

**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 Tuesday, November 26, 2013 in Room 200 of the Northern Building, 305 E. Walnut Street, Green Bay, Wisconsin.

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**Present:** Chair Evans, Supervisor Robinson, Supervisor Haefs, Supervisor Hopp  
**Excused:** Supervisor La Violette  
**Also Present:** Jeremy Kral, Timothy Schmitt, Supervisor Hoyer, Supervisor Campbell, Mark Steuer, media

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I. **Call Meeting to Order.**

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Patrick Evans at 6:01 p.m.

II. **Approve/Modify Agenda.**

**Motion made by Supervisor Hopp, seconded by Supervisor Robinson to approve. Vote taken.**  
**MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

III. **Approve/Modify Minutes of October 23, 2013.**

**Motion made by Supervisor Hopp, seconded by Supervisor Robinson to approve. Vote taken.**  
**MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

IV. **Discussion regarding December meeting date (regular meeting falls on Christmas).**

A brief discussion was held regarding a meeting date for December as the regularly scheduled meeting night would fall on Christmas. Chair Evans will give this more consideration and let Committee members know if a December meeting will be held and, if so, on what date.

**Comments from the Public.** None.

**Report from Human Services Chair, Patrick Evans.** None.

1. **Review Minutes of:**

- a. **Aging & Disability Resource Center of Brown County Board Meeting (October 24, 2013).**
- b. **Aging & Disability Resource Center of Brown County Nominating & Human Resources Meeting (October 24, 2013).**
- c. **Children With Disabilities Education Board (October 22, 2013)**
- d. **Veterans Recognition Subcommittee (October 15, 2013).**

**Motion made by Supervisor Robinson, seconded by Supervisor Hopp to suspend the rules and take Items 1 a – d together. Vote taken. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**Motion made by Supervisor Robinson, seconded by Supervisor Hopp to receive and place on file Items 1a – d. Vote taken. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

### Communications

2. **Communication from Supervisor Hoyer re: Staff provide comprehensive statistics about the use of County funds used to prevent and mitigate homelessness in Brown County – focusing on the dollars spent on Brown County citizens vs. individuals from outside of our community. Put these data into a presentation to be given to the entire board. Referred from November County Board.**

Supervisor Hoyer addressed the Committee. He noted that in his short tenure on the Board the issue of homelessness has come up a number of times and almost unilaterally instead of talking about the issues therein there are discussions as to who the homeless are, where they are coming from, who we provide services to, etc. He has heard others state that we are an exporter of indigent populations in that Brown County residents are being seen elsewhere in the State. What Hoyer would like to see is data and a presentation by employees that will represent some sort of reality to this issue. He felt that we should move beyond the typical conversations to address that in spite of all of the efforts done by organizations in the community this is a realistic problem that is getting larger that we need to think about. He does not feel that Brown County and the Supervisors have taken a leadership role in this regard. The reason for this communication is to move beyond the distraction of who is drawing in what and further, Hoyer acknowledged that in a few months the Supervisors could be replaced and he felt it would be important for new Supervisors to have a handle on this. He felt that a report on homelessness similar to the report on the wind turbine issue would be appropriate. Hoyer also noted that there has been talk about reinvigorating the Homeless Subcommittee of the Human Services Board and he felt that this would provide interesting and beneficial baseline data for that. Hoyer noted that he takes staff time very seriously and did not wish to burden them; however, he felt this was a worthwhile request that would be beneficial in several ways.

Supervisor Robinson thanked Hoyer for making this request and agreed that this is a hot topic. His experience has been that people have surprising opinions on this. He felt this would be a good piece of research to do to get a better handle on.

Human Services Director Jeremy Kral indicated that as the communication is written there would not be much of a presentation as currently the County money out of his department to address and mitigate homelessness consists of \$40,000 to the NEW Community Shelter each year.

Robinson suggested that to fulfill the request as written, a report would be necessary from NEW Community Shelter. Robinson gets the sense that this communication was about a bigger picture. Hoyer responded that he is in fact interested in the bigger picture as well as learning more and having some connections with the broader homelessness issue, however it manifests itself beyond Brown County.

