

**Walworth County Board of Supervisors
Health and Human Services Board Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, September 22, 2021
Walworth County Government Center, County Board Room 114
100 West Walworth Street, Elkhorn, Wisconsin**

The meeting was called to order at 2:00 p.m. by Chair Monroe.

Roll call was conducted and the following members were present, either in person or by remote attendance: Chair Kenneth Monroe; Vice Chair Kathy Ingersoll; Supervisors Brian Holt, Joseph H. Schaefer, and Ryan G. Simons; Citizen Representatives Monica Los (arrived at 2:04 p.m.), Penny Scheuerman, and Dr. Richard Terry. Citizen Representative William Wucherer was absent. A quorum was declared.

Others in Attendance:

County Staff: County Administrator Mark W. Luberda; Director of Health and Human Services (HHS) Carlo Nevicosi; Deputy Director of HHS Trista Piccola; Public Health Officer Erica Bergstrom; Superintendent of the Elkhorn Area School District Jason Tadlock; and Superintendent of Big Foot Union High School Doug Parker.

On motion by Supervisor Simons, second by Vice Chair Kathy Ingersoll, the agenda was approved with no withdrawals.

On motion by Supervisor Holt, second by Supervisor Schaefer, the July 21, 2021 Health and Human Services Board meeting minutes were approved.

Public Hearing – The Walworth County Department of Health and Human Services will conduct a public hearing to seek input from consumers of services, consumer family members, and the public. Testimonials will be received on the quality of health and human services programs, unmet needs, and improvements to the current system of health and human services in Walworth County.

Chair Monroe opened the Public Hearing at 2:02 p.m. **on motion and second by Vice Chair Ingersoll and Supervisor Holt.** Those present were the same as listed above. Chair Monroe gave a brief overview of the Public Hearing Rules of Conduct and inquired if there were any testimonies either remotely or in person relative to the services provided by the Health and Human Services Department. Hearing none, **Supervisor Schaefer offered a motion, second by Vice Chair Ingersoll, to close the public hearing. Motion carried 7-0.** Chair Monroe closed the public hearing at 2:03 p.m.

New Business

7a) Hope Squad

Director of Health and Human Services (HHS) Carlo Nevicosi referred to and gave a brief overview of his Memorandum and proposed resolution found on Pages 6-13 of the packet. Nevicosi requested the Board's support to utilize ARPA funding to help Walworth County schools strengthen their ability to identify and address mental health issues within their student populations. The proposed resolution will be presented at the Finance Committee on Thursday.

Superintendent of the Elkhorn Area School District Jason Tadlock provided an overview of his experiences with the Hope Squad Program. Since implementation, the program has helped to create a group empowerment and structure where the students can help and respond. There has been positive feedback, even though the program is in the infancy stages. Tadlock stated the County supporting such an endeavor would provide a countywide fidelity with multiple schools working together and using the same strategies, which will ultimately help with cohesion between school districts and HHS.

Superintendent of Big Foot Union High School Doug Parker noted Hope Squad is not a be-all end-all program. The key to the program is that it is peer to peer. The kids are the individuals who scour social media, view Snapchats, and are able to recognize the different behaviors and decipher small phrases that are identifiers of potential suicide. Parker said the most difficult part is getting the kids to report and talk about suicide. Sustainability is dependent upon finding a strong leader and offering stipends for supplies to help run the program.

Nevicosi noted 25% of the districts are interested, while a number of districts are hesitant to commit unless they know funding will be available. Nevicosi requested authorization to commit \$145,000 in ARPA funds to begin the Hope Squad initiative and to move it to the full County Board for approval in October. Discussion then focused on distribution of funds to each school; whether or not it has been difficult to find leaders to run the program; potential growth between the schools creating synergy countywide; and potentially having the school districts agree to attend quarterly/annual meetings in order to receive funding from the County.

Supervisor Holt offered a motion, second by Citizen Representative Los, to authorize commitment of \$145,000 in ARPA Funds to begin the Hope Squad initiative and to advance it to the full County Board. Motion carried 8-0.

