

**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, February 26, 2020 in Room 200 of the Northern Building, 305 E. Walnut St., Green Bay, WI.

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**Present:** Chair Hoyer, Supervisor De Wane, Supervisor Evans, Supervisor Brusky, Supervisor Linssen  
**Also Present:** Supervisors Tran and Van Dyck; Health and Human Services Director Erik Pritzl, Chief Deputy Brad Brodbeck, Jail Captain Heidi Michel, Public Health Officer Anna Destree, Nursing Home and Hospital Administrator Samantha Behling, Community Services Administrator Jenny Hoffman, Finance Manager Erik Johnson, ADRC Director Sunny Archambault; other interested parties.

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I. **Call Meeting to Order.**

The meeting was called to order by Chair Hoyer at 6:00 pm.

II. **Approve/Modify Agenda.**

**Motion made by Supervisor Brusky, seconded by Supervisor Linssen to amend the agenda to move Item 7 after Item 1. Vote taken. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

III. **Approve/Modify Minutes of January 22, 2020.**

**Motion made by Supervisor De Wane, seconded by Supervisor Brusky to approve. Vote taken. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**Comments from the Public.** None.

**Report from Human Services Chair, Erik Hoyer.**

Hoyer thanked everyone for attending, this was his last meeting as Chair so he was looking forward to see what they talk about.

1. **Review Minutes of:**

- a. **Aging & Disability Resource Center of Brown County (October 24 and December 12, 2019).**
- b. **Criminal Justice Coordinating Board (February 4, 2020).**
- c. **Human Services Board (November 14, 2019).**
- d. **Mental Health Treatment Subcommittee (January 15, 2020).**
- e. **Veterans' Recognition Subcommittee (January 21, 2020).**

**Motion made by Supervisor Linssen, seconded by Supervisor De Wane to take Items 1a-1e. Vote taken. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**Motion made by Supervisor Linssen, seconded by Supervisor Brusky to receive and place on file Items 1a-1e. Vote taken. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

*Although shown in proper format here, Item 7 was taken at this time.*

**Action Items**

2. **Project 2358 Jail Expansion, ME Building, and CTC Addition – Bid Summary & Award Recommendation.**

Public Works Director Paul Fontecchio informed the bids were for all 3-projects, it came before this committee for action relating to the CTC portion of the project. It will go before Public Safety for approval for the Jail and ME portion. As they went through the design process, there were things they would like to have but don't know how the bids will be and from a budgetary point of view, they put

them as additives. With the approval of the additives it was \$17.7 million. They were recommending that it be approved. It will start quickly in spring and Miron was telling them initially that they will be done with all 3-projects by the end of the year, so it was very fast. Responding to Hoyer, Fontecchio informed there were quite a few different alternative bids in terms of equipment, etc. Pritzl stated there was one design feature and something with porcelain tile and the material used on the ceiling in the open space of the facility. Fontecchio added he felt it would be starting in April. The Highway Department had all the earthwork done, the pond done and all the storm sewers outside was all built already.

**Motion made by Supervisor De Wane, seconded by Supervisor Evans to award Project 2358 to Miron Construction in the amount of \$17,707,952 including base bid #1 and all the project alternative bids. Nay: Linssen. Vote taken. MOTION CARRIED 4 to 1**

### Communications

- 3. Communication from Supervisor Tran re: Crisis Center – with no direct bus line, how do we meet the needs of people? Vouchers to get there? What if they're wheelchair-bound, how do they get there? *Jan Motion: To put this communication on the next Human Services Committee agenda and invite Family Services, Sheriff's Department and Jail representatives and Green Bay Transit to come to the meeting and also to start investigating the possibility of a county voucher system, i.e.: reimbursement for taxi or Uber.***

Pritzl informed Green Bay Transit was unable to make the meeting but will be at the Mental Health Subcommittee on March 18, 2020, which reports up to this committee.

