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, May 23, 2012 in Room 200 of the Northern Building – 305 East Walnut Street, Green Bay, Wisconsin

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Present: Pat Evans, Chair; Dan Haefs, Brad Hopp, Dan Robinson, Pat LaViolette
Also Present: Brian Shoup, Tim Schmitt, Barb Natelle
Tom Martin, Bonnie Phernetten, Angela Steuck, Lois Mischler,
Students from Silver Lake College studying Nursing

I. **Call Meeting to Order:**
The meeting was called to order by Vice-Chairman Dan Robinson at 6:02 p.m. until the arrival of Chairman Pat Evans at 6:02 p.m.

II. **Approve/Modify Agenda:**

Motion made by Supervisor LaViolette and seconded by Supervisor Hopp to approve the agenda. MOTION UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED

III. **Approve/Modify Minutes of April 25, 2012:**

Motion made by Supervisor Hopp and seconded by Supervisor LaViolette to approve the minutes. MOTION UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED

Comments from Public - None

Report from Human Services Chair, Patrick Evans:
Chairman Evans encouraged all new supervisor to visit the various Human Services facilities.

1. **Review Minutes of:**
   a. **Aging & Disability Resource Center of Brown County Board (April 26, 2012)**
   b. **Children with Disabilities Foundation Board (April 24, 2012)**
   c. **Veterans' Recognition Subcommittee (April 17, 2012)**

Motion made by Supervisor LaViolette and seconded by Supervisor Hopp to suspend the rules and receive and place on file 1a, b, & c.
MOTION UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED

Syble Hopp:

2. **Syble Hopp School 2012-2013 Budget:**
Barbara Natelle informed the committee that children from Syble Hopp School are at Lion's Camp this week. Along with them are staff consisting of a nurse, a cook, therapist, instructional aide, and volunteers. Those children unable to attend are having camp at school. Camp is paid through fund raising by the Parent's Organization. Ms. Natelle informed the committee that donations received from the Christian Outreach Program is used for needed technology.

Natelle referred to the 2012-2013 budget included in packet material, explaining that the budget year runs from July 1st to June 30th. This budget includes expenses for operational,

personnel, utilities, transportation for children to and from school, supplies, books and materials, etc. Total budget from levy is $2.8 million. Their will be no staff reductions.

Supervisor Robinson had questions related to Medicaid (therapy services), health insurance for employees (a new plan), and $30,000 for equipment services (ongoing roof project, parking lot repairs, etc).

Supervisor Hopp noted that sewage and water rates are the same as the previous year, informing Ms. Natelle that rates are expected to be increased by at least 10% and maybe more in the next year by the Metropolitan Sewage District because of the construction of a new treatment facility.

Chairman Evans encouraged new members to visit the Syble Hopp School to familiarize themselves with activities at the school.

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

Presentation:

3. **By Family Service Association re: Health Families Program and Willow Tree Child Advocacy Center:**

Healthy Families Program

Bonnie Phernetton, Program Director, Angela Steuck, Vice President of the program, along with Director Tom Martin explained the Family Services Healthy Families Program stating it is designed to assist families with newborn babies. Mr. Martin thanked Brown County for their past and ongoing support of this program.

Ms. Phernetton explained that the Brown County Healthy Families Program is a nationally accredited child abuse and neglect prevention program who work with families who have been identified as at risk for child abuse and neglect. These factors include alcohol and drug abuse, mental health issues, a lack of a natural support system, criminal history, etc. Families are identified by area hospitals, physicians, public health, schools, public and private agencies, as well as self-referrals. Preference for the program are parents who are either expecting the birth of their first child, or have a child under the age of three months. Services can be provided for four years and include home visitation and education with the primary goals to improve family social skills and functioning, facilitating high risk parent/child interactions, promoting optimal child health and development, and linking families to community resources. A Family Service Support Worker meets with the family weekly in their home with visits designed to identify family strengths and to develop a positive parent/child interaction. Parents are informed how to understand and identify age appropriate developmental skills with regard to behavior and discipline, along with activities which encourage learning. Because of a long term commitment, caseloads are limited to no more than 25 families at a given time.