7b) Rapid Cycle Grant

Nevicosi gave a brief overview of his Memorandum found on Page 14 and requested approval to accept and make application for the one time funding to continue HHS's early implementation of enhanced behavioral health services within the jail. No match is required. **Vice Chair Ingersoll offered a motion, second by Supervisor Holt, to approve application. Motion carried 8-0.**

7c) GWAAR Expanding Access to COVID-19 Vaccine Grant

Nevicosi provided a brief overview of the GWAAR Expanding Access to COVID-19 Vaccine Grant and requested authorization to move forward. No match is required. **Supervisor Holt offered a motion, second by Supervisor Schaefer, to approve the GWAAR Expanding Access to COVID-19 Vaccine Grant. Motion carried 8-0.**

7d) 2022 Budget Presentation

Nevicosi and Deputy Director of HHS Trista Piccola collaboratively gave a brief presentation entitled Health and Human Services 2022 Budget – Reassess, Realign, Recover. Discussion then focused on further clarification relative to the following:

- The report of 200 children globally age 0-5 that are referred to Child Protective Services (CPS) annually, but situations do not rise to the level requiring maltreatment investigation (Page 22-Growing Focus on Prevention.)
- Where individuals are sent, if Walworth County does not have a designated emergency protective placement facility (Page 23-Adult Protective Services.)
- Some of the Targeted Safety Support Programs utilized to help keep a child safe within their own home (Page 23-Reducing Foster Care Placements.)
- The rationality behind the Budgeted, Actual, and Contingent funding between years 2020, 2021 and proposed 2022 (Page 19-Youth Residential Placement Costs.)
- The addition of 3.0 FTE to expand the Crisis Community Liaison Pilot (Page 14-Crisis Community Liaison Pilot Expansion.)

Supervisor Schaefer offered a motion, second by Supervisor Holt, to approve the 2022 Health and Human Services presentation and budget. Motion carried 8-0.

Report(s)

8a) COVID-19 Update

Public Health Officer Erica Bergstrom and Nevicosi collaboratively provided a comprehensive COVID update addressing testing, vaccine updates, communication with schools, and after action review improvements. Refer to Pages 26-31 for more information. Piccola commented regarding the need for continued HHS staff support relative to such things as rising anxieties, mental health concerns, and potential re-deployment strategies that may need to be activated during the fall and winter months depending on what COVID brings along with the cold and flu season.

Discussion then focused on potential testing and/or vaccination locations. Bergstrom committed to research which facilities will be offering booster vaccinations.

8b) Health Hub

Piccola provided an update relative to the Mobile Health Hub since its delivery on June 25. Discussion ensued.

8c) 2nd Quarter Write Offs

Nevicosi gave a brief overview of the 2nd Quarter Write Offs and requested approval. **Vice Chair Ingersoll offered a motion, second by Supervisor Simons, to accept the 2nd Quarter Write Offs. Motion carried 8-0.**

8d) Federal Fiscal Year 2021 Walworth County Desktop Monitoring Review

Nevicosi reported that the State of Wisconsin Department of Administration, Division of Energy, Housing and Community Resources (DEHCR) completed a positive Desktop Monitoring Review of the Walworth County Wisconsin Home Energy Assistance Program. There is no requirement for a Quality Assurance (QA) compliance follow up.

Correspondence

9a) Referral from the County Board of Supervisors – Sent to Supervisor Ryan Simons from Mark Beilman relative to the discussion on the communication process and flow of information between the Centered of Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Wisconsin Department of Health Services, Public Health, School Districts and the general public.

Nevicosi stated HHS reviewed and addressed the questions and concerns within the body of the letter during the COVID update. Mark Beilman addressed the Board remotely and expressed his concerns and requested that any mandatory vaccination for any age not be approved.

Announcements – There were none.

Confirmation of Next Meeting – The next meeting was confirmed for Wednesday, October 20, 2021 at 2:00 p.m.

Adjournment

On motion by Supervisor Simons, second by Supervisor Schaefer, Chair Monroe adjourned the meeting at 3:30 p.m.