

Buffalo County Minutes

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

Date of Meeting: Tuesday, March 2, 2021

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. ROLL CALL/BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

Roll call was taken. Member's present were Larry Grisen, Wendy Kleinschmidt, Carol McDonough, Mary Anne McMillan-Urell, and Brad Schmidtkecht. Richard Mueller and Steve Nelson were excused absences. Kim Beseler was in attendance to observe.

OTHERS PRESENT FOR ALL OR PART OF THE MEETING

Dave Rynders, Mary Hildebrand, and Felicia Hager were present at the meeting. Mickey Rice attended meeting via ZOOM.

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. Schmidtkecht to approve the February 2, 2021 minutes as presented. Motion approved.

4. REVIEW/DISCUSSION – REVIEW OF RULE 24 RULES OF GOVERNMENT RELATING TO COUNTY BOARD ATTENDANCE

Ms. McMillan-Urell reported on the Rule 24 Rules of Government regarding remote attendance. Complete remote attendance has not been approved. Ms. McMillan-Urell requested contacting her at (608) 397-4582 if you are not able to attend a meeting; if unable to reach Ms. McMillan-Urell, call DHHS (608) 685-4412. Mr. Grisen also stated that if there is a late amendment to the agenda, specifically a change in the starting time of a meeting, or a cancelation due to weather, members will be notified by the Chairperson. It was also noted that there has to be three County Board members present in-house for a quorum.

5. VIEW/DISCUSSION/ACTION – VETERANS SERVICES MONTHLY REPORT

Ms. Hager informed the committee of the CVSOA spring conference to be held June 6-11. The Veterans re-entry program development is moving forward, working with Pepin, Dunn, and Buffalo counties. Jon Weaver, Steve Schiffli, and Ms. Hager held interviews with three generations of war Veterans to gather information and learn the challenges they are experiencing and how the Veterans can be better served in our communities. Ms. Hager also attended a

National Guard outreach assisting over 400 members with point of contact for their local CVSO and educating them on benefits that are available to them. The Hope4U/WDVA movement was made available to Veterans on mental health and suicide awareness. Ms. Hager reported on the February stats.

6. VETERANS SERVICES MONTHLY VOUCHERS

Ms. Hager presented the monthly vouchers. A motion was made by Mr. Schmidtkecht and seconded by Ms. Kleinschmidt to approve the vouchers as presented. Motion approved.

7. REVIEW/DISCUSSION/ACTION – PUBLIC HEALTH UNIT REPORT

Ms. Rice presented the Public Health report. The monthly investigation/case reports were reviewed. There were 83 COVID-19 cases confirmed and 1 COVID-19 reinfection.

An update was given on the vaccination status: A drive through clinic has been held once a week for the past three weeks at the Buffalo County Highway shop. Public Health continues to work on getting anyone covered under Phase 1A vaccinated as well as the 65+ age group and those needing to receive their second dose of the vaccine. The drive through is by appointment only based on a waiting list. Ms. Rice shared the following statistics from DHS: 18.8% of County residents have received at least 1 dose, over 56% of the 65+ age group have received their first dose and 9.3% have completed the vaccine series. The long-term care facilities have completed their second dose. Teachers and Child Care personnel will be receiving their first dose at the schools throughout the month of March. Individuals in Medicaid long term care programs, some public-facing essential workers, non-frontline essential health care personnel, and facility staff and residents in congregate living settings are also eligible in the next group.

Mr. Rynders shared information on an upcoming Community Stakeholders meeting on March 9th via Zoom inviting businesses and other organizations to check in. The focus will be on the next eligible group (tentatively starting March 1st) and on how they are to proceed. We will encourage them to go to their Health Care Provider first and emphasizing Public Health is the fallback if they are having trouble getting a vaccine scheduled with their Provider.

Ms. Rice answered a question regarding the tracking of individuals who have received their vaccination by Public Health verses those getting vaccinated outside of Buffalo County. 14% of Buffalo County residents have been vaccinated by the Public Health department and 86% have been vaccinated outside of Buffalo County. Ms. Rice was also asked about the one reinfection case and whether or not it was a variant; Ms. Rice shared that we would only know if it was a variant strain if it was tested by the State lab. Ms. Rice was asked what the length of time was between infections; Ms. Rice reported it was outside the 90 days, but she will check into the exact length of time and report back.

