

## **FAMILY POLICY BOARD COMMITTEE**

Thursday, January 20, 2011

Health & Human Services Building – Basement Auditorium

12:00 (noon)

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Jill Billings, Mike Boehm, Janet Chaney, Julie Conway, Chris Crye, Mike Desmond, Megan DeVore, Gloria Doyle, James Falver, Maureen Freedland, Sheila Garrity, Kristi Herold, Ann Kappauf, Jane Klekamp, Ann Kramer, Mary Meehan-Strub, Julie Mitchell, Nancy Pohlman, Pat Ruda, Mike Schnitzlus, Ruthann Schultz, Bridget Todd, Gaye Tylka, Jodi Widuch and Jason Witt

### **CALL TO ORDER: Mike Desmond, Vice-Chairperson**

Call to Order by Mike Desmond at 12:04 p.m.

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM DECEMBER 16, 2010**

Minutes approved by a committee member and seconded by Jodi Widuch.

### **AGENCY PRESENTATION: ATTIC CORRECTIONAL SERVICES – Bridget Todd**

- \* 24 Hour Services provided at Harvey Street location, which primarily receives referrals from Dept. of Corrections. Counseling includes: AODA, anger management, domestic violence.
- \* Electronic Monitoring and part-time staff monitoring at Rose Street location where participation is 3 months.
- \* Acute Protective Supervision Program for Juveniles– 1 year existence and involves daily contact with juveniles who are involved with Juvenile Delinquency social workers.
- \* Goals – A clinic that would offer low cost mental health and AODA services.
- \* Bridget asked that if anyone is interested in a tour of the facilities or would like to become more involved as a committee member, to please contact her at: 781-8706.

### **INTRODUCTION OF NEW MEMBERS**

James Falvey – Great Rivers United Way

### **INTRODUCTION OF NEW EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS – Jill Billings**

James Falvey – Great Rivers United Way

Gaye Tylka – CESA 4

Maureen Freedland – Judiciary and Law Committee

Janet Chaney – Community Representative

Mike Schnitzius – Community Representative

### **SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS: any updates?**

There were no updates today.

## **HUMAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT, BOARD AND OTHER AGENCY UPDATES**

### **Health and Human Services Section Report – Nancy Pohlman:**

#### Family & Children's Section – Nancy Pohlman

- Juvenile Detention Facility Inspection by the State Department of Corrections found it to be operating at "top notch" and excellent staff exceeding standards. Dave Steinberg, Juvenile Detention Facility Superintendent was highly commended.
- Children's Mental Health Crisis Services has returned to La Crosse County and Kristine Buehler is the supervisor, with 10 trained staff members who rotate shifts.
- Children with Special Needs Unit now has two newly assigned staff to help with reducing the number of children on the waiting list.
- Welfare Protective Model draft was posted to DCF site this week. Attempt is to unify the 72 counties in Wisconsin, and to recognize skills that are needed and values.
- State-Wide implementation of the CANS assessment. Date: 02/22/11 – Assesses the needs of youth and levels of care that need to be provided by the foster homes. Goal is to better target youth's needs.

### **HHS Board Update/Family Policy Board Executive Committee – Jill Billings**

- Some practices will need to be adjusted as we have to look at open meeting laws, open quorums, etc. Consultation was made with Bill Sheppard regarding this. Agendas will look different, there is a 48 hour notice for meetings, and extra agenda items need to be sent out before the meeting or they will have to wait for the next month's meeting.
- Voting Issues regarding letters of support for grants – members should not vote unless the item is on the agenda. It was suggested that the Family Policy Board Executive Committee members vote on the letter of support.
- A copy of the "letter of support request" was handed out today.

Jodi Widuch questioned if timing is a concern regarding the deadline for the letter of support, as mail time is needed to submit a grant, releases of information, etc. With the La Crosse Community Foundation for example, it is known when it is due and is posted quarterly.

Pat Ruda stated that the State grants may be an issue.

Ann Kramer stated that she agrees with Jodi Widuch in that it is difficult to submit the request on time depending on the due date of the grant.

Jill Billings reports that it is illegal to have a walking forum. All voting should be done at the meetings rather than by email. The Family Policy Board is not codified, and requests we do not choose to support will want letters of support from the Family Policy Board. Agencies should continue to ask for letters of support as soon as possible. The Executive Committee members shouldn't receive emails and vote.

Jane Klekamp asked "who's on the board?"

Jill Billings asked "can one person black ball a letter of support?" She doesn't think historically this has been a problem. We need to come up with guidelines just in case this happens in the future. If 3 Family Policy Board members say "no", we send a denial letter and if 1 or 2 Family Policy Board members say "yes", we take the agency names off of the letterhead who are not in favor and send the letter. Does this sound like it would be fair.

