Staff – Double Shifts Worked.**
 - b. **Monthly CTC Data – Bay Haven Crisis Diversion/Nicolet Psychiatric Hospital.**
 - c. **Monthly Inpatient Data – Bellin Psychiatric Center.**
 - d. **Child Protection – Child Abuse/Neglect Report.**
 - e. **Monthly Contract Update.**

Motion made by Supervisor Robinson, seconded by Supervisor Haefs to receive and place on file Items 8 a-e. Vote taken. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

9. **Request for New Non-Continuous Vendor.**

Motion made by Supervisor Hoyer, seconded by Supervisor Haefs to approve. Vote taken. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

10. **Such other Matters as Authorized by Law.**

Haefs wanted to convey to the Executive that when the target goals are established, he would like the Executive to let Chair Evans know what the targets are. Weininger stated that the target numbers would be out next week.

11. **Audit of bills.**

**Motion made by Supervisor Robinson, seconded by Supervisor Haefs to pay the bills. Vote taken.
MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

12. **Adjourn.**

Motion made by Supervisor Robinson, seconded by Supervisor Hoyer to adjourn at 6:30 pm. Vote taken. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Respectfully submitted,

Alicia A. Loehlein
Recording Secretary

Therese Giannunzio
Transcriptionist