

Buffalo County Minutes

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

Date of Meeting: Thursday, July 7, 2022

Electronic and Hard Copy Filing Date:

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

1. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL OF MEMBERS

Member's present were Kim Beseler, Carol McDonough, Mary Anne McMillan-Urell, Brian Michaels, Richard Mueller, Nathan Nelson, and Brad Schmidtknecht. Liz Hoffmaster and Wendy Kleinschmidt were excused absences.

OTHERS PRESENT FOR ALL OR PART OF THE MEETING

Dave Rynders, Mary Hildebrand, Felicia Decker, Christine Lorenz, and Ryan VanDeWalle.

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. Schmidtknecht and seconded by Mr. Nelson to approve the June 2, 2022, minutes as presented. Motion approved.

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

Ms. Decker provided an overview of the activities and stats in the Veterans office for the month of June. Ms. Christine Lorenz has been hired as the Administrative Benefits Specialist. Ms. Decker shared information on the Yellow Ribbon Event in Madison (people getting back from deployment), the Camp American Legion (address PTSD), Camp Victory (for female veterans), and the Independence Day celebrations.

5. REVIEW/DISCUSSION/ACTION - VETERANS SERVICES MONTHLY VOUCHERS

The monthly vouchers were presented. A motion was made by Mr. Mueller and seconded by Ms. Beseler to approve the monthly vouchers as presented. Motion approved.

6. REVIEW/DISCUSSION/ACTION – PUBLIC HEALTH REPORT

The monthly case/investigation stats were presented by Ms. Jamie Weaver. Updates were shared on the Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI). The Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP) provided a list of 266 farms in Buffalo County containing

poultry. There were 2 confirmed cases of monkeypox identified in MN as of 6/28/22. Ms. Weaver provided information on PFAS which is a group of human-made chemicals used for decades in numerous products. Recent findings indicate that exposure to certain PFAS may have harmful health effects in people, types of cancer, thyroid and heart conditions, developmental delay, infertility, and low birth weight. Governor Evers launched a voluntary sampling program to all municipal public drinking water systems in Wisconsin to test for PFAS contamination. Ms. Weaver shared that the Alma Wastewater Treatment Plant declined to participate in the program. Counties can still register.

As of 6/16/2022, COVID-19 vaccination clinics are now being handled by AMI; 36.0% of Buffalo County residents have received an additional/booster dose as of 6/29/2022.

The activities of the Public Health Educator were shared. Zoie Weber and Rachel Culli have joined the PH team as summer interns working Monday – Wednesday.

Mr. Rynders gave an update on the Public Health Officer vacancy which includes advertising for the position and the exploration of having some of the duties absorbed by an existing Health Officer from a neighboring county. Mr. Rynders will be meeting on July 11th with Trempealeau County Public Health Officer to explore any interest in a contractual agreement. Mr. Rynders requested approval from the committee to move forward with filling the position if Trempealeau County did not have interest in overseeing some of the Buffalo County Health Officer duties. The committee reaffirmed they approved the filling of the position at last month's meeting.

7. REVIEW/DISCUSSION/ACTION – COVID RECOVERY COMMUNITY ASSESSMENT

Ms. Weaver presented the COVID Recovery Community Assessment compiled by Ms. Darby DeGross. The survey was sent to 1000 random households which included both English and Spanish speaking residents using paper and online versions and included 57 questions.

The demographic results are as follows:

- 244 white and 1 American Indian or Alaska Native responded
- 231 not Hispanic or Latino and 1 Hispanic or Latino
- 94 males and 151 females
- Over 50% of respondents were over the age of 65

The survey results showed in percentages how COVID-19 negatively impacted their life and what coping strategies were used during the pandemic. A pie chart was shared on the number of respondents by location, statistics were provided on the percent of respondents who are parents and which school their children attend as well as how COVID-19 has impacted child performance and child behavior. Statistics were provided on the percentages of respondents that access mental health care.

When asked what resources Buffalo County community could benefit from:

- Many stated better information and access to transportation available
- More accessible mental health services

Ms. Weaver shared what the next steps will be:

- Focus groups
- Expand Community outreach to newspapers and other forms of social media
- Increase sharing resources the county offers i.e., WIC, ADRC, Economic Support
- Host/plan/support community activities or events (substance free events)
 - National Night Out
 - Dairy Breakfast
 - Library Events
 - Job Fair

Mr. Rynders expanded on the idea of providing one-on-one counseling to all students in the schools and at home with or without insurance. The funds to provide the counseling are available through the county as well as the schools. Mr. Rynders will develop a proposal to present to the committee moving forward.

8. REVIEW/DISCUSSION/ACTION – REVIEW TELECOMMUTING SCHEDULE FOR ECONOMIC SUPPORT SPECIALISTS

Mr. Rynders explained there are (3) Economic Support Specialists who are under the Consortium contract obligated to provide face to face services as needed having one staff member in the office at all times. The State has now accepted virtual contact with clients as face to face. Mr. Rynders is requesting the ES specialists have the option to telecommute. The monies are available to set-up a space in the DHHS lobby for virtual meetings.

Mr. Rynders provided a brief history of why the consortium was formed 10 years ago. The State leadership wanted it to be handled by the private sector, but federal rules prohibited that, hence the 8 county consortiums were formed. When WREA was formed, it served clients from within its own county along with different salary structures.