Supervisor Tran was at the CTC for a meeting and was a bit concerned. She spoke with Director Pritzl and their thoughts were asking Green Bay Transit to move their current bus stop from where the CTC entrance was to where the new Crisis Center will be, 50 yards down. Her other concern was if someone was wheelchair bound or had other disabilities, what could they do to help them? And what did they do in the situation where someone didn't live on a bus route. She was looking for guidance and ways to help constituents.

#### Jenny Younk - Program Manager, Crisis Center

Younk stated with the move they had heard quite a bit about concerns for accessibility in terms of being less centrally located. Knowing that they recently did a time study to look at accessibility and how people were accessing their services, how many coming by foot and how many coming by bus. For a week they asked everyone how they got to them, 90 were polled and only one arrived by bus, 69 came either police vehicle or personal vehicle and 19 walked in. 12 of those walk-ins came solely for warmup purposes, coming out of the cold looking for a warm place to sit. Seven were true crisis service needs. That tells them that the percentage of people coming should be able to access their services regardless of where they were located. To speak to the point of if there were barriers in terms of people not being on a bus line, not being able to utilize the bus, historically if someone has called them and they believed they needed to come in and they didn't have natural supports for transportation or other ways to get there, they have offered cab vouchers. She understood that might not work for someone in a wheelchair, they were a mobile service and can go out to the home as long as it was a safe situation for their counselors. That would be another option where they would take advantage of their mobility and go out to the individual rather than having them go through the difficulty they might have getting out to their location, again, regardless of where they were.

Hoyer questioned if they had to do this since they started the mobile crisis, specifically for mobility issues? Younk informed they have, primarily when law enforcement has been at a home and they recognize when an individual may not be able to be accommodated in a squad car. They will often call them out to the home and not have to transport those people. In other instances, when someone was at the hospital, they can go mobile there or need be, they were transferred via rescue squad.

Evans was trying to get her take on it, what Tran brought up was certainly legitimate and one missed crisis can be devastating. He could appreciate the statistics but she was the professional. Younk fully agreed, they didn't want any barriers to their services and they wanted to be able to serve anyone in crisis and would do whatever they can to accommodate them. If there was a transportation barrier, they offer whatever they can to circumvent that. Some of the same barriers where they were located

currently would still be an issue in terms of if someone can't utilize the bus or wasn't on a bus line on the front end of where they were coming from. She didn't believe the change necessarily made them less able to serve those individuals than they currently were. Responding to Evans, she's not trying to suggest that they don't need a bus stop, there was currently a bus stop on campus at the CTC. They did discuss whether they would need to move it closer to the Crisis Assessment Center when they move out there, the concern with that was that people were going to see that as the main entrance to the CTC and start coming through there rather than going directly into the main entrance which was in line currently with the bus stop. They discussed putting signage up, adjust the sidewalk to make it easier for them to access their entry there. Evans felt they could do that. That was easy. He questioned if they had information of people who were wheelchair bound or physically disabled using their services. Younk stated they don't necessarily track individuals with disability. Evans questioned if there was one person, Younk responded absolutely, they had people coming in with wheelchairs and walkers. Their current location was not the best for accessibility so it was one improvement they will have at the new location, it's all one level and they don't have to get to a lower level.

Linssen questioned if there were any potential gaps in service related to transportation to the crisis center from any part of the county and what are the concerns with that to make sure they were addressing that properly. Younk stated gaps in terms of if people don't have access to a vehicle, aren't on the bus line, can't be served by a cab, and would be the other potential barrier which again would possibly be people with disabilities so their option would be to go to them. She's hoping they would be able to close those gaps with their mobility. If people can't come into them, their option would be to go to them and do what they needed to do to make sure it was both safe for the individual and the counselors going in.

