

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BROWN COUNTY
HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE

Pursuant to Section 19.84 Wis. Stats., a budget and regular meeting of the **Brown County Human Services Committee** was held on Wednesday, October 13, 2021 at the Brown County Library, 515 Pine St., Green Bay

Present: Chair Brusky, Vice Chair Borchardt, Supervisor Jacobson, Supervisor Evans
Excused: Supervisor Sieber
Also Present: ADRC Director Devon Christianson, ADRC Finance Coordinator Robin VanRemortel, Syble Hopp School Administrator Kim Pahlow, Administration/HR Director Chad Weininger, Corporation Counsel David Hemery, Health and Human Services Director Erik Pritzl, Public Health Officer Anna Destree, Nursing Home Administrator Samantha Behling, HS Finance Manager Eric Johnson, HS Community Services Administrator Jenny Hoffman; Executive Troy Streckenbach; Supervisors Richard Schadewald, Cassandra Erickson, Ray Suennen; other interested parties.

I. **Call Meeting to Order.**

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

II. **Approve/Modify Agenda.**

Motion made by Supervisor Evans, seconded by Supervisor Borchardt to modify the agenda to add 7 & 7a with Item 1, to add 6 & 6a to Item 2, to add 5 & 5a to Item 3, and to add 8-11 to Item 4. Also add Comments from the Public on Budgetary Items and Non-Budgetary Items. Vote taken. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

III. **Approve/Modify Minutes of August 25, 2021.**

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

****BUDGET REVIEW****

Comments from the Public on Budgetary Items & Non-Budgetary Items

Renee Gasch - 719 Lewis St., De Pere, WI

Gasch was not a lobbyist, she was present as a citizen and taxpayer of Brown County to speak in favor of the proposed Resolution in Support of the Medicare for All Act of 2021 - *Non-Budget Item 2*. She's someone who manages cancer and chronic illness and was diagnosed over 3-years ago. Neither she or her husband receive healthcare benefits from their small business employers and purchase off healthcare.gov. She briefly explained the task of buying healthcare off the Marketplace and noted health insurance was by far their highest family expense and plans were incredibly complicated even when working with a healthcare navigator. Gasch believed a universal single payer healthcare system would change the lives of constituents and it was a human right.

Ray Suennen – 2563 Turnbury Rd., Green Bay, WI

Suennen, a 12-year Village of Howard Trustee, was asked by the Village of Howard President to come here and speak on behalf of the Village of Howard. At their meeting Monday evening, they had a Brown County employee bring forward a concern out of this committee, that a bus route could increase crime in the Village of Howard. He referred to the minutes of the August Human Services meeting and noted the information was totally false. The Village of Howard has had two discussions relating to public bus transportation and the issues were related to cost, usage, schedule of times, limited routes, and benefits. Nothing was relayed from any Village of Howard board member, board as a whole or village staff, indicating anything relating to the increase in homelessness or crime and they would like a retraction from Supervisor Evans and an apology for his comments.

Noah Reif – 3502 Layden Dr., Apt. 1, De Pere, WI

Reif was present on behalf of Citizen Action of Wisconsin as a lobbyist to lodge and reaffirm their formal support for the proposed Resolution in Support of the Medicare for All Act of 2021, introduced by Supervisor Erickson - *Non-Budget Item 2*. Reif believed healthcare costs were fundamentally out of control in the community and across the country. While he heard concerns from this committee and board of potential partisan issues and being outside the realm of their jurisdiction, he's also heard this county speak up deeply and urgently for the need to expand healthcare quality access across the community. Tonight was appropriate as they were discussing budgetary opportunities, because a lot of those budgetary opportunities are going to be impacted by federal and state policies that are drivers of healthcare outcomes. He believed it was very important and relevant that they use their voices and non-insignificant platform and power to send a message to those elected above them.