Ms. Phernetton reported that this program has been in existence in Brown County since 1996. In 2011 Healthy Families worked with 87 families and 207 children, 95% of the enrolled children had no substantiated abuse or neglect, 83% have at least one parent working or attending school, 95% of enrolled children are developmentally on track or are receiving appropriate intervention services, and 97% of enrolled children are up to date with well child check-ups and immunizations. (See attached information for further detail)

Angela Steuck, Vice President of the Healthy Families Program, reported that the program served 114 children in the last year, reporting that funding through a grant has been secured for the next three years. She also noted that Brown County has been recognized at the State level as being a leader within the state and it has been suggested that Brown County be used as a model.

When asked by Supervisor Robinson the impact of this grant, Ms. Steuck replied that staff will be increased from the current eight caseworkers by two or three. When asked the pay range, Ms. Steuck replied that presently caseworkers, who have a college degree in Education, Social Work, or Early Childhood, start at $12/hr.

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

Willow Tree Child Advocacy Center

Lois Mischler, Vice President, reported that there are 14 Child Advocacy Centers in Wisconsin and 700 in the country. She explained that although it is difficult to celebrate, the center served 159 children in the last year with 114 from Brown County.

Stacy Kreitz, Child Forensic Interviewer/Social Worker, explained that this program collaborates not only with Brown County Human Services, but also with various law enforcement agencies, the DA's office, social workers, health professionals, investigative personnel, Corporation Counsel, etc. When a child is brought into the center, an advocate will meet with the family while staff meets with all involved agencies. A forensic interview is completed which allows the child to narrate their story, a medical professional will do an exam, referrals are made for therapy or whatever is needed, and the advocate follows-up throughout the case. Services are provided as soon as deemed appropriate after referral and stay involved as long as needed.

When asked by Supervisor Robinson if there are reasons for the increase in numbers, Ms. Mischler indicated that although it is not known for sure, prevention and response programs have increased with 2,433 students involved in the last reporting period, being told what is okay, what is not okay, and what to do about concerns. Statistics show that even with one parent working or enrolled in school programs, finances continue to be an issue.
Motion made by Supervisor LaViolette and seconded by Supervisor Hopp to receive and place on file. MOTION UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED

Human Services Dept

4. **Executive Director's Report:**

Brian Shoup commented on the previous reports from the Healthy Families Program and Willow Tree Advocacy Center, suggesting a future presentation from Brown County Child Protection workers regarding investigations and responsibilities for these programs.

Shoup reiterated that numbers continue to increase over the last year with January up 17%, February 40%, March 19%, and April 7%. Intern students have completed their terms and he is looking at increasing staff.

In addition Shoup reported the following:

- Dale Barbieaux, CEO of the CP Center, will be resigning due to health issues.

- A PHD Clinical Psychologist, Althea Noukki-Rosenberger, has been hired and will begin June 4, 2012.
- Interviews for the replacement for Jean O'Leary as Director of Community Programs is in progress.

When asked by Chairman Evans for a description of Community Programs, Mr. Shoup stated there are currently 300 employees, explaining this is a compilation of Child Protection, Juvenile Justice, Welfare, etc. In 1974, state legislature passed Chapter 51 which mandated that each county provide certain services.

Director Shoup updated the committee on Family Care stating that he attended a conference at Elkhart Lake recently at which time it was affirmed that Family Care will occur in 2013. An RFP will be developed and it is planned that clients will be enrolled in the first quarter of 2013. Shoup reported that the State Association continues to work with legislative changes which will allow for collaboration/regionalization with other counties. This legislation will allow for regulation which will allow for multi-county Human Services districts and public/private partnerships.