Linssen questioned if there was transportation for getting back to the other facilities as needed? Younk stated if someone was going somewhere voluntarily, they were going to in patient unit or one of the crisis stabilization facilities or even if they had to go to a hospital and it's not an urgent need, their staff can transport as long as the individual was comfortable, the staff was comfortable and it didn't require a more secure vehicle because they were driving their personal vehicle. For transporting people with a disability, they look at if they had medical assistance and can utilize transport covered. If it was something more urgent they would likely rely on rescue squad.

Brusky questioned if they had data or done any studies on what geographical areas their clients come from? Younk informed in 2019 they looked at the zip codes and while they saw 5,500 people they saw face to face, this captured roughly 3,400 unique repeat individuals. About 24% were coming from the 54301 zip code, 11% 54302, 13% 54303, 10% 54304, 8% 54311, 7% 54313 and 54115 (De Pere), everything else was pretty nominal.

Hoyer stated in terms of the people walking in because the cold or seeking services, one of the new things was they were open 24 hours a day and there was that option. Were there any other options in the perimeter nearby so that if someone who was having a crisis, maybe it wouldn't be the crisis center but at least they would be open or available to getting in touch with crisis. Younk informed one block south of them on Adams St., their lobby was open 24/hours a day but she's sure they don't want them to promote them as the next option but in terms of being able to access a home or being able to be face to face with someone to say they need immediate assistance, they would have that option.

Linssen stated St. John's Shelter was two blocks as well.

#### Tana Koss – Crisis Center Director

Koss informed they were brainstorming about this because they were very concerned. They hadn't reached out to some of their neighbors who were open 24/7 to see if a phone call would be disruptive, like Green Bay Police. They think technology might help with an answer, like the RING doorbell, at least temporality, they could have voice to voice contact and dispatch resources to get them to their new location. No matter how much advertising they do, there were going to be some individuals who count on them being there.

Heidi Michel – Jail Captain

Michel informed they hand out vouchers to people being released and keep track of the people they hand bus passes to. Some come in already with a monthly bus pass. On a typical Monday they hand out 20, maybe 30, every week. Responding to Evans, it was difficult to say how many physically disabled or wheelchair bound inmates they had. Out of the total population, maybe 2-3% at their main jail facility.

Dan Sandberg – Sheriff Patrol Captain

Sandberg stated the Crisis Center move created a lot more efficiency for them from a patrol standpoint. It was almost a 'one-stop-shop' if someone was going to the Crisis Center for the assessment, then the potential was, if they were going to be put in CTC, it was right there. Speaking for the Sheriff's office, they were usually coming from outside the city limits to bring the person to the Crisis Center downtown. Sometimes they remain there, if there was a safety issue, if not, they leave but then they come back, pick up the person and take them to the CTC. Responding to Evans, the City of Green Bay handled 55% of the Emergency Medical Detentions (EM1) that occur the Sheriff handles 30%, Ashwaubenon handles about 7% and even for Green Bay PD, it was a more efficient means for them also.

Tran questioned if they foresee the vouchers running out of money and would need some sort of emergency fund to get people to where they need to go for help? Or if it was ever an issue. Younk informed they didn't have a set amount for vouchering. In 2019 they spent \$4,200 on cab vouchers, but that could include getting people to them, from them to another location, etc. There was not really a cap on it, they budgeted for a set amount but if they need to go above that, they adjust else ware.

Sandberg informed it would be significantly more expensive to have an officer bring someone and then you're also removing them and that area of coverage was covered by someone else, taking a larger section. They don't transfer voluntarily.

Tran questioned the time difference to the furthest point in Brown County. Chief Deputy Brad Brodbeck stated it allowed better use of the interstate system because they can stay on the highway system verses getting into the residential streets, allows to get to places quicker with easy access on the highway system.

If there was something the county could do on their end, Tran stated they would be glad to help or she'd receive and place on file her communication. Younk stated if there was assistance with vouchers, Family Services wouldn't turn that away but beyond that, she really thinks they thought this through, they had a lot of conversations about what they needed to do to preplan so there weren't any gaps and they were ready for the move. Tran stated she brought it forward as members of the coalition asked her to but they probably didn't have the knowledge of the planning they had done.

