

**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, January 28, 2009 in Room 200 of the Northern Building – 305 East Walnut Street, Green Bay, Wisconsin

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**Present:** Jesse Brunette, Pat Evans, Steve Fewell, Rich Langan, Pat LaViolette, Tom Lund  
**Excused:** Julie Knier  
**Also Present:** Mark Quam, Diane Pivonka, Tom Eggebrecht  
Jayme Sellen, Judy Friederichs, Don VanderKelen  
Kevin Brennan/Mina Teske – Child Protection Services  
Wes Catalano – Foster Parent & President of the NEW Foster & Adoptive Parent Association; Rob Schreiber – Foster Parent

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I. **Call Meeting to Order:**

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Pat Evans at 6:05 p.m.

II. **Approve/Modify Agenda:**

Items were taken out of order, although shown in proper format here.

**Motion made by Supervisor Langan and seconded by Supervisor Brunette to approve as modified. MOTION APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY**

III **Approve//Modify Minutes of December 23, 2008:**

**Motion made by Supervisor Brunette and seconded by Supervisor Langan to approve. MOTION APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY**

**Comments from Public/Such Other Matters as Authorized by Law:** None

**Report from Human Services Chair, Patrick Evans:**

1. **Review Minutes of:**

- a. **Human Services Board (12/18/08):**
- d. **Children with Disabilities Education Board (12/17/08):**

**Motion made by Supervisor Lund and seconded by Supervisor LaViolette to receive and place on file. MOTION APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY**

**Communications:**

- 2. **Communication from Supervisor Steve Fewell re: To have Human Resources and Mental Health staff develop a safety policy regarding the number of hours that an employee can be allowed to work to guarantee client safety. (Held from previous meeting):**

Refer to #3 for discussion related to this item.

3. **Communication from Supervisor Tom Lund re: To look at the overtime budget and temporary help budget in the CTC for efficiencies. (Held from previous meeting):**

Supervisor Lund questioned whether the hiring of additional staff at the CTC has had any effect on overtime expenses. Mr. Quam replied there has been nothing significant and a staffing study shows a 17 person gap between shifts. Supervisor Lund asked which is more cost effective, to hire employees, to pay overtime, or to hire temporary help.

*(Supervisor Fewell arrived 6:10 p.m.)*

Labor Negotiator, Don VanderKelen, explained that regular employees receive benefits where contract services are probably less, however, a problem arises with union certification and the possibility of the union filing for prohibitive practices. Contract services require bargaining, VanderKelen stated.

Mr. Quam informed the committee that the cost of temporary help is similar to a paid employee as the hourly rate is set higher with the agency receiving a cut. He explained the union requires an offer of over-time first and that if no one is interested, then temporary help can be considered.

Supervisor Lund stated he would like to see all costs before budget time to include temporary help, hired employees (including benefits), and payment of over-time. Mr. Quam indicated that much of this information can be found in the Human Resources report regarding work load.

Discussion of working 12 hr days vs. double shifts resulted in Mr. VanderKelen pointing out that Attorney Mohr has discouraged this practice due to possible liability. Mr. Quam stated it is easier to deal with double shifts rather than 12 hour shifts which involves splitting hours.

As there is presently no written policy, Attorney Mohr was directed to draft such a policy and return to committee.

**Motion made by Supervisor LaViolette and seconded by Supervisor Lund to refer to Attorney Fred Mohr to draft a written policy.**

**MOTION APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY**

Chairman Evans pointed out that this directive will go to Executive Committee for approval.

*(Supervisor Fewell excused 6:28 p.m.)*

#16a on the agenda taken next

**Health Dept:**

4. **Grant Application Review – Education and Enforcement for Increased Walking and Bicycling in Brown County Communities Grant:**

Judy Friederichs explained that this grant proposes to provide training to law enforcement agencies on biking and pedestrian laws and will provide education to bikers on safe biking. Interventions will be overseen by a newly created countywide biking and pedestrian committee composed of various community members involved in these issues with the intent to incorporate the program into existing systems in the county, i.e. law enforcement training programs, bike safety classes, etc. All expenses will be covered by the grant along with an additional inkind commitment from the community. If approved, the Brown County Health Department will serve as fiscal agent, with the program being implemented via subcontract.