Motion made by Supervisor Hopp and seconded by Supervisor Robinson to receive and place on file. MOTION UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED

5. **Financial Report for Community Treatment Center and Community Programs:**

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

6. **Monthly Inpatient Data – Community Treatment Center and Bellin Psychiatric Center:**

Director Shoup reported that monthly census dropped slightly during the last reporting period. When asked by Supervisor Robinson what supervisors should be looking for in the reports, Shoup noted an importance in following volumes and trends. He agreed to clarify reports for easier understanding.

Motion made by Supervisor Robinson and seconded by Supervisor Hopp to receive and place on file. MOTION UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED

7. **Approval for New Non-Continuous Vendor:**

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

8. **Request for New Vendor Contract:**

Robinson asked for list of vendors who would be good to visit, i.e. Aspirio, Curative Workshop, etc. and Shoup agreed to provide.

Motion made by Supervisor Hopp and seconded by Supervisor Haefs to approve. MOTION UNANIMOUSLY APPROVED

9. **Monthly Contract Update:**

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

Aging & Disability Resource Center – No agenda items
Health Department – No agenda items
Veterans Services – No agenda items

Other:

10. **Audit of Bills:**

Motion made by Supervisor Hopp and seconded by Supervisor Haefs to approve audit of bills. MOTION APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY

11. **Such other Matters as Authorized by Law:**
Chairman Evans encouraged all supervisors to visit the various facilities.

Motion made by Supervisor LaViolette and seconded by Supervisor Robinson to adjourn at 7:15 p.m. MOTION APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY

Respectfully submitted,

Rae Knippel
Recording Secretary

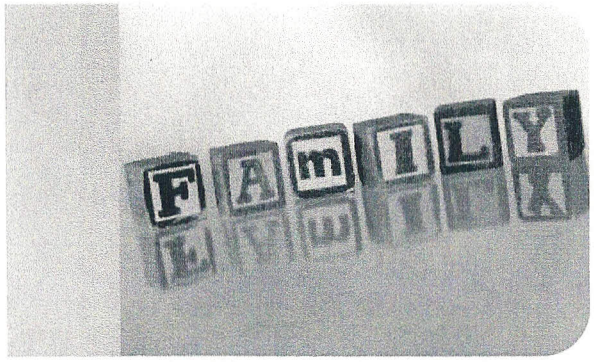
The earlier you start, the stronger they finish

Healthy Families is a nationally accredited intensive, comprehensive and long term home visitation program which serves expecting or new first time parents who have significant risk factors for child abuse and/or neglect.

2011

- **187 families & 207 children served**
- **95% of enrolled children had no substantiated abuse/neglect**
- **83% have at least one parent working or attending school**
- **95% of enrolled children are developmentally on track or are receiving appropriate intervention services**
- **97% of enrolled children are up to date with well child check-ups and immunizations**

healthy families
Family Services



What parents are saying about Healthy Families:

- *"Healthy Families has helped me and my family by keeping us more in tune with each other. My self-confidence has improved. I feel more able to deal with problems and stress."*
- *"I've always had a hard time reaching out and it's getting easier to know that I do have support and I'm cared about. I'm learning I'm not alone and that I can do it."*
- *"I like the feeling that all our individual families are one big family."*

All Healthy Families services are voluntary and have a single goal... to help new parents meet the challenges of parenting.

Healthy Families is funded in part by:

- Brown County Human Services
- United Way
- Family Preservation & Support
- Family Foundations
- Private Donations

Supporting all people through life's challenges and transitions.

healthy families
Family Services

1822 Riverside Dr, Green Bay, WI 54301 (920) 436-4416
827 N 8th Ave, Sturgeon Bay, WI 54235 (920) 746-9040
P.O. Box 22308, Green Bay, WI 54305-2308