Evans indicated that City of Green Bay Alderman Mark Steuer was present and asked him to give his thoughts as to what is happening in the City with regard to homelessness. Steuer responded that the HOPE task force has been working since January on the homeless issue. The goal of the HOPE task force is to have City Officials and Departments, County Officials and Departments and private industries or businesses to have a partnership in the homeless issue. One of the teams within the HOPE task force is working to find a downtown resource center and there is another team working on communication and education. This team has been looking at other communities around the country that have 10 year plans and if there would be funds available somewhere to do a 10 year plan. Steuer continued that there are also immediate needs as the area shelters in town have waiting lists. He felt there needs to be more facilities for people on the street, but he also felt we need a 10 year plan and

unless the City and the County work together this will be a problem. He felt that as an Alderman in the City of Green Bay they work diligently to get resolutions passed on the City end and he is aware of Robinson's proposed resolution on the County side so this is two bodies of government uniting on the issue. He is hopeful that at some point the task force would slowly disappear and he noted that there is a good level of expertise represented on the task force.

Steuer continued that it does get confusing because there are a lot of programs and agencies out there that can assist with this but the task force is very focused on trying to cut to the chase and get some cooperation between the City and the County. They know that they cannot do it on their own and that they need the City and County to come together. Evans asked how many members were on the task force and Steuer responded that there are about 40 people involved and this is broken down into different teams that focus on certain areas. The County Board is represented by Supervisor Robinson and Supervisor Campbell and the next meeting will be held on December 5 at the Daily Buzz at 7:00 a.m. to talk about strategy. Evans asked if there were any homeless shelters outside of the Green Bay city limits. Robinson responded that St. Norberts had served as a back up to St. John's shelter. Robinson continued that too often the problem of homelessness is defined as providing emergency shelter when the problem is really a wide range of housing options and there are a large range of housing options outside of the city limits of Green Bay.

Evans used an example that if Bay Park Square Mall were having the same issues as the central library is with homeless people hanging out or if Howard had bus service and homeless people were going into Howard there would be a different attitude. Evans felt that those outside the city limits of Green Bay did not care about the homeless issue as much as it is not a problem in their municipalities. Steuer stated that typically when homeless people are discussed what is referred to are adult males. Supervisor Campbell stated that there are 100 homeless children in her district and those numbers have been provided by the Ashwaubenon School District and further the HOPE task force has done research on this.

Hopp stated that he appreciated Hoyer bringing this forward because it brings up an excellent point. He stated that every time homelessness is brought up there are those who hang their hat on the idea of "if you build it they will come". He stated that there is a fractionalized approach to homelessness in this area and funds were being spent on these agencies but the homelessness issue is not being solved. Hopp was hoping that the HOPE task force can somehow get a clearing house of sorts to consolidate services such as if the Salvation Army wants to be Christian focused they will cover a certain amount and if Golden House wants to be provide services to abuse victims then that amount will be covered. He felt that we have to have some sort of organizational approach to this because right now it appears that it is a "jack of all trades, master of none" situation. Hopp is a conservative person when it comes to spending money but he is not about to let someone stay outside and freeze when something could be done to get somebody back on their feet. He felt it would be important to come up with a way to do that and

he has not seen any government entity step up to make a positive impact. In order to sell this to the members of the County Board we need to put the number one argument of is it bringing people here or not to rest. In his research Hopp has found that everyone determines residency differently.

*Supervisor Haefs arrived at 6:22 p.m.*

Robinson talked to the point of Hoyer's communication and stated that he felt it was a good idea. Robinson felt it was naïve to think that presenting factual information will convert everyone. There are some people that have their minds made up and will not change them, even with information

presented. Part of the problem is a legitimate disagreement regarding residency and what defines residency. Having said that, Robinson continued that he felt it was more of a matter when to address this and this also rolls into his communication that was presented at the Board budget meeting. He understands Hopp's frustration but he disagrees a little bit in the sense that he thinks there is some coordination among the different agencies because the shelters all deal with different populations and there is not an overlap. He felt that what is really being talked about is how to make the best use of the resources we have in that there is a lack of resources dedicated to this problem, particularly when it comes to how to help people move into affordable housing.

