

Buffalo County Minutes

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

Date of Meeting: Thursday, October 5, 2023

Location: 3rd Floor County Board Room
Department of Health and Human Services
Buffalo County Courthouse
407 S 2nd Street, Alma, Wisconsin

1. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL OF MEMBERS

Members present were Kim Beseler, Liz Hoffmaster, Chris Lindstrom, Carol McDonough, Mary Anne McMillan-Urell, Nathan Nelson, Steve Schiffler. Brian Michaels was an excused absence.

OTHERS PRESENT FOR ALL OR PART OF THE MEETING

Dave Rynders, Felicia Decker, Lee Engfer, Mary Hildebrand

2. PUBLIC COMMENT REGARDING 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 Ms. Hoffmaster and seconded by Mr. Nelson to approve the September 7, 2023, minutes as presented. Motion approved.

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

Wendy Kleinschmidt joined the meeting at 6:40 PM via Zoom. An update was presented by Ms. Felicia Decker on the Veterans Memorial Project. The Veterans office participated in a suicide prevention Outreach, Hope 4 U annual walk, the St. Croix Veteran Expo event, the Pierce County Veteran golf fundraiser event, and the Sofas for Service outreach which is an organization that takes donations to help Veterans with a DD214 furnish their homes at no cost to the Veteran.

The monthly expense report and CVSO supplemental expense report were presented. A \$500 donation was received from the Fountain City Lions Club. The September stats were provided for review.

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

The September vouchers were reviewed. A motion was made by Ms. Beseler and seconded by Mr. Lindstrom to approve the September 2023 vouchers as presented. A roll call vote was taken. Motion approved.

6. REVIEW/DISCUSSION/ACTION – PUBLIC HEALTH REPORT

The monthly numbers were provided for review by Ms. Weaver. Mr. Dyllan Smith, Public Health Educator started on Monday, September 25, 2023. Ms. Weaver reported UW-Stevens Point is compiling the results of the private well sampling project and will provide the results by year-end. The letter and grant application were mailed on September 26, 2023, for the Parks Improvement Project. Flu clinics are scheduled during the month of October at the four area schools, Dairyland Power, County/Highway Employees and the Public. No applicants have been received for the Public Health Nurse vacancy.

7. REVIEW/DISCUSSION/ACTION – REVISION OF SPECIAL EVENT INSPECTION FEES

Mr. Rynders explained the action taken at the September meeting to revise the special event inspection fees will now be forwarded to the Finance Committee, changing the fee from \$60 to \$25. After discussion, it was decided to amend the resolution. A motion was made by Mr. Schiffler and seconded by

Mr. Lindstrom to amend the resolution to change the inspection fee from \$60 to \$25 effective December 1, 2023. A roll call vote was taken. Motion approved.

8. REVIEW/DISCUSSION/ACTION – ACCOUNT CLERK SUPERVISOR POSITION DESCRIPTION TITLE CHANGE

Mr. Rynders requested approval to change the Account Clerk title to Accounting Supervisor. A motion was made by Ms. Hoffmaster and seconded by Ms. McDonough to approve changing the Account Clerk title to Accounting Supervisor title. A roll call vote was taken. Motion approved.

9. REVIEW/DISCUSSION/ACTION – DHHS FINANCIAL UPDATE

Mr. Rynders presented the August 2023 DHHS budget and the Agent of the State budget for review.

10. REVIEW/DISCUSSION/ACTION – DHHS MONTHLY VOUCHERS

A motion was made by Mr. Schiffli and seconded by Ms. Beseler to approve the monthly vouchers as presented. A roll call vote was taken. Motion approved.

11. REVIEW/DISCUSSION/ACTION – MONTHLY UNIT REPORTS

The monthly unit reports were available for review by the committee members. Mr. Rynders presented a Social Services report which developed from the wage study which allows Case Managers, Social Workers, and Senior Social Workers to move up/down the wage scale.

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

Ms. McMillan-Urell had nothing new to report.

13. REVIEW/DISCUSSION/ACTION – JOINT BUFFALO COUNTY VETERANS/DHHS COMMITTEE AND PEPIN COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES BOARD MEETING

a. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

Introductions were made. The following people joined the meeting at 7:00 PM, Matt Roesler, Cammi Catt-DeWyre, and Matt Bertelson. Andy Winkler, Angie Schlosser, Elizabeth Bauer, and Kay Hurlburt attended via Zoom.

b. ADRC PRESENTATION

Ms. Catt-DeWyre, ADRC Manager, presented a PowerPoint for the ADRC (Aging & Disability Resource Center) serving individuals 60 and older and adults with disabilities for Buffalo and Pepin County supporting their families and caregivers as well.

Mr. Mike Wright joined the meeting.

The ADRC (10 team members + volunteers) provides a broad range of programs and services.

Ms. Catt-DeWyre addressed the following (3) hot topics to create awareness:

- 1) ADRC funding for the 2023-2025 biennial budget – The state goal is to provide more consistent, fair, and equitable allocation for funding across the state. Population factors to be considered with the new allocations are 60+, 75+, 18+ with a disability, minorities, poverty, and rurality.
- 2) Know us before you need us – The ADRC team strives to create awareness about the available programs and services. The following outreach methods are used: monthly newsletter, ADRC website and Facebook page, word of mouth, flyers, and local newspaper articles. A variety of programs and workshops, both in-person and virtual, are also offered throughout the year to create awareness.