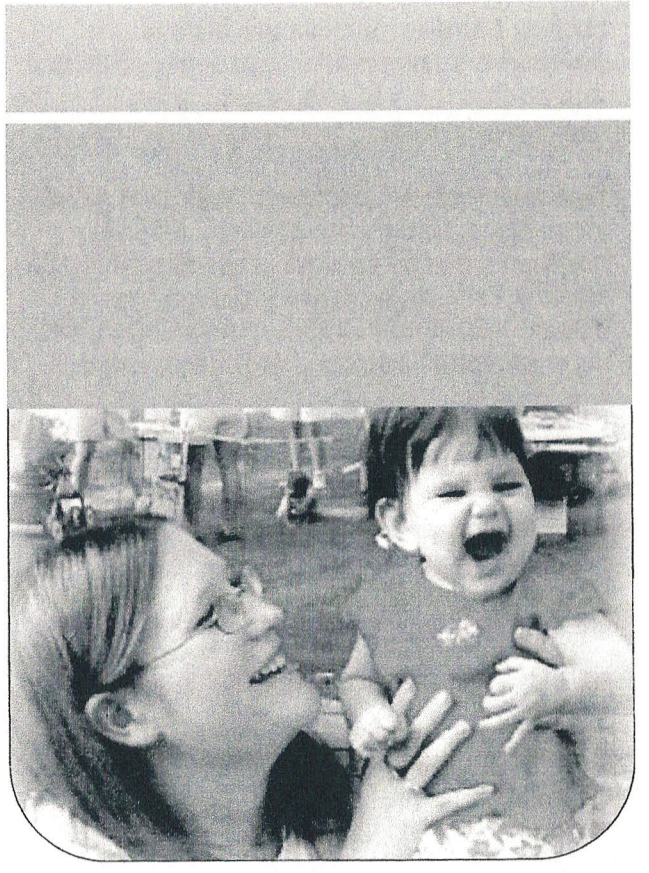
Family Services of Northeast Wisconsin, Inc.
(920) 436-6800 (800) 998-9609
www.familyservicesnew.org

United Way
A United Way Member Agency

COA

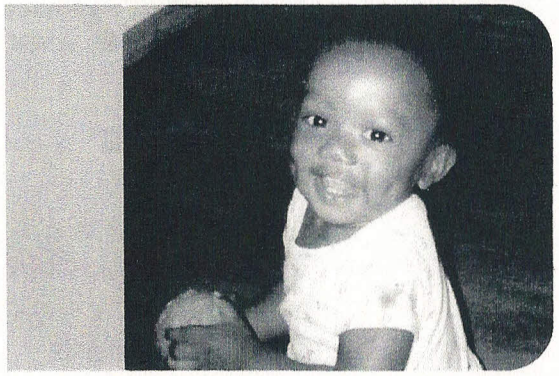
healthy families
Family Services

~ For children and families residing in Brown or Door County



What is Healthy Families?

Healthy Families is a program of Family Services of Northeast Wisconsin, designed to assist families and their newborn babies.



Healthy Families services are **always voluntary**. Its purpose is to **provide guidance and support to parents** to get babies off to the best start possible.

Since babies don't come with their own set of instructions, taking care of them, especially newborns, can be confusing and stressful. The Healthy Families program is geared toward helping relieve some of this stress and to help cope with other situations at the same time.

How does Healthy Families Work?

While you are pregnant or shortly after your baby is born, you will be visited either in the hospital or in your home by a Healthy Families employee. She will ask about your level of interest in receiving supportive services.

If you want to learn more about the program, a Family Support Worker will set up a time to visit with you again. The role of your Family Support Worker is to provide emotional support to parents, share information about the baby's care and development, and help link families to community resources as needed.

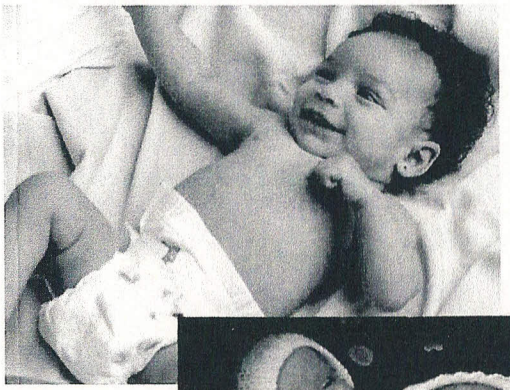
Healthy Families is committed to supporting families as long as they feel a need for the program. Our ultimate goal is to ensure the best possible start for your new baby.