Linssen questioned where the funds came from for the vouchers, Koss informed that about 80% of their overall budget was coming from their contract with Brown County. They had a number of other contracts and support from fundraising and United Way. They budget for a certain amount of client transportation assistance but they wouldn't cap it, it was something they go over budget for. Looking at the last number of years, there were years that they had gone into significant deficit in their budget and that was Family Services fundraising that helped keep it going. There were other years where balance was fine. By nature of 24/7 and the amount of staffing they had, there were so many variables.

Hoyer felt the fact that they will have the bus system at the Mental Health, it will be nice to kind of tie that all together.

**Motion made by Supervisor De Wane, seconded by Supervisor Linssen to receive and place on file. Vote taken. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

4. **Communication from Supervisor Van Dyck re: To Amend Chapter 2 of the County Code of Ordinances, Section 2.06 (Administration Committee) and Section 2.10 (Human Services Committee), changing the oversight committee for Child Support from Administration Committee to Human Services Committee. Referred from February County Board.**

Van Dyck informed this was a subset of a larger communication. According to Corporation Counsel, this had to be referred to Executive Committee. The purpose of this change was that in meeting with Supervisor Sieber, and talking about the proposed change to the Executive Committee, much of the responsibilities that currently fall under the Executive Committee, the plan would be to transfer those oversites to the Administration Committee. As Sieber looked at the oversites, it was his suggestion to move Child Support to Human Services. It was his understanding that department heads met in groups with the County Executive and the Child Support department head met along with the rest of the department heads that reported to this committee not the Admin group.

Evans could kind of see where it made sense in theory but he also understood it was a financial matter so he understood why it was under Administration, you're dealing with attorneys, finance and paternity. He would like to hear from Administration on this. He didn't see how moving it from Admin to HS changes the way they do business. He was not excited about changing it and wanted to talk to the Child Support Director.

Van Dyck agreed, he didn't believe anything was going to change and reiterated it was a suggestion by Sieber, if Administration would take on some of the responsibilities of the Executive Committee, it may be beneficial to take one department and move it. This was the one that stuck out where it could go either place.

**Motion made by Supervisor Linssen, seconded by Supervisor De Wane to support and refer to Executive Committee for consideration. Vote taken. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**5. Communication from Supervisors Tran, Evans & Brusky re: To direct the Board of Health to do a double-blind study on the health effect of infrasound (produced by wind turbines). *Referred from February County Board.***

Tran informed there would be a financial aspect to this request, it was doable but the question was, did they have the money or manpower to do it. The other option was sending a resolution to DHS to have them do a study. She was not sure the best course of action but something needed to be looked at. She knew there was a lot of people thinking this was all a placebo affect but how can you prove that someone has an ailment or not. A way to disprove or to test it was to do a study. Initially she thought if she were to design the study, her hypothesis would be, can exposure to infrasound or the flickering of the blades produced by wind turbines cause adverse health affect. You would do two different experiments and you'd have baseline subjects who had never been exposed to wind turbines, who know nothing about it and don't care about it. Bring them to various areas in Brown County blinded and measure different things such as heartrate and reactions. Second part would be letting them watch a video of wind turbines and negative health effects and take those people back again to the same areas and re-measure to see differences in reactions. The other experiment would be done with the people affected currently. They could hire an expert to do this but it wouldn't be hard to create a baseline.

De Wane believed they went through what seemed like 20 years doing all of this and had meetings after meetings and doctors from all over the world and bringing studies and experts from all over the world. Hoyer added, particularly studies of this site and of this area. International people have come here.

