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, August 26, 2026 in Room 200, Northern Building, 305 E. Walnut St., Green Bay, WI.

Present: Chair Emily Jacobson, Vice Chair Megan Borchardt, Supervisor Patrick Evans, Supervisor Rachel Maes, Supervisor Christopher Welch

Also Present: Public Health Officer Anna Nick, Community Services Administrator Jenny Hoffman, Hospital and Nursing Home Administrator Kara Gruber, HHS Finance Manager Nancy Van Elzen, HHS Executive Director Erik Pritzl, ADRC Director Devon Christianson, ADRC Finance Manager Donovan Miller, Veterans Service Officer Nathan Thomas, Director of Administration Chad Weininger, Supervisor Przybelski, Supervisor Van Lanen and other interested parties

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I. Call Meeting to Order.

The meeting was called to order by Chair Jacobson at 5:30 pm.

II. Approve/Modify Agenda.

Motion made by Supervisor Maes, seconded by Supervisor Borchardt to approve. Vote taken. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

III. Approve/Modify Minutes of July 8, 2026.

Motion made by Supervisor Borchardt, seconded by Supervisor Welch to approve. Vote taken. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Comments from the Public – None.

Consent Agenda

1. **Review Minutes of ADRC Board of Directors (April 23, May 28 & June 5, 2026).**
2. **Review Minutes of Human Services Board (May 14, 2026).**
3. **Review Minutes of Children With Disabilities Education Board (June 16 & July 21, 2026).**

Motion made by Supervisor Evans, seconded by Supervisor Borchardt to take Consent Agenda Items 1 – 3 together and receive and place on file. Vote taken. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Veterans

4. **Director's Report.**

Veterans Service Officer Nathan Thomas referred to his report in the agenda packet and outlined the information. He explained pending issues is the number of open claims they are working on with veterans, spouses and children. Thomas also talked about several events he participated in recently and his role in the Veterans Treatment Court. He concluded that the newest hire in the office has received his PIV (Personal Identification Verification) and can now begin taking his own caseload.

Supervisor Evans referred to an e-mail he received regarding the VA1 Team approach to veterans' homelessness which was also sent to Thomas and asked Thomas to review the VA1 Team approach and provide a report on it at the next meeting including his thoughts on the program.

Chair Jacobson referenced the "golden ticket" that outlines veteran benefits and wanted to be sure it is updated and kept current. Thomas noted the "golden ticket" is an overview of the basics, but there is way

more available than is included on the ticket. He will review this and make sure the information is current and relevant.

Motion made by Supervisor Evans, seconded by Supervisor Welch that VSO Thomas provides an overview of the VA1 Team approach to veterans' homelessness at the next Human Services Committee meeting. Vote taken. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

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

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5. Director's Report.

a. Updates regarding changes to Medicaid that would affect the county budget and any plan to help those in our community that depend on these funds. *Standing Item.*

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

ADRC

6. Director's Report.

a. Monthly Activity Report – July 2026.

b. Update regarding central kitchen. *Standing item.*

ADRC Director Devon Christenson provided the September ADRC Magazine which can be viewed here: https://adrcofbrowncounty.org/adrc-magazine along with several other handouts related to Supporting Senior Health and Independence while Saving Money and a State issued brief on Safeguarding Home-Delivered Meals. She introduced Judy Knudsen, Chair of ADRC Board and Randy Johnson, member of ADRC Board as well as ADRC Finance Manager Donovan Miller.

Christenson informed there has been a lot of work and energy going into the kitchen project. She outlined the vision of the project and spoke to the information contained in the handout related to the objectives of the nutrition programs and central kitchen project, serving the county's growing senior population, the current meal program operation and the proposed meal program operation.

Randy Johnson talked in detail about the kitchen project as outlined in the handout including the history of the project, key features and amenities regarding spaces and services, community impact and return on investment and the timeline and next steps as well as funding and investment opportunities.