What can Healthy Families do for me?

Parenting is both rewarding and challenging. You may experience feelings of anticipation and excitement, but you may also feel anxiety, worry, and isolation. It may be difficult to keep things running smoothly while devoting attention to your baby, especially if friends and family aren't available during stressful times.

Your Family Support Worker will become a person you can count on. She will help you determine what your family wants and needs and then help you to get it. She is there for both Mom and Dad, as well as your baby.

Usually, your Family Support Worker will visit with you in your home once a week. She will answer any questions you may have about how your baby is eating, growing, sleeping, and learning. She can give you ideas on how to keep your baby healthy and happy. If you need assistance with housing, food, medical care, school, or work, she can point you in the right direction. She may also take you to doctor's visits or other appointments to ensure that your baby stays healthy.



How much does it cost?

All Healthy Families services are free. Your Family Support Worker will also share free parent education materials and has toys that you can borrow. Healthy Families can also provide assistance with obtaining a crib, car seat, clothing and other basic supplies for your baby.

In addition to the home visits, Healthy Families offers early childhood play activities, storytimes, and parent support groups. Through donations, the Healthy Families program is also able to provide fun activities and outings for the whole family at various times throughout the year.

The Healthy Families program is accredited by:

healthy families america

Willow Tree
Cornerstone Child Advocacy Center

BROWN COUNTY: HOW WE'RE DOING SO FAR 2012

CHILD DEMOGRAPHICS

82	Female
32	Male
9	Average Age
13	Disability
85	White
7	Native American
4	Hispanic
8	Multi-Racial
7	African American
4	Asian/Pacific Islander
0	Race Unknown
13	OHP at time of interview

INTERVIEWS

70	Sexual Abuse
12	Witness to a Crime
6	Physical Abuse
0	Neglect
0	Drug Endangered
0	Torture
1	Enticement
0	Human Trafficking
0	Internet Crime
89	**TOTAL**
66%	% Disclosure during interview
83	Forensic Interviews
2	Extended Interviews

Number of sessions with child

0	Pending
0	1 session
0	2 sessions
0	3 sessions
2	4 sessions
0	5 sessions
0	6 sessions

MEDICAL

18	On site medical
2	Off site medical

ADVOCACY

28	Secondary Clients Served
51	Personal advocacy
27	Legal advocacy
5	Court accompaniment
4	Medical advocacy
3	Crime Victims Compensation
33	Information and referral
23	Criminal justice support
0	Hospital accompaniment
1	Pre sentence investigation
0	Police Dept. accompaniment
1	Prevention contact
0	Revocation
0	SANE accompaniment
21	Therapy referral
4	Therapy

CHILD PROTECTION

75	Brown County HSD
0	Shawano County HSD
2	Outagamie County HSD
1	Menominee County HSD
3	Oconto County HSD
0	Door County HSD
0	Marinette County HSD
0	Calumet County HSD
0	Langlade County HSD
0	Marathon County HSD
0	Forest County HSD
0	Manitowoc County HSD
0	Kewanee County HSD
0	Florence County HSD
1	Winnebago County HSD
0	State of Michigan HSD
46	Substantiated Finding