9. REVIEW/DISCUSSION/ACTION – 10/1/22 – 12/31/23 SENIOR MEAL RATES

Mr. Rynders provided an email from Heather Prissel, the Pepin/Buffalo County Senior Nutrition Coordinator regarding the ARPA funds approved in January to increase the cost of meals to \$.35/meal for meal site providers through September 2022. Ms. Prissel is recommending, and Mr. Rynders is supporting the \$.35/meal increase continue through December 2023. The ARPA funds are available for this request. Mr. Schmidtkecht inquired as to what the overall amount would be through 2023. Mr. Rynders will provide a detailed report to the committee members via email. After discussion on the additional cost, a motion was made by Mr. Michaels and seconded by Ms. McDonough to extend the .35/meal increase to meal site providers from October 1, 2022, through December 2023. Motion approved.

10. REVIEW/DISCUSSION/ACTION – REMOVE ONE YEAR LIMIT AND AMEND MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS FOR THE PUBLIC HEALTH SPECIALIST POSITION JOB DESCRIPTION

Mr. Rynders reviewed the action taken last June 2021 to put a one-year limit to attain a 4-year degree and registered nurse licensing for Ms. Myszewski, PH Specialist and when achieved, move to the registered nurse position. Mr. Rynders explained Ms. Kelsa Myszewski received her degree but did not acquire her nursing license. Mr. Rynders made a request to change the

Public Health Specialist job description to recognize and compensate for the bachelor's degree work being done. Mr. Rynders also shared that Buffalo County has entered into a contract with Barb Barczak, retired Health Officer from Trempealeau County, to cover the registered nurse requirement for our health department. After extensive discussion, a motion was made by Mr. Schmidt knecht and seconded by Ms. Beseler to waive the one-year requirement and amend the minimum qualifications for the public health specialist position. Motion approved.

11. REVIEW/DISCUSSION/ACTION – PUBLIC HEALTH SPECIALIST JOB DESCRIPTION

This was addressed in line item #10.

12. REVIEW/DISCUSSION/ACTION – REFILL ECONOMIC SUPPORT SPECIALIST POSITION

Ms. Ronda Meier resigned from the Economic Support Specialist effective July 19, 2022, accepting a position with WREA in Trempealeau County. Mr. Rynders requested approval to refill the position. A motion was made by Mr. Mueller and seconded by Ms. McDonough to refill the Economic Support Specialist position. Motion approved.

13. REVIEW/DISCUSSION/ACTION – ECONOMIC SUPPORT SPECIALIST JOB DESCRIPTION

No changes recommended.

14. REVIEW/DISCUSSION/ACTION – REFILL SOCIAL WORKER/CASE MANAGER CHILDREN AND FAMILY POSITION

Ms. Karli Danckwart resigned from the Social Worker/Case Manager Children and Family position. Mr. Rynders requested approval to refill the position. A motion was made by Mr. Mueller and seconded by Mr. Schmidt knecht to refill the Social Worker/Case Manager Children and Family position. Motion approved.

15. REVIEW/DISCUSSION/ACTION – SOCIAL WORKER/CASE MANAGER JOB DESCRIPTIONS

Mr. Rynders presented changes to the Social Worker/Case Manager job description for review. A motion was made by Mr. Nelson and seconded by Ms. Beseler to approve the changes to the Social Worker/Case Manager job description. Motion approved.

16. REVIEW/DISCUSSION/ACTION – RESOLUTION TO CREATE A CASE MANAGER POSITION AND REDUCE A SUPPORT STAFF SPECIALIST TO PART-TIME

Mr. Rynders proposed the creation of a case manager position based on the increased service demand: client record requests, local foster care recruitment, CLTS administration and case management, youth services, and CCS case management. The anticipated financial impact statement was reviewed.

A motion was made by Ms. Beseler and seconded by Mr. Schmidt knecht to create a Case Manager position and reduce a Support Staff Specialist to part-time. Motion approved.

17. REVIEW/DISCUSSION/ACTION – ANTICIPATED STAFFING NEEDS IN 2023

After studying the growth, Mr. Rynders shared the anticipated staffing needs for CCS and CLTS informing the Committee of the need for an additional position.

18. REVIEW/DISCUSSION/ACTION – DHHS FINANCIAL UPDATE

Mr. Rynders presented the DHHS/Agent financial update through May 2022 for review.

19. REVIEW/DISCUSSION/ACTION DHHS MONTHLY VOUCHERS

After review of the monthly vouchers through May 2022, a motion was made by Ms. McDonough and seconded by Mr. Nelson to approve the vouchers as presented. Motion approved.

20. REVIEW/DISCUSSION/ACTION – MONTHLY UNIT REPORTS

The monthly unit reports were reviewed.

21. REVIEW/DISCUSSION/ACTION – WESTERN DAIRYLAND COMMUNITY ACTION

Ms. McMillan-Urell stated she did not attend. Mr. Dennis Bork attended and will report at the County Board meeting.

22. REVIEW/DISCUSSION/ACTION – DHHS DIRECTOR REPORT

Mr. Rynders reported a verbal offer was accepted for the Account Clerk position by Ms. Misty Rustad.

23. REVIEW/DISCUSSION/ACTION – CHAIRPERSON’S REPORT

None

24. REVIEW/DISCUSSION/ACTION – NEXT MEETING DATE AND TIME

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, August 2, 2022, at 6:00 PM.
(Note date and time change)


25. PUBLIC COMMENT NOT RELATED TO AGENDA ITEMS

None

26. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 8:54 PM.

Respectfully submitted,



Mary Hildebrand