

## Buffalo County Minutes

**Committee/Board:** Health and Human Services and Veterans Service Committee

**Date of Meeting:** Tuesday, January 4, 2022

**Electronic and Hard Copy Filing Date:**

**Location:** Department of Health and Human Services  
Buffalo County Courthouse  
2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Conference Room  
407 S 2<sup>nd</sup> Street, Alma, Wisconsin

### **1. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL OF MEMBERS**

Roll call was taken. Member's present were Kim Beseler, Larry Grisen, Carol McDonough, Mary Anne McMillan-Urell, Steve Nelson, and Brad Schmidtkecht. Wendy Kleinschmidt attend via ZOOM. Liz Hoffmaster and Richard Mueller were excused absences.

### **OTHERS PRESENT FOR ALL OR PART OF THE MEETING**

Dave Rynders, Josie Knauber, Felicia Decker, Mary Hildebrand.

### **2. PUBLIC COMMENT REGARDING ANY MATTERS THAT WILL BE TAKEN UP BY THE COMMITTEE AT THIS MEETING.**

None

### **3. REVIEW/DISCUSSION/ACTION – MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

A motion was made by Mr. Grisen and seconded by Mr. Nelson to approve the December 7, 2021, minutes as presented. Motion approved.

### **4. REVIEW/DISCUSSION/ACTION – VETERANS SERVICES MONTHLY REPORT**

Ms. Decker provided the new hours of operation for the Veterans office for 2022 to achieve more efficiency with walk-ins and appointments. Ms. Decker attended an Inter-Service Family Assistance Committee (ISFAC) meeting at Fort McCoy that provided an exchange of information and resources available to Veterans and Reservists. An Outreach is being planned for a yellow ribbon event which welcomes and provides benefits for Veterans returning home from deployment. Information was shared on the Afghan refugees and what actions can be done to assist. The NW CVSO meeting was held in Neillsville with training on Veterans who are 50% service connected and also retired. A meeting is scheduled for January 11, 2022, at 2:00 PM to discuss funding, bids, and present contractors to the Committee for the Veteran Memorial project. The December monthly expense report was reviewed. Ms. Decker shared that (8) \$25 gas cards were purchased from the \$500 donation that was received in December. The Veterans office also received (4) Purple Heart \$50 Gift Cards for Festival Foods. Stats were shared.

## **5. VETERANS SERVICES MONTHLY VOUCHERS**

Ms. Decker reported there were no monthly vouchers to be approved.

## **6. REVIEW/DISCUSSION/ACTION – PUBLIC HEALTH UNIT REPORT**

Ms. Knauber presented the Public Health report from November 21, 2021, to December 20, 2021. The monthly investigation/case reports were shared. A chart was shared with a breakdown of where clinics were held and the number of vaccines that were administered (Pfizer, J&J, and Flu).

The population of Buffalo County is 13,031 with the following data provided:

\*60.7% (7,905) Percent of residents with at least one dose

\*58.0% (7,560) Percent of residents who have completed the vaccine series

Ms. Knauber shared information on the COVID-19 Omicron variant which is more contagious than previous variants. Cases are expected to double every 3 to 4 days. Omicron has been detected in Wisconsin. A chart was presented by Ms. Knauber on the daily positive/probable cases and new hospitalizations. Ms. Knauber is considering reopening the Emergency Operation Center (EOC) which consists of a group of people that pool resources figuring out what resources are needed and how to move forward with responses to the pandemic. Ms. Knauber would also like to add more people to the group extending an invitation to a county board member and Mr. Bob Platetter from the Highway department.

Ms. Knauber made the following suggested recommendations: require masking, use extended telecommuting, increase social distancing, cancel group activities, increase, and offer virtual visits, limit use of breakroom to (2) people, and requesting all staff to get vaccinated/booster.

The updated CDC guidelines were explained by Ms. Knauber. There was discussion regarding the guidelines of the CDC and the policy of the Buffalo County courthouse. Ms. McMillan-Urell requested Mr. VanDeWalle check on the caveat in our policy that states the county follows CDC guidelines as they change.

The Community Health Improvement Plan (CHIP) was recapped by Ms. Knauber who also shared the following goals and objectives that were fine tuned at the November meeting:

- By January 2025, the gap between mental health prevalence and mental health treatment will decrease by 2% for Buffalo County residents by increasing access to mental health resources and services.
- By January 2025, Buffalo County Health and Human Services (BCHHS) and community partners will identify three priority populations and deliver health education and promotion tailored for those populations.
- By January 2025, BCHHS and partners will create a campaign that promotes acceptance, educates, reduces stigma, and engages Buffalo County community members.

The CHIP is being formatted into a work model that will be used by stakeholders to continue to monitor the progress of CHIP and a public version will be available on the Buffalo County website.

## **7. REVIEW/DISCUSSION/ACTION – PUBLIC HEALTH COLLABORATIVE PROJECT CONCEPT PAPER**

Ms. Knauber provided an explanation of the PH Collaborative project whose aim is to further Wisconsin's governmental public health infrastructure based on the Public Health 3.0 model. The primary focus of this project is to address three system-wide infrastructure issues of local and tribal health departments: workforce, funding, and legal authority.