Supervisor Maes asked if the ADRC is currently partnered with any non-profits or other agencies to help with the supply chain. Christenson responded they have a partnership with the Food is Medicine initiative and they do partnership type activities, but due to the current model of the kitchen, they cannot introduce repurposed food due to regulations.

Supervisor Welch noted environmental issues need to be factored in, especially since the location being considered has an industrial history. Christenson agreed and noted they are currently in that process.

Evans asked if any of the half percent sales tax proceeds could be used for an ADRC building. Director of Administration Chad Weininger responded there was an original appropriation and then an increase to that. If a facility is owned and/or operated by the county for county purposes it would be considered a qualified expense.

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

Health & Human Services

7. Executive Director Report, including Financial Report.

a. Updates regarding changes to Medicaid and/or SNAP that would affect the county budget and any plan to help those in our community that depend on these funds. *Standing Item.*

Health and Human Services Executive Director Erik Pritzl referred to the Director's Report provided at the meeting and talked about the BadgerCare Plus work requirements outlined in the report and noted there will be exemptions for things like mental health needs, substance use treatment and other disabilities. DHS will be cross referencing various systems to know who has exemptions and will also provide notices to those who are exempt.

Pritzl continued that his department has spent a great deal of time over many weeks working on their department budget by reviewing every line, reviewing history and averages and looking at changes in grants and federal and state funding.

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

8. Financial Report for Community Treatment Center and Community Services.

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

9. Statistical Reports:

- **a. Monthly CTC Data – July 2026.**
  - **i. Bay Haven Crisis Diversion.**
  - **ii. Nicolet Psychiatric Center.**
  - **iii. Bayshore Village (Nursing Home).**
  - **iv. CTC Double Shifts:**
- **b. Child Protective Services – Child Abuse/Neglect Report for June & July 2026.**
- **c. Monthly Contract Update for August 2026.**

Motion made by Supervisor Evans, seconded by Supervisor Welch to receive and place on file Items 9a, ai. aii, aiii, aiv, b & c. Vote taken. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

10. Request for New Non-Contracted and Contracted Providers for August 2026.

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

11. Presentation of 2025 Health & Human Services Annual Report.

Pritzl referred to the Annual Report provided at the meeting and in the agenda packet. He outlined the initiatives on Page 3 and talked about the performance measures as outlined in the report. He highlighted some of the other report contents including improved utilization in substance abuse and psychiatry services. Pritzl noted emergency detentions have decreased for both children and adults and this has been a whole system change to focus on voluntary care. He also talked about childrens long-term support and noted over 1,600 children were served in 2025 and that number is expected to continue to increase. Staff in that area will also be increased to meet the demand.

Pritzl continued that they do whatever they can to keep children in the home of their primary caregiver, but when they do have to remove children, they try to look for kinship-related options whenever possible and those numbers are increasing every year. It was noted Brown County is one of the best performing counties for utilization of kinship. Pritzl also outlined volunteer services and children's emergency detentions as well as annual FoodShare benefits.

Jacobson asked for a brief overview of homeless outreach case management. Pritzl responded they do not do street outreach because there are other agencies that have assumed that responsibility. There is funding coming into the community for street outreach through the PATH (Projects for Assistance in Transition from Homelessness) grant through DHS. This grant was formerly with NEWCAP but ended when they closed and DHS is now in the process of re-awarding funds in the fall. Street outreach is also done with other funding that comes through local coalitions. Brown County focuses on connecting with community providers to make sure they provide resource information, connecting with staff and doing cross-referrals.

Welch asked if there is any way to get more information to the public about resources and ways to get more involved with homelessness. Pritzl responded that ideally the place for information to be shared is through the Brown County Housing and Homeless Coalition and those providers should be collaborating and working together.

Regarding kinship care, Evans asked how caregivers are vetted. Pritzl explained the process and informed there are standards kinship providers must meet and they must eventually become licensed.