Robinson felt there were four pieces to move forward in a coordinated, effective effort. First he felt we need a large coalition of the community involved in this. HOPE has started to build that and he felt that there were other entities out there that can be brought in, not just service providers and government officials and agencies, but also business as well as other non-profits. Secondly, Robinson felt that we need a local champion or local champions who have time on their hands that they can devote to this and has respect and public visibility in the community. This could be a semi-retired or retired person or someone who has investment in this. Thirdly, Robinson felt we need some staffing dedicated to this. It could be an outside person and he has heard people say that this could use a fresh set of eyes and Robinson somewhat agrees with this. Finally, Robinson felt we need a coordinating entity for this.

What Robinson would like to see is talk about using the above pieces as a framework and how to put these pieces together in order to address this. He has had some conversations with organizations in the area to see if they would like to serve as some of the coordinating entity. He has not had anybody step up to do this, but he has had some interesting conversations. All of this is to say that these four pieces can be put together to move a 10 year plan forward and ask the County Board for funding for the plan. Because of the conversations had at the Board and the efforts that have been put in so far, Robinson would like to see a request for a report at the March meeting.

Kral stated that the reason this is a challenging issue for Human Services is because statutory and mandated obligations do not put homelessness within their scope. Robinson stated that he felt the problem was affordable housing, and Kral indicated that that depends on a person being able to be stable and hold down employment but when someone has mental health issues and addiction issues it complicates the ability to hold jobs. The role of Human Services is to address the issues of mental health and addiction. Kral continued that when it gets into having affordable housing and the crux of what is homelessness, that is outside of the scope of Human Services. He is happy to sit at the table on behalf of the Department to represent service providers because he sees the need for this and would like to be a part of it but he wanted those in attendance to be aware of what the limitations would be. Robinson would see Human Services as part of the larger community coalition of people involved in this.

Evans informed that he is the chair of the child abuse and neglect task force and they partner with the United Way who has a staff person that coordinates and takes minutes and he felt that that would be necessary in this regard as well. With regard to residency, Evans stated that you can drive into Brown County right now and say you are a resident so comprehensive statistics are hard to come by. Evans stated that a group from HOPE could come to the County Board and provide a presentation and from there a timeline could be formulated as to where they are at, where they want to go, etc.

Steuer asked Evans if he had a preferable timeframe as he felt they had enough information to give a pretty good presentation at the January County Board meeting. Evans will talk to Chair Moynihan to be sure that it is appropriate to add this to the agenda.

Robinson felt it would be best to put together a request and as part of the request they should have a report from HOPE. Evans felt that in order to have any dollars appropriated from the County Board there will need to be a fairly legitimate plan in place.

Hopp stated he had a number of different questions and wanted to know who to address them to via e-mail. Hopp is looking for census style data that lays the information all out in one spot. Steuer indicated that a homeless event was held at Baird Place over the summer and a lot of information was gleaned from that. Some of the information that Hopp is talking about is already out there, but it all needs to be pulled together in one area.

Hopp continued that there also needs to be a buy-in from the surrounding municipalities. Some have a buffer up due to public transportation, but somehow the group needs to figure out how to get this buy-in. He does not know how much more the City residents are willing to take on. Right, wrong or indifferent Hopp felt that this was reality and he also felt that the citizens feel overburdened. He does not want to see this come to a point where action is taken out of desperation that does not help the problem but simply exacerbates it. He knows that the County does not have any statutory obligations, but if for no other reason, we could be leaders in it. Some of the best leaders were never appointed, they just appeared and he felt this may be what the County's role may have to be. Steuer stated that more buy-in from a wider range would be great. Hopp felt the County should take the lead on this and be the champion because if we do not somebody eventually will and if we do not lead it may end up costing more money than it has to.

Steuer stated that homelessness is one of the issues that has a number of issues and there are a number of threads that go into homelessness such as housing, transportation, veteran's issues, AODA issues, mental health issues, employment issues, etc. Hopp felt that ultimately we need a champion to start bringing this information together to show in black and white that there is a problem. The information needs to be brought together and brought to the agencies that are out there providing services.

Hoyer thanked the Committee and stated that ultimately he is glad we are having these conversations. He asked if it was the will of the Committee to encourage participation by one of the directors of HOPE as well as looking for a presentation by them for the Board as an update to become more educated and hopefully with that education more viable in our leadership.