8. REVIEW/DISCUSSION/ACTION – RESOLUTION TO MERGE BUFFALO COUNTY WIC PROGRAM WITH THE TREMPEALEAU COUNTY WIC PROGRAM

Mr. Rynders explained that if the resolution is approved by the County Board, we would then enter into the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) agreement which identifies the roles and responsibilities of each party as it relates to expanding the Trempealeau County WIC program to serve Buffalo County residents. Mr. Rynders noted that the Trempealeau County Board has approved a companion resolution. A motion was made by Mr. Grisen and seconded by Ms. McDonough to approve the resolution to merge the Buffalo County WIC program with the Trempealeau County WIC program. Motion approved.

9. REVIEW/DISCUSSION/ACTION – RESOLUTION TO APPROVE LIMITED TERM PUBLIC HEALTH WORKER POSITION TO SUPPORT COVID-19 RESPONSE

Mr. Rynders presented a proposed job description for a Public Health worker to support vaccination efforts involving support at clinics, provide outreach, and scheduling.

Ms. McMillan-Urell suggested adding Limited Term to the position title on the job description so it reads Public Health Worker Limited Term. This position is limited to 600 hours which will be 20-40 hours/week and is funded with COVID-19 dollars. Human Resources will approve the job description. Mr. Rynders also introduced a resolution to approve a Limited Term Public Health Worker position to support COVID-19 response. Mr. Rynders shared he will be signing a contract for Registered nurse services. Ms. Beseler asked if the job description specifies if it is a part-time position; suggesting if it were presented as part-time there might be more interest. Mr. Grisen noted to add the wording “Part-Time” by the Pay Rate: at the top of the Position Description.

A motion was made by Mr. Schmidtknecht and seconded by Mr. Grisen to approve the resolution for a Limited Term Public Health Worker position to support COVID-19 response. Motion approved.

10. REVIEW/DISCUSSION/ACTION – REFILL CHILD WELFARE CASE MANAGER/SOCIAL WORKER POSITION

Mr. Rynders reported Maggie Halberslaben, Child Welfare Social Worker has accepted a position as a Forensic Interviewer at the Children’s Advocacy Center in Eau Claire WI. Mr. Rynders made a request to refill the Child Welfare position. Ms. McMillan-Urell made a motion to refill the Child Welfare Case Manager/Social Worker position and Ms. Kleinschmidt seconded the motion. Motion approved.

11. REVIEW/DISCUSSION – CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS PLANNING

Ms. McMillan-Urell presented a request from the Committee of the Board for departments to look at near term (5 year) and long term (10 year) projections for capital improvement needs.

Mr. Rynders presented the following:

- *Install a pass-through cabinet in a bathroom to support our reproductive health program.
- *Replace Fiscal Software
- *Have some Staff continue to telecommute to avoid sharing office space which will then avoid remodeling costs. (No cost/low-cost solution)

Ms. McMillan-Urell requested the capital improvement projections/planning continue at the April meeting for review and discussion.

12. REVIEW/DISCUSSION/ACTION – DHHS FINANCIAL UPDATE

Mr. Rynders explained we will be looking at both the year-end 2020 and 2021 financial update for the next few months as we enter the budget reconciliation process for 2020.

13. REVIEW/DISCUSSION/ACTION – DHHS MONTHLY VOUCHERS

The vouchers were presented by Mr. Rynders for year-end 2020 activity as well as the January 2021 vouchers. A motion was made by Ms. McMillan-Urell and seconded by Ms. Kleinschmidt to approve the vouchers as presented. Motion approved.

14. REVIEW/DISCUSSION/ACTION – MONTHLY UNIT REPORTS

The monthly unit reports were reviewed with no discussion. Ms. McMillan-Urell inquired if Child Support collects both State and Federal tax intercept on arrears? Mr. Rynders will bring back the answer at the April meeting.

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

Ms. McDonough reported the Wisconsin Emergency Rental Assistance program (WERA) has funds available for people affected by COVID-19. Mr. Rynders will arrange for a presentation to be given on WERA at the April 5th meeting.

16. REVIEW/DISCUSSION/ACTION – DHHS DIRECTOR

An update was given by Mr. Rynders on the vacancies in the department. The two Economic Support Specialist positions were filled on March 1, 2021 by Ms. Kelsi Black and Ms. Courtney Brommer. The Health Officer position remains vacant; three interviews were held with one offer being made but the person turned down the offer.

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

Ms. McMillan-Urell shared the protocol for Committee Members who are unable to attend a meeting: first contact the Chairperson, Ms. McMillan-Urell at (608) 397-4582. If the Chair is unavailable, contact DHHS Director, Mr. Rynders at (608) 685-6304. If the Director is unavailable, contact the County Clerk’s office at (608) 685-6209.

18. REVIEW/DISCUSSION/ACTION – NEXT MEETING DATE

The next meeting date is scheduled for Monday, April 5, 2021 at 6:00 PM.

19. PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

20. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 7:32 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Hildebrand