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

Action Items Including Proposed Resolutions, Ordinances and Budget Adjustments

12. HHS – Budget Adjustment Request (26-052) – Any increase in expenses with an offsetting increase in revenue.

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

13. Discussion and possible action re: 2025 Balanced Budget Adjustment (26-080R).

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

14. Discussion and possible action re: Resolution Adopting Brown County's 2027 Five-Year Capital Improvement Plan (26-082R).

Motion made by Supervisor Borchardt, seconded by Supervisor Welch to approve. Vote taken. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

15. Discussion and possible action re: Supplemental Community Resources Application.

Pritzl explained supplemental community resources are levy funded, non-mandated services that have been brought into the budget. These are things that have been in place for a long period of time and it would be challenging for these agencies to pivot quickly. Pritzl would like a process where these funds become something that is available for more agencies to be eligible for and that is the process they are looking to put in place with the application. Pritzl would like organizations to apply for the funds and provide their outlines, how they would use the funds and what the projected output and outcomes are. They would also have to ensure the agencies are doing things that align with the eligible activity areas so they are funding things that are connected to something the county is required to do or services the county provides. Pritzl would like this to be an annual process and noted they will also review if there is sufficient funding available to support the activities.

Motion made by Supervisor Maes, seconded by Supervisor Borchardt to approve. Vote taken. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Communications

16. Communication from Supervisor Jacobson: Request Public Safety and Health and Human Services provide the County Board with an update on the Brown County opioid settlement funds, including how much funding has been received, how the funds have been allocated, what projects and programs have been supported – including outcomes and future plans related to these funds. *Referred from July County Board.*

Jacobson informed she and former Supervisor Keith Deneys made an agreement to follow up on the settlement funds and noted Public Safety Committee has already provided an update. Pritzl referred to summary of the 2024 and 2025 expenses in his Director's Report and outlined the information. He noted they utilize other one-time funding sources as much as possible since the opioid settlement funds do not go away. Public Health has also received a lot of one-time funding that has been used for things like billboard campaigns, mailers and community events.

Welch asked if trends seem to have been altered since the opioid funds have become available. Pritzl responded they continue to see a high demand for substance abuse treatment in general with alcohol treatment remaining

high. He noted the funds are flexible, but they are always making sure what they are doing falls under the allowable uses.

Several other facets of substance abuse treatment, including peer support and community-based medication assisted treatment were also discussed.

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

17. Communication from Supervisor Maes and Supervisor Welch: Request for a resolution supporting sustainable Public Health Funding, as attached to be put in proper resolution form for consideration. ***Referred from August County Board.***

Maes informed this stems from the last Board of Health meeting and noted inspiration for the language in the proposed resolution came from Wood County which recently passed a similar resolution. As pointed out in the proposed resolution, Wisconsin ranks 49th as far as state dollars dedicated to public health and she noted the county has a lot of demands requiring public health funding. This is an urge to the state legislature to continue funding or increase funding for public health and local health departments.

Welch added there are clinical and hospital groups that have struggled with funding and this is something that was also discussed at the Board of Health. This would be a way for the county to work with other groups or the state to get more funds delegated for our communities. Maes noted dollars spent on local health departments are an investment in the community and for every dollar spent on public health initiatives, there is a return on investment of $14.30. Welch continued that there are several clinic studies and other studies that support the notion that getting ahead of health care and being proactive saves money.

Supervisor Borchardt asked if any counties other than Wood County have done something similar or if WCA is looking at this. Welch responded that Wood County makes sense due to the Marshfield Clinic being there, but other hospital systems do their own push for things. Pritzl added that he has seen similar resolutions come through from at least six other counties and he feels WCA is also interested in this as a priority. Borchardt feels having more public health resources available, especially in rural communities, and educating the public is good means of supporting the public with their health goals.

