

## **LA CROSSE COUNTY W-2 COMMUNITY STEERING COMMITTEE**

Tuesday, August 17, 2010

La Crosse County Human Services Administrative Conference Room

7:45 a.m.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Beverly Mach, Tom Miller, Lindsey Swartz-Nichols, Nancy Wagner, Jodi Widuch

**MEMBERS EXCUSED:** Paula Egge

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Maureen Funk, Jackie Helgeson, Mary Ellen Prinsen, Richard Sage, Peter Thao, Sean Young

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Jo Kutzner, Nancy Gardner

### **CALL TO ORDER**

Jodi Widuch, Chairperson, called the meeting to order at 7:50 a.m.

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Addition made to the May 11, 2010 minutes for clarification of the child care rating system. The following was added: "The proposal for a Child Care Rating System in Wisconsin did not make Joint Finance's agenda before it closed session, so there was no action on the proposal." Motion to approve May 11, 2010 Committee minutes with clarification. Motion seconded and carried unanimously.

### **CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT**

None

### **UPDATE OF CHILD CARE RATING SYSTEM/YOUNGSTAR**

Jodi Widuch gave an update of the Child Care Rating System. La Crosse County was identified as one of twelve counties in the State to receive immediate funding to get ready for the implementation of the Child Care Rating System/Youngstar. The system will evaluate strengths and weaknesses of providers. After coaching, a second rating is done. The more education the provider has the higher up on the rating scale they will be. The rating system is objective using the same rules and tools for consistency. Agencies receive a bonus based on the star rating. The parent co-pay will stay the same.

### **UPDATE ON SHARED SERVICES**

Tom Miller updated the committee. The State approached La Crosse County early this year to enlarge the Change Reporting Center to include more counties. La Crosse County's proposal was approved 100%. Seven counties were added. To handle the added counties, three LTE Economic Support workers were added and one LTE clerical person was added. All seven counties are currently active. Data collection tool records 5-10% of all calls. Change reporting workers can record a call. Currently, there is no contract.

### **OUTCOME OF POVERTY TASK FORCE MEETING IN MAY**

The Poverty Task Force and Faith and Neighborhood Collaboration will be combining. Committee will meet quarterly starting August 27<sup>th</sup> from 8:00 a.m. to 9:30 a.m. in the basement auditorium B190 of the County Administrative Building. Some of the successes of the Poverty task Force advocacy included expansion of Badger Care and health care reform. W2 is shifting to focusing more on alternative responses to what is going on in the homes rather than legal issues. Poverty issues discussed included the movement of poverty to suburbia, resources not set up in Onalaska and Holmen, the working poor, substance abuse, education, problems of hunger in this area, the number of homeless, and immigration issues.

## **W2 UPDATE**

Tom updated the committee regarding the hiring of a job developer to work with W2 clients and work experience sites. This person will be hired through Gemini Agency and will not be a county position to start out. The interviewing process will begin August 18<sup>th</sup>. The person to be hired will need to be a self starter, needs to be outgoing in order to recruit employers, and will need to have experience working with our clientele and our W2 case workers.

There are currently 33 on cash assistance: 14 on the 12 week program, 13 community service jobs and 6 W2-T (SSI).

## **AGENDA FOR NEXT MEETING**

Approval of August 17, 2010 Meeting Minutes

Public Input

Chairperson's Report

Tour of New Goodwill Store

Update on W2 Job Developer

Poverty Task Force Update

Agenda for February 2011 Meeting

## **ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 9:00 a.m.

**The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, November 9, 2010 at 7:45 a.m. at the new Goodwill site on Theater Road in Onalaska.**

The above minutes were approved unanimously at the November 9, 2010 meeting.

Nancy Gardner, Recorder