## **8. REVIEW/DISCUSSION/ACTION – ARPA PROPOSAL FOLLOW UP – NURSE FAMILY PARTNERSHIP**

Mr. Rynders provided an estimate of the ARPA proposal for a Nurse Family Partnership (NFP) that was presented at the December 2021 meeting. The estimated annual contract cost of the proposal will be \$90,155; \$87,000 for .5 FTE Nurse, 5 hours of required supervision time, National Service Fees, and training for the new nurse, \$2500 Cell phone/computer, \$555 Support materials for 10 clients, \$1000 Nurse Supplies (baby scale, stethoscope, BP cuff, adult scale, and lockable backpack).

Mr. Rynders reported the following information regarding the Opioid Settlement money:

**Opioid Settlement money coming to Buffalo County** – we have received some recent disappointing news on the approximately \$350,000 due us from drug manufacturers. We had heard we will start receiving money the second quarter of 2022. We now know the manufacturers have 20 years to pay us – there is too much flexibility to be able to predict the pace in which Buffalo County will receive these funds. Buffalo County cannot expend these funds until received. Also, there is a range of possibilities on how the opioid settlement dollars can be spent – and a number of county departments would potentially be able to present qualifying proposals.

**Medical Assistance** – home visits by a nurse under the Pre Natal-Care benefit of MA (MA-PNCC) pays for these visits for about 6 months of the up to 30-month period of NFP. Based on the collection experience of Eau Claire City-County Public Health, Buffalo County's annual MA-PNCC collection related to NFP cases is \$2,000-\$5,000.

**Substance Abuse Block Grant** – for moms in the NFP program, a certain percentage will be in recovery or in treatment regarding substance abuse. Carri got the following response from Ryan Stachoviak of the DHS, Bureau of Prevention Treatment and Recovery who is our DHS contact for SABG. He said: *"The Nurse-Family Partnership looks like it would be an allowable way to use the SABG, provided it is supporting mothers who are in recovery or treatment for substance use, which based on that description it sounds like that is the intent of the service."* Eau Claire City-County Public Health estimates the mom is in treatment or in recovery less than 10 % of their active cases. 10% of our active cases fitting these criteria would allow us to claim 10% of our Substance Abuse Block Grant allocation or about **\$10,000** if the SABG fund dollars are available.

## **9. REVIEW/DISCUSSION/ACTION – DHHS FINANCIAL UPDATE**

The Financial update for DHHS/Agent of the State through November 2021 was presented by Mr. Rynders for review.

**10. REVIEW/DISCUSSION/ACTION – DHHS MONTHLY VOUCHERS**

The monthly vouchers were reviewed. A motion was made by Mr. Nelson and seconded by Mr. Schmidtknecht to approve the vouchers as presented. A roll call vote was taken. Motion approved.

**11. REVIEW/DISCUSSION/ACTION – MONTHLY UNIT REPORTS**

Monthly unit reports were reviewed with no discussion.

**12. REVIEW/DISCUSSION/ACTION – 2022 VETERANS/DHHS MEETING SCHEDULE**

Mr. Nelson brought to the committee's attention that the joint Committee meeting with Pepin County scheduled for October 24, 2022, is the same day as the County Board meeting. Mr. Rynders reported that after the Pepin County meeting is held on January 24<sup>th</sup>, a decision will be made on the change in date of the joint meeting. Mr. Rynders will email the committee on January 25<sup>th</sup> on the date change.

**13. REVIEW/DISCUSSION/ACTION – WESTERN DAIRYLAND COMMUNITY ACTION**

Mr. Nelson reported there was no meeting in December 2021.

**14. REVIEW/DISCUSSION/ACTION – DHHS DIRECTOR**

Mr. Rynders reported on the Administrative Coordinator transition meeting held with Ms. Hansen and Mr. VanDeWalle involving the issues and trends affecting DHHS.

**15. REVIEW/DISCUSSION/ACTION – CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT**

None

**16. REVIEW/DISCUSSION/ACTION – Closed Session to Conduct Employee Performance Evaluations**

Roll Call Vote *The Committee may enter into closed session pursuant to WI State Statutes 19.85 (1)(c) for the purpose of considering employment or performance evaluation of any public employee over which the governmental body has jurisdiction or exercises responsibility.* Ms. McMillan-Urell made a motion to go into closed session @ 7:20 PM and Mr. Grisen seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken. Motion approved.

**17. REVIEW/DISCUSSION/ACTION – The Committee May Return to Open Session**

Mr. Schmidtknecht made a motion to return to open session @ 7:27 PM and Ms. Beseler seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken. Motion approved.

**18. REVIEW/DISCUSSION/ACTION – NEXT MEETING DATE AND TIME**

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, February 1, 2022, at 6:00 PM.

**19. PUBLIC COMMENT NOT RELATED TO AGENDA ITEMS**

None

**20. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 7:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Hildebrand

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