REVIEW OF 2022 DEPARTMENT BUDGETS

1. AGING AND DISABILITY RESOURCE CENTER - Review of 2022 Department Budget.

ADRC Director Devon Christianson and Finance Coordinator Robin VanRemortel were present to speak to the ADRC 2022 Department Budget – Pages 107-112 of the budget book.

Christianson thanked this committee, the County Board, the County Executive, the DOA and the Administration department. Their budget represents an incredibly valuable and important part of the budget, one of the few pots of dollars to solve problems that their regular allocations don't allow them to. She informed there were two additions in their staffing, an Elderly Benefits Specialist, a position they haven't added for close to 15-years, but the population has exploded. They have Older Americans Act dollars to help fund that position. They've added an Ambassador position at the Grounded Café, which was solely funded through the sales of the café, where they employ people with disabilities, which was a tremendous goal they have had. Christianson briefly spoke to their initiatives on page 107.

Motion made by Supervisor Evans, seconded by Supervisor Borchardt to approve the Aging & Disability Resource Center budget. Vote taken. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Although shown in proper format here, Items 7 and 7a were taken at this time.

2. SYBLE HOPP SCHOOL/CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES EDUCATION BOARD - Review of 2022 Department Budget.

Syble Hopp School Administrator Kim Pahlow informed she brought her budget before this committee previously but was present to answer any additional questions (pages 143-149 in the budget book). Ultimately their three initiatives were to first, start in person and stay in person. Second, work on their literacy and social emotional learning with staff and students. A big effort was to look at the mental health of their students and staff. Third, continue to work towards starting their capital campaign additions for therapy, vocational training, safety and sensory.

Responding to Evans, their fundraising was at about 91% of the funds raised that they need to have raised. They plan to move forward this spring and are working to get the final design together and the bids out by the end of November.

Motion made by Supervisor Borchardt, seconded by Supervisor Jacobson to approve the Syble Hopp School/Children with Disabilities Education Board budget. Vote taken. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Although shown in proper format here, Items 6 and 6a were taken at this time.

3. VETERANS' SERVICES - Review of 2022 Department Budget.

Director of Administration Weininger presented the Veterans' Services budget (150-154 in the budget book). It's basically a status quo budget, the only difference was an additional \$1,300 from the state through a grant and \$1,000 was moved from the Brown County Board office to their budget for events.

Weininger referred to pages 309 & 310 in the budget book and spoke to the Budgeted 2022 ARPA Allocations for the Human Services Committee departments.

Motion made by Supervisor Borchardt, seconded by Supervisor Jacobson to approve the Veterans' Service budget. Vote taken. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Although shown in proper format here, Items 5 and 5a were taken at this time.

4. HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES - Review of 2022 Department Budget.

Health & Human Services Director Erik Pritzl informed he has a slightly different take on things tonight. While they worked within the resources they usually work with, they were able to do a few new things in budget, which they will see as positions represented in the requests and in their initiatives. They were looking at how they can make good use of their resources and possibly see if they can get more out of what they were doing as well. While it wasn't a status quo budget, they focused on their mandates and things they are required to do by administrative code or state statute. Pritzl spoke to the Initiatives on page 113 of the budget book and responded to questions from the committee.

Motion made by Supervisor Jacobson, seconded by Supervisor Borchardt to approve the Health & Human Services budget. Vote taken. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

- a. **Resolution Approving New or Deleted Positions During the 2022 Budget Process in the Health & Human Services Department – Community Treatment Center – Lab Services Specialist (22-005R).**

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

- b. **Resolution Approving New or Deleted Positions During the 2022 Budget Process in the Health & Human Services Department – Community Services Division – Behavioral Health Supervisor (22-006R).**

Responding to Evans, Pritzl informed they added some capacity with other APNP positions, the Crisis Assessment Center position, contract for services and use the Psychiatrist from the CTC residential side. This position has been unfilled for a long time and they managed well. This was adding some initial supervisory support for those clinicians in terms of how many people report to each supervisor. It was difficult to give them the support they need. He reiterated they still have dollars available to contract for other services as needed and still use the other positions.

