

Buffalo County Minutes

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

Date of Meeting: Tuesday, June 2, 2020

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. Members present were Dennis Bork, Joette Gillett, Larry Grisen, Wendy Kleinschmidt, Mary Anne McMillan-Urell, Richard Mueller, Steve Nelson, Brad Schmidt knecht, and Linda Smith.

OTHERS PRESENT FOR ALL OR PART OF THE MEETING

Dave Rynders, April Loeffler, Carri Renchin, Danielle Schalinske via TEAMS, Mary Hildebrand

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

No public present.

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

A motion was made by Mr. Mueller and seconded by Ms. Kleinschmidt to approve the May 5, 2020 minutes as presented. Motion approved.

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

The monthly Veterans report was presented by Ms. Hager which included an update and guidelines from the Madison and Tomah VA centers and their plan to reintroduce health care services for Veterans as Wisconsin starts to reopen after COVID-19 shutdowns. Ms. Hager reported on the meal deliveries and the Memorial Day event. The May stats were shared.

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

The monthly vouchers were presented. A motion was made by Mr. Mueller and seconded by Ms. McMillan-Urell to approve the vouchers as presented. Motion carried.

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

Ms. Loeffler presented the monthly case reports and shared highlights which included COVID-19 and tobacco prevention.

Public health staff have processed approximately 420 cases related to COVID-19 from April 21st to May 20th, 2020. This count includes close contact investigations and all COVID-19 lab results (positive or negative) reported to the Public Health. A community testing site was conducted on

May 1, 2020 with 146 Buffalo County residents participating with one confirmed case identified. Education and guidance continue to be developed and disseminated to the community.

Public Health put out a press release about the Wisconsin Synar survey in collaboration with the 7C's Health Initiative, a tobacco prevention coalition consisting of 7 counties. Data from the yearly Wisconsin Synar survey shows that little cigarillos are increasingly being sold to kids, even as the number of retailers selling any tobacco product to youth has gone down slightly. The Synar survey, which monitors the percentage of retailers across the state that sell tobacco to minors, shows that the overall sales rate of tobacco products has remained stable at 5.5% in 2019 (down from 5.8% in 2018). The product most often sold to youth was cigarillos for the second year in a row (7.4% in 2018 and 7% in 2019). This is concerning since these products are not required to be displayed behind the counter and they often come in kid-friendly flavors.

7. REVIEW/DISCUSSION/ACTION – PUBLIC HEALTH COVID-19 RESPONSE PLANNING AND CAPACITY NEEDS

Ms. Loeffler was notified of funding available from the State and what the State's strategy is with the COVID response. Three areas the State is focusing on is reduction, containment (contact tracing), and surveillance and surge. The Public Health department's goal is to align themselves closely with the State's strategy. Ms. Loeffler reported the Health department will be receiving some CARES Act funding as well as State funding. With the onset of community spread COVID-19, Public Health needs to be available from 8 AM to 8 PM each day to receive and respond to reports of positive cases incoming from the medical community. Ms. Loeffler is proposing a LTE through the end of 2020 to provide investigations, contact tracing and monitoring for individuals to contain the spread of COVID-19.

8. REVIEW/DISCUSSION/ACTION – PUBLIC HEALTH ON-CALL PAY RESOLUTION

Ms. Loeffler explained the need for on-call pay for Public Health staff due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The on-call time needs to be available from 8 am to 8 pm daily during hours the DHHS office is closed. Public Health workers assigned to on-call duty are to be compensated \$1.75/hour for each hour available.

A motion was made to approve the Public Health On-Call Pay resolution effective June 23rd through December 31, 2020 by Ms. Smith and seconded by Ms. Gillett. Motion approved.

9. REVIEW/DISCUSSION/ACTION –RESOLUTION TO ADD LIMITED 2020 PUBLIC HEALTH POSITION FOR PROVIDING DISEASE INVESTIGATIONS, CONTACT TRACING AND MONITORING FOR INDIVIDUALS TO CONTAIN THE SPREAD OF COVID-19

Ms. Smith made a motion to approve the resolution to add a Limited Term 2020 Public Health position for providing disease investigations, contact tracing, and monitoring for individuals to contain the spread of COVID-19 and Ms. Kleinschmidt seconded the motion. Motion approved. All funding is provided through CARES (Coronavirus Aid Relief and Economic Security) Act dollars.