**Motion made by Supervisor LaViolette and seconded by Supervisor Lund to approve. MOTION APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY**

5. **Director's Report:**

Judy Friederichs highlighted the following activities in her Director's Report:

- The odor ordinance will be discussed as part of the January 13<sup>th</sup> Board of Health meeting. Areas of potential revision will be further discussed at a March meeting with a goal to bring to the County Board by May.
- A meeting concerning hearing and vision was held on January 27<sup>th</sup> with representatives from area schools, along with Supervisor Julie Knier present. Supervisor Knier will research various items discussed and the committee will reconvene if necessary.

**Motion made by Supervisor LaViolette and seconded by Supervisor Brunette to receive and place on file. MOTION APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY**

6. **Budget Status Financial Report for November 30, 2008:**

**Motion made by Supervisor LaViolette and seconded by Supervisor Brunette to receive and place on file. MOTION APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY**

**Human Services Dept:**

7. **Mental Health Center Staffing, Safety Overtime Discussion. (Held from previous meeting):** See discussion in #'s 2 & 3 above for further information.

8. **Mental Health Center Statistics (December 2008):**

**Motion made by Supervisor LaViolette and seconded by Supervisor Lund to receive and place on file. MOTION APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY**

9. **Bellin Psychiatric Monthly Report (December 2008):**

**Motion made by Supervisor Lund and seconded by Supervisor Langan to receive and place on file. MOTION APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY**

10 **Approval for New Non-Continuous Vendor:**

**Motion made by Supervisor LaViolette and seconded by Supervisor Lund to approve. MOTION APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY**

11. **Monthly Contract Update:**

**Motion made by Supervisor Brunette and seconded by Supervisor Langan to approve. MOTION APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY**

12. **Budget Status Financial Report for Community Program (11/30/08):**

**Motion made by Supervisor LaViolette and seconded by Supervisor Brunette to receive and place on file. MOTION APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY**

13. **Budget Status Financial Report for Mental Health Center (11/30/08):**

**Motion made by Supervisor LaViolette and seconded by Supervisor Lund to receive and place on file. MOTION APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY**

14. **Review of Policies pertaining to Billings, Bad Debt, Write-Offs at the Mental Health Center:**

Guidelines for Human Services Department staff to process bankruptcy notifications as included in packet material was recommended for approval.

**Motion made by Supervisor LaViolette and seconded by Supervisor Lund to approve. MOTION APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY**

15. **WCHSA Minutes – 11/6/08:**

Mark Quam referred to minutes of the 11/6/08 meeting of this committee, specifically pointing out actions of the Council on Children & Families. In addition, he reported that the Department of Health Services has sent out a survey regarding adults at risk and will be analyzing the results. When asked regarding Family Care, Mr. Quam indicated that it is part of the Governor's budget.

**Motion made by Supervisor Lund and seconded by Supervisor LaViolette to receive and place on file. MOTION APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY**

16. **Director's Report:**

Mr. Quam highlighted the following activities in his Director's Report::

- Interviews will be held in February for a Drug Court Coordinator
- A state survey of the CSC Nursing home resulted in a citation for treatment of a patient with depression.
- Family Care meeting will be held on 2/17/09 at 1 p.m.
- Money received from the Children's Charity Golf Outing will be used for housing of homeless children in the school system
- A fund raiser is planned to raise money for the new CSC center to be used for equipment and other needs.
- Construction of the new building is on track.

**Motion made by Supervisor Brunette and seconded by Supervisor Langan to receive and place on file. MOTION APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY**

- 16a. **Late Communication from Supervisor Evans re: Request a review of the Standard Supplemental Payments to Foster Care Families. (Referred from January County Board):**

Chairman Evans introduced Kevin Brennan and Mina Teske of the Child Protection Agency for the Human Services Department of Brown County. Also present were foster parent Rob Schreiber, and Wes Calalano. Mr. Catalano is also the President of the NEW Foster & Adoptive Parent Association.

Chairman Evans pointed out that many children placed in foster families have extreme issues including a combination of developmental, physical, and emotional difficulties. Foster families provide a safe and loving home and should be compensated fairly.