- 3) Volunteer Drivers – Ms. Angie Schlosser, Transportation Program Coordinator and Mr. Matt Bertelson, Nutrition Program Coordinator presented information on the need for more volunteer drivers and volunteers at the meal sites. The volunteers receive mileage reimbursement when driving people to appointments. Ms. Schlosser shared the following data on the Transportation/Nutrition program:
- There are currently 9 active volunteers serving Buffalo/Pepin County
 - January 1st through August 31st, 2023, 3344 rides have been given.
 - Individuals on Medicaid are transported by a state ride program – Vale and MTM.
 - Pepin County is working on increasing the mileage reimbursement rate to the Federal level.

Mr. Bertelson encouraged committee members to spread the word of the need for volunteer drivers.

c. ADULT PROTECTIVE SERVICES PRESENTATION

The APS (Adult Protective Services) PowerPoint prepared by Ms. Carri Renchin was presented by Mr. Rynders. The APS staff includes Ms. Renchin, Interim Manager, Ms. Chelsey Herold, who has accepted the APS/Transportation Manager position, Ms. Molli Eckelberg, Social Worker II, and Ms. Kelsi Black, Case Manager serving both Buffalo and Pepin County. Mr. Rynders explained the program serves both vulnerable adults ages 18 to 59 who have a physical or mental condition that impairs the ability to care for their needs and Elder Adult-at-Risk who are at risk of experiencing abuse, neglect, self-neglect, or financial exploitation. APS services also include Guardianship referrals, protective placement referrals, and protective placement orders, emergency protective placement referrals and orders. Annual reviews of Protective Placement (WATTS) are conducted as an oversight of checks and balances for the client. Mr. Rynders shared some of the challenges/data the APS program is experiencing:

- A shortage of in-home caregivers and placement
- The “Silver Tsunami”, Wisconsin population growth is on the decline and by 2023, about 1:4 workers will reach retirement age.
- The number of Wisconsin residents diagnosed with dementia is projected to increase by 88% by 2040.

Mr. Rynders reported there are no recommended changes to the current FTE% moving into 2024. Buffalo/Pepin will transition APS case documentation to NIGHTINGALE software, an electronic health record; the goal is to implement January 1, 2024.

d. CHILD SUPPORT PRESENTATION – CHILD SUPPORT FEES FOR SERVICES OF NON IV-D RECIPIENTS

Ms. Lisa Plunkett joined the meeting.

The Child Support presentation was shared by Ms. Lisa Plunkett, Child Support Coordinator. Ms. Plunkett outlined the four Child Support Performance Measures that the State and Federal government set thresholds.

1. Court Order Establishment Rate – The percentage of cases with court orders in place. Federal performance goal is 80%.
2. Current CS Collection Rate – The percentage of support collected in the period it was due. Federal performance goal is 80%

3. Paternity Establishment Rate – The percentage of children that had paternity established during the year compared to the number of children who needed paternity established at the end of the previous year. This percentage often exceeds 100%. Federal performance goal is 90%
4. Arrears Collection Rate – The percentage of cases with past due payments that received a collection during the year. Federal performance goal is 80%.

Ms. Plunkett reported that Buffalo County met (3) of the (4) performance measures in the fiscal year October 1st through September 30, 2023, falling short by 1.34% in Arrears Collection.

Pepin County met all 4 performance measures. The goal for 2024 is to meet all (4) performance measures in both counties. Ms. Plunkett gave an overview of the challenges and successes of the Child Support program/team. A graph was shared comparing caseloads and performances in counties of similar size.

Ms. Plunkett addressed the concerns of the State on decreased caseload and what can be done to increase those cases. The Federal government will only pay for cases that are referred from Economic Support or referred from out-of-home placement, foster care, Kinship care or those applying for our services via an application. After discussion with the State, the decision was made to charge fees for the Non IVD (non-enforcement) cases that we have to work but don't get paid for which will encourage people to apply for our services and in turn CSA receives 66.6% reimbursement. The fees are minimal but will increase revenue for the county.

Mr. Rynders prepared an Ordinance to charge Child Support fees for Non IVD customers for Buffalo County. Mr. Roesler explained Pepin County will also put an ordinance in place. A motion was made by Ms. McDonough and seconded by Ms. Hoffmaster to approve the ordinance to charge child support fees to Non IVD Buffalo County customers. A roll call vote was taken. Motion approved.

e. BIRTH TO THREE PRESENTATION

Mr. Roesler presented the B-3 presentation prepared by Ms. Tamm Stearns, B-3 Educator. Mr. Roesler shared the 2023 YTD referrals for Pepin County are 9 and 22 in Buffalo County. Families currently enrolled in Pepin County are 9 and 15 in Buffalo County. The Birth to 3 program works with families and children in their first 3 years of life, focusing on their development, interaction with other people, their mental health, and their connection with their family. Children that qualify for this enrichment program are 20% behind development milestones; referrals come from predominantly pediatrics. Mr. Roesler reported the B-3 program received an ARPA grant for \$9500 which was used to purchase materials for community events such as library story times, toddler yoga, play in the park, and Play & Learn Triple P parent opportunity for families with young children in an attempt to get families and children to connect with others in the community.

f. FINAL THOUGHTS AND CLOSING

Mr. Roesler shared when he started with Pepin County, he was tasked with taking a deep dive into the structure of Pepin County's Human Services by the County Administrator and County Board looking at the efficiencies and the effectiveness of the services provided. After talking with other counties throughout the State, his findings show other counties are jealous of the Buffalo/Pepin bi-county relationship offering services we are able to offer because of our size. Mr. Roesler will be putting together a presentation when he has completed his research.

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

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, November 2, 2023, at 6:30 PM.

Ms. McMillan-Urell will not be in attendance. Mr. Nelson will lead the November meeting.

15. PUBLIC COMMENT NOT RELATED TO AGENDA ITEMS

None

16. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 8:23 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mary Hildebrand". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looped initial "M".

Mary Hildebrand