Evans noted he had trepidation about this as he felt they were changing one for the other and didn't see it as a major benefit for the department, but they had a better understanding of the department.

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

- c. **Resolution Approving New or Deleted Positions During the 2022 Budget Process in the Health & Human Services Department – Public Health Division – Epidemiologist (22-007R).**

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

- d. **Resolution Approving New or Deleted Positions During the 2022 Budget Process in the Health & Human Services Department – Community Treatment Center Division – Director of Health Services (22-027R).**

Nursing Home Administrator Samantha Behling addressed concerns from Evans noting she identified they had two Directors of Nursing and an upwards of 100 nursing staff within the 24/7 operation. Their regulations were in abundance - long term care, hospital and crisis regulations, multiple layers that continue to expand year-after-year and COVID requirements aren't going away. The Director positions are consumed in day-to-day operations and there isn't time allotted to focus on improvement in correcting situations because they are so consumed with addressing the immediate,

acute, and urgent needs. She's looking to add to the higher-level structure and support for herself so she can focus more on the overarching CTC processes and improvement and work towards goals they always had but time hasn't allowed. The reality of the CTC was the service allows for constant curveballs, not a single day can be predicted and there are high priorities coming and they are very hard to juggle with the minimum structure. Sometimes employees suffer in an indirect way because their supervisory position can not afford the time, attention, or effort to put into what they're bringing to the Director's attention. She further explained the culture and informed it had room for improvement.

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

- e. **Resolution Approving New or Deleted Positions During the 2022 Budget Process in the Health & Human Services Department – Community Services Division – Social Worker and Clinical Social Worker (22-029R).**

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

- f. **Resolution Approving New or Deleted Positions During the 2022 Budget Process in the Health & Human Services Department – Community Services Division - Social Worker Supervisor (22-030R).**

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

- g. **Resolution Approving New or Deleted Positions During the 2022 Budget Process in the Health & Human Services Department - Community Services Division – Social Worker/Case Manager for CST (22-033R).**

Pritzl informed they only had one position that could do this because the only state funding they had coming in was \$60,000, which was the same allocation for every county regardless of size.

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

- h. **Resolution Approving New or Deleted Positions During the 2022 Budget Process in the Health & Human Services Department – Community Services Division – Social Worker/Case Manager Team Lead for Homeless Outreach (22-034R).**

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

Evans informed that counties aren't charged with homelessness, that's a directive from the state, however the county does do work in the homeless area. He felt this was a great position but had apprehensions with the idea that Brown County Government was now the leader and had the full responsibility to fix the homelessness problem, because they had municipalities that should be dealing with it on their own. He questioned the funding and if it was a permanent position? Pritzl believed this position can be supported and he sees it continuing because the block grants do identify homelessness and outreach for mental health substance abuse as a priority area. It's not being identified as general homelessness; they don't have a charge around that. After further discussions, an additional WHEREAS was created, and noted in the motion.

Motion made by Supervisor Evans, seconded by Supervisor Jacobson to add, "WHEREAS, County appropriation authority is found in Wis. Stats. Ch. 59, which does not provide specific authority regarding appropriating funds to non-profit entities whose primary purpose is assisting the homeless but creating this Homeless Outreach position will allow the County to assist certain homeless individuals by connecting them with other entities that provide homeless resources in the community; and". Vote taken. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Brusky approved of this and advocated for it as she really saw a need for it.

Borchardt informed the Brown County Homeless and Housing Coalition website: bchhcwi.org provides information such as shelters and people that can help. This was also an issue being discussed at the Mental Health Treatment Subcommittee, so this position was much needed.

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

Although shown in proper format here, Non-Budget Items 8-11 were taken at this time.