**Motion made by Supervisor Lund and seconded by Supervisor LaViolette to suspend the rules to allow interested parties to speak. MOTION APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY**

**Kevin Brennan – Child Protection Supervisor, Brown County  
Mina Teske - Child Protection Coordinator**

Mr. Brennan distributed a handout comparing monthly foster care payment rates in Brown County vs the national & state averages (attached). This handout shows that Brown County's reimbursement rate to foster parents is higher than both the state and national averages for all age groups. Brennan stated that the majority of foster parents have no problem with the amount of reimbursement, although there are some who are feeling a financial pinch as the needs of foster children increase. Most foster parents are involved in the program because they want to help children, and not for the dollars they receive.

Also distributed was "Hitting the M.A.R.C. (Minimum Adequate Rates for Children). This document is on file in the Brown County Board Office and in the County Clerk's Office.

Brennan stated there is a qualification that one foster parent be in the home full-time, however, some do qualify for day care assistance through W2 funding. The maximum paid for foster care parents is \$2000 per month. A review is completed every six months. Brennan is involved with the rate setting and stated he tries to be fair and equitable depending on the needs of the child.

Ms. Teske explained there are few children who do not have special needs. Of the 252 placements in Brown County, all have special needs. She indicated there is no shortage foster homes in this area at this time.

Any damage done in the home by the foster children is the responsibility of the foster parents. If homeowners insurance does not cover damage, there is the possibility of state funding.

**Rob Schreiber – 2491 Clear Brook Circle, Green Bay**

Mr. Schreiber explained that he and his wife have a “receiving home”, explaining that children may come any time of the day or night, however, are only with them until they are placed. He reiterated the fact that the money they receive is not a major factor, that they just want to help the children.

**Wes Catalano – 2665 Hilly Haven Road, Green Bay**

Mr. Catalano also serves as President of the NEW Foster & Adoption Parent Association. He has adopted a four year old foster child, and also has a 16 year old in his home. He explained there are financial needs over and above what the program allows, listing driving expenses, associated insurance, sports and school activities, holidays, clothing and day to day expenses. Catalano stated that dental costs can be a problem as few area dentists honor Badger Care. Overall, however, his opinion is that he is treated fairly from a reimbursement rate aspect.

Supervisor Brunette, who has personal involvement in the foster care program, pointed out that although there is respite care available, there is a payment requirement. Responsibilities can also include time off work for medical appointments, meetings with the birth parents, etc. He stated that a family with a foster child, receiving \$825 a month, is actually receiving \$27 to \$28 a day for a 24 hour, 7 day week.

Because the program does receive money from Brown County, it was suggested there be another report before budget time. Supervisor LaViolette, however, pointed out that the committee did not want to give foster parents false expectations of a reimbursement increase because the 2010 county budget is expected to be tight.

It was suggested by Chairman Evans that an anonymous survey be sent to foster families asking for opinions on the amount of financial reimbursement received, if they feel they are getting appropriate support, and proper training. Mr. Catalano suggested this be collaboratively with the NEW Foster & Adoptive Parent Association.

**Motion made by Supervisor Langan and seconded by Supervisor Brunette to have Brown County Foster Care work collaboratively with the NEW Foster & Adoptive Parent Association to develop an anonymous survey which will determine if foster families are receiving appropriate support, financial reimbursement, and training.**

**MOTION APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY**

*(Back to #4 on the agenda)*

**Aging & Disability Resource Center** (Revenue & Expense Report for 12/31/08.

No other agenda items

**Veterans Dept.** (Budget Status Financial Report for 11//08. No other agenda items

**Syble Hopp School** No other agenda items

**Motion made by Supervisor Brunette and seconded by Supervisor Langan to receive and place on file. MOTION APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY**

**Other:**

17. **Audit of Bills:**

**Motion made by Supervisor Langan and seconded by Supervisor LaViolette to approve. MOTION APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY**

**Motion made by Supervisor Brunette and seconded by Supervisor Langan to adjourn at 7:45 p.m. MOTION APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY**

Respectfully submitted,

Rae G. Knippel,  
Recording Secretary