Mr. Rynders provided a detailed hand-out explaining program funding increases affecting the budget during the COVID-19 pandemic.

10. REVIEW/DISCUSSION/ACTION – DHHS PROGRAM PRESENTATIONS

At the May 5th meeting, Chairwoman McMillan-Urell requested each department in HHS give a presentation to the Home Committee on what programs are offered through their department.

Ms. Renchin, Social Services Manager and Ms. Schalinske, Social Services lead worker provided a detailed presentation on the Social Services program which includes CPS, (Child Protective Services), MH, (Mental Health), AODA, (Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse), CLTS (Children’s Long-Term Services), CCS, Comprehensive Community Services, Crisis Services, Child Welfare, Youth Justice, Foster Care licensing, and Kinship Care.

Ms. Loeffler, Public Health Director presented a detailed report of the Public Health program which includes WIC (Women, Infants, and Children), Immunizations, Communicable Disease, Elevated Lead Levels, Animal Bites, Human Health Hazards, Radon Program, Preparedness (Plans in place to respond to emergencies), Tobacco Prevention, Environmental Health (Licensing of food establishments, hotels/motels, swimming pools, campgrounds, recreational, etc.) and Community Health Improvement planning.

Mr. Rynders, DHHS Director provided a comprehensive report of the Aging program which includes APS (Adult Protective Services) for Buffalo/Pepin counties, Abuse of the Elderly, Conduct Investigations, Placements, Guardianships, and WATTS Reviews (Checking on the needs of the Elderly), Coordinate the I-Team.

Mr. Rynders also provided a review of the Child Support program which serves both Buffalo and Pepin counties working with over 1000 cases, Economic Support which includes WHEAP (WI Home Energy Assistance Program), WRAP (WI Rental Assistance Program), and WREA (Western Region of Economic Assistance) and the ADRC (Aging and Disability Resource Center) which covers Elderly Benefits, Homestead Tax credits, Social Security benefits, I & A, (Information & Assistance) and the Transportation program.

Chairman, McMillan-Urell requested the monthly unit reports be reviewed and the acronyms and charts be explained by Mr. Rynders.

11. REVIEW/DISCUSSION/ACTION – CHILD WELFARE FACE TO FACE MEETING CRITERIA PLAN

Ms. Schalinkse presented detailed guidelines on face to face meeting criteria for all workers. DHHS is seeking counsel from Corporation Counsel with the Federal waiver still in place. After review and discussion, Mr. Grisen made a motion pending Corporation Counsel’s approval to authorize the use of the guidelines as presented for the Child Welfare Face to Face Meeting Criteria Plan and Mr. Bork seconded the motion. Motion approved.

12. REVIEW/DISCUSSION/ACTION – 2020 DHHS BUDGET STATUS

Mr. Rynders presented the 2020 budget through May 2020 noting that due to the HDM (Home Delivered Meal) deliveries by DHHS staff and other departments, salaries are higher.

**13. REVIEW/DISCUSSION/ACTION – VETERANS/DHHS COMMITTEE MEETINGS
DISCUSS REMOTE OPTION**

Mr. Rynders presented the option for committee members to remote into the committee meeting. There are 4 citizen members and 5 supervisors on the Veteran/DHHS committee. Discussion was held on what qualifies as a quorum with remote/on-site attendance at committee meetings. Ms. McMillan-Urell will review the policy and get clarification on what constitutes a quorum.

14. REVIEW/DISCUSSION/ACTION – DHHS FINANCIAL UPDATE

Mr. Rynders presented the financial update through April 2020.

15. REVIEW/DISCUSSION/ACTION – DHHS MONTHLY VOUCHERS

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

16. REVIEW/DISCUSSION/ACTION – MONTHLY UNIT REPORTS

The monthly unit reports were reviewed, and the acronyms and charts were explained by Mr. Rynders. At future meetings, monthly unit reports will only be discussed if there are questions on the reports.

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

None

18. REVIEW/DISCUSSION/ACTION – DHHS DIRECTOR REPORT

Mr. Rynders updated the committee on the candidate for the upcoming vacancy.

19. REVIEW/DISCUSSION/ACTION – NEXT MEETING DATE AND AGENDA ITEMS

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, July 7, 2020 at 6:00 PM.

20. PUBLIC COMMENTS REGARDING UNRELATED AGENDA ITEMS

None

21. ADJOURNMENT

Meeting ended at 8:40 PM.

Respectfully submitted,



Mary Hildebrand