NON-BUDGET ITEMS

Comments from the Public on Non-Budgetary Items

1. **Review Minutes of:**
 - a. **Aging & Disability Resource Center Board of Directors (July 8, 2021).**
 - b. **Children With Disabilities Education Board (July 20, 2021).**
 - c. **Human Services Board (August 12, 2021).**

Motion made by Supervisor Jacobson, seconded by Supervisor Borchardt to suspend the rules to take Items 1a, b & c together. Vote taken. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Motion made by Supervisor Jacobson, seconded by Supervisor Borchardt to receive and place on file Items 1a, b & c. Vote taken. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Communications

2. **Communication from Supervisor Cassandra Erickson re: Resolution in Support of the Medicare for All Act of 2021. *Held for one month.***

Erickson stated for the record that the Director of Administration could very well reduce their salaries as Supervisors in order to support some of the departments, like Child Protective Services and she would advocate for that. Brown County does so much for the community, so much more than what this Board of Supervisors could ever do. So many departments work tirelessly throughout this pandemic and she was so grateful for that.

Erickson recapped and touched on some of the takeaways that she heard from this committee last month. That this was controversial, too partisan, and too divisive of a time to support healthcare, in which she respectfully disagreed. Since the last meeting, she spoke to another local family business who shared the ways in which they support their employees in navigating our broken healthcare system. With what these businesses are being asked to do, it's becoming more and more difficult for them to be successful. She also heard this was not within their power or scope, she does her research and the resolution provided was what she believed, was the best part of every single resolution that many municipalities across Wisconsin had already passed. However, she was very open to amending any of the language in which they feel would make this more passable.

Motion made by Supervisor Jacobson, seconded by Supervisor Borchardt to direct Corporation Counsel to draft a resolution for consideration at the next Human Services Committee meeting. Vote taken. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

3. **Communication from Supervisor Schadewald re: This communication is my request for the County Board to review licensing fees charged by the county for small businesses.**

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

4. **Communication from Supervisor Schadewald re: This communication is my request for the committee to discuss options available for transportation of disabled and/or financially needy individuals throughout Brown County.**

Supervisor Schadewald informed the plan was to apply for a grant and to continue to report back to this committee as the county could be more involved in the transportation of the needy, especially in rural areas. He introduced Gail Nohr, a Brown County employee, who has done a lot of work on this already.

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

Gail Nohr – 13427 Velp Ave., Suamico

Nohr was not a lobbyist and not really representing the county per se but it was a county interest because she worked for BC Veterans and a lot of veterans from Howard call and state they don't have transportation. Curative Connections is very short-handed. She also worked with a church group that worked with low-income people with transportation issues to and from Howard. Info online noted 77% of people who live in apartments in Howard were at or below the poverty level, which is what pushed her forward to looking into this.

Nohr furthered that because of pricing, Green Bay Metro was originally dismissed but they recently stated they were going to redo their pricing and try to include more communities or add a micro-transit, which would be a lower cost than the fixed routes. The advantage of the fixed routes was the paratransit, which helped people who are disabled or elderly, but it had to run $\frac{3}{4}$ of a mile of where that transit route was. Other options were Shared Ride Taxi, which was very involved, but it would need a position. There was the possibility of grants, but a Howard representative would have to step in as she didn't believe she could apply for them. Nohr noted she spoke to other counties to see what they were doing. She contacted Lamers for pricing, but they were short on drivers and can't look at it until 2022. She's putting all these transportation company positions in their Veterans newsletter as a lot of them are looking for jobs and hopefully they can find more drivers.

Motion made by Supervisor Borchardt, seconded by Supervisor Jacobson to return to regular order of business. Vote taken. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Motion made by Supervisor Evans, seconded by Supervisor Borchardt to hold until such time Supervisor Schadewald advises the Chair to put it back on the agenda. Vote taken. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Although shown in proper format here, Item 12 was taken at this time.

Veterans

5. **Director's Report.**
a. **COVID-19 Update.**

Motion made by Supervisor Evans, seconded by Supervisor Borchardt to receive and place on file Items 5 and 5a. Vote taken. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Although shown in proper format here, Budget Item 4 was taken at this time.