Linssen stated they had a wind turbine update as a standing item on the agenda for 3-4 years now and had been accepting reports and studies that come in that people submit for consideration and putting them into the record and keeping on file in the County Board office. There have been some studies done and there were individuals who question some of the health effects. Three years or so they looked at what the cost of doing a study was and it was quite significant. They reached the determination, after consultation with Administration, essentially it was the states responsibility to do that kind of stuff and they did send something along to the state asking for them to look into it

further. The state has been very clear that through their work, they don't believe there was a health affect. It was his understanding, as of three years ago, they weren't intending to do any significant research. He didn't know if that will change with the new Administration, it was possible. If they wanted to forward a resolution again, they could but any study they do on this topic was going to be prohibitory expensive, at least a 6-figure study if not more. Part of the reason was you have to be able to account for the placebo affect and it was hard to do when you are talking about symptoms that tend to be more of a long term thing for a lot of people. From all the stuff he's read, if little Brown County as opposed to all these national health organizations, was going to do gold standard study on this, he didn't really know if they have the funding or if it was their role to play in all of this. The state has infinitely more resources for this type of stuff than the county. He felt it was a waste of taxpayers money.

Tran wasn't here when this all happened. She didn't think it would be 6-figures. With studies, if you can replicate it and get the same results in other counties, then you know there's something to it. You can compare the statistics and see whether or not if there was an issue they need to address. There were people that were sick and you can't claim they are not sick because how do you do that? Her goal was to do as much as she can, she's curious by nature and she really wants to know if this was really something people feel or a placebo effect, which she didn't think it was. The studies she looked at were in laboratories and not in the areas where people are saying they are being affected. She wants to see studies from people who have no special interest in this matter, De Wane informed the County Board office had those on file.

It was Brusky's recollection that before she was on the County Board there was a study by scientists and two were affected and the recommendation from the state was that further research should be done and it was dropped by the state and no one bothered to do it. She felt it was beneficial to do it. They were looking for an actual study of blindfolded subjects to find out distance and what symptoms and if they had any. She felt there was some benefits and would be interested if the Health Board would explore it. Tran informed there were federal grants out there but she had to look at the guidelines.

Van Dyck stated this had been brought up on numerous occasions. To speak to the study, the state had \$500,000 in the budget a few years back that had been pulled back. They were talk hundreds of thousands, a million dollars to do a study. The question was, what's the end game of the study? He understood the health concerns and shared those as well. If the study was not done properly and the facts aren't there, or if the end game was to shut them down, they will spend millions of dollars in legal fees to get to the end result. What was the objective and that's the big questions that's hung over this debate for a long time. He just ask what were they trying to accomplish. He looked at it from a fiscal standpoint and if it was a million dollar study and another \$2-3 million dollar lawsuit to shut them down, the county was better off going up and buying anyone affected and being done with it. Then the health effects are irrelevant in regard to the constituents. He felt they had to look at the bigger picture and there's been an awful lot that had been done with this and he didn't think our own department was equipped to do the kind of study they would have to do to get the information that they really need to do something with. Tran informed she had another communication that was going to Executive Committee which had to do with the follow-up after the study. Most agreed that green energy was a good thing for everyone but they had to be responsible as to where they put the turbines so they weren't hurting people they were trying to help.

Evans supported this because it was a good idea to continue to move forward. He did believe wind turbines caused issues and spoke to a case with a girl he knew of. Until the Health Director says it's a human health hazard, nothing happens and he didn't think she'd do that, the previous one didn't. The pressure from the County Executive, who didn't want to do that, due to the fear from the fiscal standpoint of getting into a lawsuit. The health and safety of the people was paramount and they were letting them down. He felt nothing will be done for a while as far as nationally, he further explained. He felt it was important to move forward, do another study and suggested sending it to

the Board of Health. He believed in that wind turbines do cause health issues and saw people affected by it and he felt it himself.

**Motion made by Supervisor Evans, seconded by Supervisor De Wane to open the floor to allow interested parties to speak. Vote taken. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

William Acker – Acker and Associates, 3217 Nicolet Dr.