Jacobson asked if the Public Health Association supports this. Public Health Officer Anna Nick responded that part of the resolution language came from the Wisconsin Public Health Association and they want to saturate this because public health in Wisconsin is grossly underfunded. There are many public health mandates without funding so something needs to occur and as a system in Wisconsin they are advocating strongly for more public health funding. This resolution is an indicator to WCA to take this up as a priority and advocate on behalf of public health. Nick continued that what is needed is sustainable flexible public health funding, not block grants or one-time grants that are not sustainable.

Evans questioned if the proposed resolution was approved by the Board of Health. Maes responded it was discussed by the Board of Health and a request was made to present this to this Committee for action by the County Board. Evans will support this but feels WCA also needs to do something. He would like to see financial information specific to Brown County included in the resolution as well as an indication as to where additional funding is needed.

Supervisor Van Lanen asked if funding for state and county health programs is a shared responsibility. Pritzl responded the state typically sets the higher-level policies and objectives and the state departments have the authority to make rules as to what the local health departments have to follow, but the funding does not always follow the mandate. Counties have a contractual relationship with the state to provide the services, but it is not descriptive as to who and how the work will be done. Nick added that traditionally the counties picked up the levy side of public health.

Van Lanen commented that this seems to be a cookie cutter resolution. Information regarding similar resolutions is available on the Wisconsin Association of Local Health Departments and Boards website as well as the Wisconsin Public Health Association website. He appreciates Maes and Welch bringing this forward and their passion for it but feels the County Board should stay in their lane with resolutions like this. If the associations are already working on this, he does not feel there is a need for the County Board to do the same thing. Van Lanen also feels it is important

to meet with legislators and attend meetings and conferences, but he has a problem putting the whole County Board behind this, especially since there are advocacy groups already working on it.

Borchardt disagreed with Van Lanen as she feels County Board Supervisors are all advocates for their constituents and the problems they have, whether they are in health care, the criminal justice system or any other area. The people who elect the County Board put their trust in their Supervisors to be sure they are getting the services they need and the education around subjects they need. Public health teaches people how choices they make affect their bodies and what the long-term outcome may be. She feels our state representatives like to hear from Supervisors and they do listen to us when we talk about issues that are important to our constituents and they do want to make sure they are providing the services and funding our people need. Borchardt feels this part of advocacy is very important and so are the relationships with representatives in Madison.

Van Lanen responded that there are many advocacy groups and He questions where the County Board stops with the advocacy groups. He agreed with Borchardt that good relationships and collaboration are important, but he also feels the County Board needs to stay in their own lane. Van Lanen wants to see those that need help get help, but he also wants to ensure efficiency and good use of funding.

Jacobson feels it is better to ask for specific things. She feels the resolution provided is a good start and can be used as a rough draft but she would like it to include tangible items of specifically what is needed. She feels this would be a good precedent for other counties to make similar resolutions based on their own tangible needs.

Maes feels a resolution like this from an overwhelming majority of counties in the state helps strengthen the argument when advocating for funds. She is willing to advocate for public health and because of the mandates that come through from the state without funding attached, she is also willing to fully advocate that these essential services should not be born by levy funds and Brown County taxpayers. Maes continued that public health benefits everyone in the county and she feels advocating for additional funding sources other than the levy also benefits county residents. She fully supports making the resolution local and tailoring it to Brown County's specific data.

Motion made by Supervisor Maes, seconded by Supervisor Welch to direct Corporation Counsel to put resolution in proper format and include local data from Brown County in the final version and bring back to Human Services Committee for approval.

Supervisor Borchardt requested a friendly amendment that tangible outcomes be included in the resolution. Maes and Welch both accepted this request. Vote taken. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Other

18. Such other Matters as Authorized by Law. None.

19. Adjourn.

Motion made by Supervisor Maes, seconded by Supervisor Borchardt to adjourn at 7:32 pm. Vote taken. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Respectfully submitted,

Therese Giannunzio
Legislative Specialist