Syble Hopp

6. **Director's Report.**
a. **COVID-19 Update.**

Director Pahlow informed they have been in-person since the start of school and have remained in-person as a building all school year. They closed one day for contact tracing due to one of their positive cases being active in every single classroom. They quarantined 69 students for a week. Since then, they've had 14 positive student cases and 12 positive staff cases in September and part of October.

Their Nurse and Health Aid agreed to do testing at the school, both antigen and PCR testing which helps

get their students and staff back quicker and provides a more comfortable place for students to test.

In total, 144 students and 24 staff were quarantined. However, things were going well and this week Pahlow noticed a downward trend.

They are celebrating their 50th year of being Syble Hopp; Their celebration was postponed until spring.

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

Although shown in proper format here, Budget Item 3 was taken at this time.

Aging & Disability Resource Center

7. Director's Report.

a. COVID-19 Update.

Christianson informed they were heading into open enrollment for Part D season (October 15-December 7), which was a very busy time for them. All older adults were in an open enrollment period where they need to be making choices about their Part D prescription plans. ADRC utilizes volunteers, trained people, online events, etc. to help people make the best choices possible.

Their Mighty Seeds Mural was up - They will be having a spring event to celebrate equity and inclusion with all the great work the community did.

They're starting a new program/coaching class on physical exercise called Standup and Move. They also have a new class on building resiliency.

October is National Disability Employment Awareness Month - They want to call attention to their trainees and the importance of seeing the incredible gifts that persons with disabilities bring to every employment opportunity. They are part of our solution, not part of our employment problem.

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

Budget Item 2 was taken at this time.

Health & Human Services Department

8. Budget Adjustment Request (21-077): Any increase in expenses with an offsetting increase in revenue.

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

9. Resolution Regarding Table of Organization Change for the Health & Human Services Department – Finance Accountant II & Accountant Supervisor Positions.

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

10. Executive Director's Report.

Pritzl informed the Department of Children and Family Secretary visited Brown County in mid-September to see the Family Visit Center.

Pritzl's been asked to participate in some meetings around the crisis improvement grants of \$10 million dollars, that were included in the state budget.

They're experiencing key positions being open, i.e., Public Health Manager for Communicable Disease, Environmental Health Manager, Behavioral Health Supervisor, Adult Protective Services Supervisor,

which puts pressure on staff and other supervisors. It's been challenging and they're doing their best to fill those and provide the support they can.

They continue their Trauma Informed Care work and are looking at some standard training that will roll out across the whole department. In the meantime, they did a pilot event with rescue puppies.

a. COVID-19 Update.

Public Health Officer Anna Destree was present to provide the COVID-19 Update. She informed they continue to see high case activity as well as an increase in hospitalizations but continue to add LTE contract tracing staff for these cases. They also continue to evaluate the testing and vaccination needs. The clinics, through the county, are offering booster vaccines. www.stayhealthybc.com has updated guidance and recommendations, links to testing and vaccination sites.

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

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

HS Finance Manager Eric Johnson was present to speak to these reports.

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

Although shown in proper format here, Non-Budget Items 1-4 were taken at this time.

12. Statistical Reports.

- a. Monthly CTC Data.**
 - 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.**
- c. Monthly Contract Update.**

Motion made by Supervisor Evans, seconded by Supervisor Borchardt to suspend the rules and take Items 12a, b & c together. Vote taken. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Motion made by Supervisor Evans, seconded by Supervisor Borchardt to approve Items 12a, b & c. Vote taken. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

13. Request for New Non-Contracted and Contracted Providers.

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

Other

14. Audit of bills.

Motion made by Supervisor Evans, seconded by Supervisor Borchardt to acknowledge receipt of the bills. Vote taken. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

15. Such other Matters as Authorized by Law. Next Human Services meeting, November 17, 2021.

16. Adjourn.

Motion made by Supervisor Jacobson, seconded by Supervisor Borchardt to adjourn at 8:04 pm. Vote taken. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Respectfully submitted,
Alicia A. Loehlein, Legislative Specialist