Acker informed he had been working on this issue for 13-years. He believed that people were experiencing nausea, vibrating headaches, ear pressure, ear pain, blurred vision, all these types of things are being experienced throughout the US at all locations. Acker and Dr. Tibbets were pretty heavily involved in a study that involved eye pressure and analyzing eye pressure when exposed to wind turbines. They got close to getting some results but their person decided he didn't want to be tested anymore for the fear of going blind. There were huge problems with respect to any type of testing and that involves having the utility or developer that owned the wind turbines to provide performance data while doing evaluations so they can be sure they weren't purposely tweaking the turbines so there's no ill effects when they're doing their testing. That's only been done in one case in the whole world. Governor Walker had a fund to do testing and that was later removed. He felt they needed a really good medical study to help support these things. The biggest problem was there was little to no desire to do them. Most medical doctors and so forth are extremely hesitant to get involved for fear that they will be looked at anti renewable energy. He explained his grave concerns with having a university involved. He supports what Tran is proposing but it's not easy to do, it's very expensive to do to get the right medical team of people together to monitor the body and equate it to the wind turbine performance. This was needed and there has been excellent studies done.

**Motion made by Supervisor De Wane, seconded by Supervisor Brusky to return to regular order of business. Vote taken. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**Motion made by Supervisor Evans, seconded by Supervisor Brusky to send to the Board of Health. Vote taken. Nay: Linssen. MOTION CARRIED**

#### Wind Turbine Update

**6. Receive new information – Standing Item.**

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

#### Veteran Services

**7. 2019 – 2020 Carryover Funds.**

County Veteran Service Officer Joe Aulik informed it was a little unique this year, there was \$7,000 carryover from a donation they received last year from the Friendin Veterans Lives Group in Green Bay. He also collaborated with them to put 531 gift baskets together for veterans and assisted living nursing homes with all their marketing information listing the 27 core benefits.

They will be posting veteran benefits on 3-billboards in the area for 3-months to be proactive. Aulik informed statistics tell them that well over 50% of veterans are unaware of their benefits. After they see what kind of responses they get, they will run another 3 months.

**Motion made by Supervisor De Wane, seconded by Supervisor Linssen to approve. Vote taken. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

*Back to Item 2 at this time.*

#### Health & Human Services Department

**8. 2019 – 2020 Carryover Funds – Community Services and Public Health.**

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

9. Executive Director's Report.

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

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

Motion made by Supervisor De Wane, seconded by Supervisor Brusky to receive and place on file. Vote taken. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

11. Statistical Reports.

a) Monthly CTC Data.

- i. Bay Haven Crisis Diversion.
- ii. Nicolet Psychiatric Center.
- iii. Bayshore Village (Nursing Home).
- iv. CTC Double Shifts.

Motion made by Supervisor Linssen, seconded by Supervisor De Wane to take Items 11a-11c together.. Vote taken. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

- b) Child Protection – Child Abuse/Neglect Report.
- c) Monthly Contract Update.

Motion made by Supervisor Linssen, seconded by Supervisor Evans to receive and place on file Items 11a-c. Vote taken. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

12. Request for New Non-Contracted and Contract Providers.

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

Other

13. Audit of bills.

Motion made by Supervisor De Wane, seconded by Supervisor Brusky to acknowledge receipt of the bills. Vote taken. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

14. Such other Matters as Authorized by Law.

Linssen thanked the committee, this was his last meeting as he will be out of the state next month. It was a pleasure and he thanked the committee for allowing him to serve.

ADRC thanked Supervisors Brusky, Hoyer, Tran, Sieber, Borchardt and Streckenbach for helping with their big event. They were able to raise about \$30,000 and haven't been notified for their Packer enhanced dollars yet. They need to upgrade to commercial equipment and can't use government dollars.

15. Adjourn.

Motion made by Supervisor Linssen, seconded by Supervisor Brusky to adjourn at 7:24 pm. Vote taken. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

Respectfully submitted,  
Alicia A. Loehlein, Administrative Coordinator