Hopp asked if other than Robinson and Campbell there was any other voluntary County participation. Steuer stated that the HOPE group has five or six alderman and they also have support from Tom De Wane. It was indicated that Kral has also attended several meetings.

Steuer stated that the next step in moving forward is to start pulling people together to have something to hold onto to utilize and move forward. Campbell indicated that there is very broad based representation in this group. Steuer indicated that he would be happy to send out a list of those who are on the HOPE team. He also encouraged anyone with questions to get in touch with him to get the questions answered.

Robinson indicated that some of the service providers are prevented from distinguishing between in or out of county because of grants and money they receive from the federal government. Secondly,

he requested Supervisor Hoyer to withdraw the communication as written and suffice that whatever information comes from HOPE would be deemed sufficient.

Haefs felt that the County Executive and the Mayor of Green Bay should get together at some point to recognize the problem and ask their respective staffs to work with some people and then there is a little bit of clout. Haefs also stated that his opinion is that presentations are fine, but somewhere along the line you have to define what the County's role is and he felt that in this case it would be money. He felt it would be important in a presentation to have a "therefore" stating what needs to be done and what they want from the County.

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

#### **Health Department**

3. **Budget Adjustment (13-113): Reallocation between budget classifications other than 2b or 3b adjustments.**

**Motion made by Supervisor Hopp, seconded by Supervisor Robinson to approve. Vote taken. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

4. **Director's Report.**

*No Director's Report was presented.*

#### **Human Services Department**

5. **Resolution re: On helping families move from homelessness to self-sufficiency. *Referred from November County Board.***

Robinson suggested that this be held for a while pending a report from HOPE as indicated above. It was his feeling that this would be moving from the proposal as it is written to more of a request for a 10 year plan.

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

6. **Resolution re: Reclassification of Position Certified Nursing Assistant Human Services – Community Treatment Center.**

**Motion made by Supervisor Robinson, seconded by Supervisor Evans to approve. Vote taken. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

7. **Executive Director's Report.**

Executive Director Kral had two items to add to his report which was included in the packet. First, with regard to Macht Village, Kral indicated that they have resolved their issue with the State of Wisconsin quite amicably and Macht Village will be staying in the business and providing services as they have in the past.

Kral also indicated that they have had their variance request approved by the State to have an APNP practice who does not yet have their full certification but is getting close and he also reported that that position has been filled and the APNP will be starting in January and Kral was quite pleased with this.

Evans stated that he had received the determination with regard to Macht Village and had provided the same to the Committee members.

Robinson said he did not see anything on the agenda regarding what happened with the Our Place funding. Kral stated that the role of his position is to issue contracts pursuant to statute so they have the funding to spend up to what was approved. Kral has met with Tom Martin from Family Services and they have agreed that regardless of any changes, an increase of about \$11,000 was appropriated and they are still evaluating increasing second shift staff at Our Place and so far early discussions are favorable to do that.

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

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

Finance Manager Tim Schmitt reported that it appears that the CTC will have a deficit this year. Robinson asked what the combined projected totals are for the end of the year. Schmitt responded that Community Programs has a year to date deficit of \$952,000 and CTC has a year to date deficit of \$1.3 million, of which \$536,000 is depreciation which is a non-levy item. Projections for the end of the year for CTC is a deficit of \$800,000 and it is anticipated that Community Programs is going to improve as they are experiencing a month delay in revenue on that side.

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

**9. Statistical Reports.**

- a. Monthly Inpatient Data – Community Treatment Center.
- b. Monthly Inpatient Data – Bellin Psychiatric Center.
- c. Child Protection – Child Abuse/Neglect Report.
- d. Monthly Contract Update.

**Motion made by Supervisor Robinson, seconded by Supervisor Hopp to receive and place on file Items 9 a – d. Vote taken. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

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

**Motion made by Supervisor Robinson, seconded by Supervisor Hopp to approve. Vote taken. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**11. Request for New Vendor Contract.**

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

**Aging & Disability Resource Center** – No agenda items.

**Syble Hopp School** – No agenda items.

**Veterans Services** – No agenda items.

**Other**

12. **Audit of bills.**

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

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

**Motion made by Supervisor Haefs, seconded by Supervisor Hopp to adjourn at 7:14 p.m. Vote taken. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

Respectfully submitted,

Therese Giannunzio  
Recording Secretary