Total Children Served: 114

LAW ENFORCEMENT

32	Green Bay Police Dept.
14	Ashwaubenon Public Safety
24	Brown County Sheriff Dept.
0	Menominee Tribal Police Dept.
0	Shawano County Sheriff Dept.
1	Shawano Police Dept. (City of)
0	Pulaski Police Department
0	Oneida Police Department
0	Appleton Police Dept.
0	Outagamie County Sherrif's Dept.
0	Gillett Police Dept.
0	DePere Police Department
0	Brillion Police Dept.
0	Federal Bureau of Investigation
1	Marinette County Sheriff Dept.
0	Wrightstown Police Department
0	Oconto County Sheriff Dept.
0	Calumet County Sheriff Dept.
0	Sheboygan County Sheriff Dept.
0	New Holstein Police Dept.
1	Door County Sheriff's Dept.
0	Langlade County Sheriff's Dept.
0	Marinette Police Dept. (City of)
0	Seymour Police Dept.
0	Menominee MI Police Dept.
0	Everest Metro Police Dept.
0	US Army CID
0	Manitowoc Police Dept.
0	Forest County Sheriff's Dept.
0	Oconto Police Dept.
2	Jefferson County Sheriff Dept.
1	Fond du Lac Police Dept.

PROSECUTION

Referred for charges	47
Filed	0
Plea	0
Trial	0
Guilty	0
Not Guilty	0

Willow Tree
Cornerstone Child Advocacy Center

Special needs, collaboration, and patience

The Willow Tree Cornerstone Child Advocacy Center received a joint referral from Law Enforcement (LE) and Child Protection regarding a family that Child Protective Services (CPS) received 33 referrals within the previous 24 months that resulted in a CPS worker responding to the home on 12 separate occasions. The most recent referral indicated the two children in the family, boys aged 12 and 13 with significant delays, were allegedly touching each other inappropriately and the mother, who also was cognitively delayed, knew about the activities but was not taking any precautions to prevent the activity from happening. The CPS worker and LE Officer decided it would be beneficial to the children, the family, and the agencies involved if the children were brought to the Child Advocacy Center (CAC).

During the initial appointment, the boys and their mother met with the assigned advocate who works specifically with individuals with special needs. The Advocate was able to take the time the family needed to understand what was going to happen at the CAC, and to explain who each of the professionals involved were and what the role of each person was. While the advocate was meeting with the family, the LE Officer, CPS worker, Juvenile Justice worker, and Child Forensic Interviewer were able to meet and discuss the specifics of the allegations, identify the needs of the children and the mother, as well as to identify the needs of each of the involved agencies. The team had decided it would be beneficial to talk with the mother prior to the interview to get additional information regarding her children's special needs. Because the children's mother adamantly believed that the Forensic Interviewer would be able to communicate with the children during an interview, the team decided to go ahead with forensic interviews.

During the interview with the first child, it became clear that the speech delays of the child were much more significant than originally believed or portrayed by the mother, and that the 12 year old child was functioning cognitively at a much lower age. The Forensic Interviewer, who had some sign language training, noticed that the child was trying to communicate (although minimally) with sign language. The Forensic Interviewer took a short break during the interview to meet with the team and decide how best to proceed. Arrangements were made for a court certified sign language interpreter come to the CAC immediately. When the interview resumed, the Forensic Interviewer was able to utilize specialized training that incorporates drawings into the conversation. Because of the limitations that both of the boys had with communicating, the team felt a medical evaluation would help with presenting a complete picture of the situation. Both boys underwent a complete head to toe medical evaluation by the Nurse Practitioner.

Once all the information was gathered by the Forensic Interviewer and the Nurse Practitioner, the team met to discuss findings and concerns. During this meeting it was noted that the mother had been responding very positively to this coordinated multi-team approach. It was also determined that although there was not enough legal grounds for CPS or LE to remain

involved, there was clear concern for the ongoing safety of the children if changes were not made by the family. Through creative planning from the team, it was suggested that a coordinated service team could be created that combined the mother's formal and informal supports who could meet with the family to work on the items that the family identifies as needing to change, all while maintaining safety in the home. When the idea was presented to the mother, she eagerly engaged voluntarily with the idea.

With time, patience, and good team work between the assembled professionals and the Forensic Interviewer, enough information was received from the child that the CPS and Juvenile Justice workers were able to create an effective safety plan that addressed the safety concerns yet allowed the children to remain united within their home.

This coordinated service team continues to meet on a regular basis, and no further reports have been received by LE or CPS in the last 9 months.