Gloria Doyle stated that we were more informal in the past; we just sent the letter of support requested and if it was opposed we were not made aware of it. The only problem with this may be if someone needs time to consider.

Sheila Garrity asked if we are making a bigger deal of this than we need to, i.e., a letter for Health and Human Services requests for funding; are other small non-profits being left out.

Jodi Widuch stated that this was a good point.

Jill Billings stated that the Family Policy Board is open to all.

Jane Klekamp asked “historically does it get to be too big?”

Sheila Garrity stated it is difficult with all inclusivity, i.e., Hmong, Africa American organizations, etc.

Maureen Freedland asked “who’s in charge of the email list and can we be careful to keep names off of the lists?”

Jill Billings stated that Renee Weston is the go to person for the letters. Renee Weston is no longer helping with the Family Policy Board.

Mary Meehan-Strub asked “do names have to be listed?”

Jill Billings stated “it would be nice to show”.

Jodi Widuch stated as a grant writer she likes names on the letterhead as it is a strength to get the support of the Family Policy Board as it is so unique; she’s proud to have this support.

Jill Billings stated that Family Policy Board agencies and the Executive Committee members names should be on the letterhead but not non-voting members.

Pat Ruda stated that it is good to show complete collaboration in requests as this may result in more funding to the community.

Jodi Widuch stated that this should be added on the letter of support request, shows collaboration.

Pat Ruda stated that if the Executive Board has a problem this should show the collaborative effort which is important for funding.

Mary Meehan-Strub stated that the Family Policy Board letterhead lists 38 local agencies in collaboration vs. individual names.

Pat Ruda stated that it is a strength to show the collaboration of the non-profit agencies, churches, etc.

Jill Billings stated that this was good feedback. For short term the sooner we get the letter of support request the better. Per Bill Shepard we need to get this on the agenda.

Jason Witt reports that he doesn’t know who will be Renee Weston’s replacement on this committee.

Jill Billings stated that members should still use Renee Weston at this time.

### **HS Director Report and Update – Jason Witt**

Jason Witt reports that the advertisement for Mary Ellen Prinsen’s position will be done by our next meeting. An email will be sent to the Family Policy Board if anyone has any suggestions of possible candidates for this position.

At the State Level; new secretary of the departments, i.e., Dennis Smith, Health and Human Services; has history with the Bush Administration and Tommy Thompson regarding Medicaid; hopefully new creative ideas. Eloise Anderson, Family and Children have history at the State level under Tommy Thompson.

Update on AODA prevention funding. New focus in the new year regarding use of prevention dollars. Jane Klekamp provided a Power Point presentation showing name changes of the following departments: Clinical Services is now Mental Health Services, Justice Sanctions is now Chemical Health and Justice Sanctions. The shift in focus is now on prevention.

**Other agency announcements and updates as time permits.**

**Ruthann Schultz of the YWCA** reports that on Thursday, February 8, 2011 from 6-8 p.m. Jennifer Schilling will do her presentation "Journey to Justice" talking about the murder of her parents. This presentation will be at the Waterfront restaurant for the YWCA's Restorative Justice Programs. Tickets are \$25 in advance and \$30 at the door. Proceeds will go to the Restorative Justice Programs. Call YWCA at (608) 784-7322 for more information.

**Ann Kappauf of New Horizons** reports that they have some new programs coming in October, one program is Safe Havens along with Family Resources and Domestic Violence along with the La Crosse Police Department and outreach in Trempealeau County.

**Jill Billings of the County Board** reports that the County Ambassador Program will have its 1<sup>st</sup> session of administration in the capital yesterday. They will take issues to the capital. Health and Human Services Day in the capital; send email to Jill if you would like it to be passed on.

**Mike Desmond of the Boys and Girls Club** reports that they need a citizen member for the Criminal Justice Council. This committee is enlightening about actual process; information; as there are a lot of myths out there about criminal justice. Jane Klekamp put a presentation together and will be talking about it to the committee. Perhaps Jane could do this presentation for the Family Policy Board. Perhaps this could be a future agenda item.

Mike reports that the roof collapsed at the West Salem Boys and Girls Club and they are currently using a vacant church and paying only the utilities and this is available until the end of the month. Mike asked if anyone knows of any buildings in West Salem that might be available for the Boys and Girls Club.

**MEETING ADJOURNED AT 1:00 P.M.**

**NEXT MEETING IS: Thursday, February 17, 2011.**

Approved February 17, 2011, Tammy Hoskins, Recorder