

## **FAMILY POLICY BOARD COMMITTEE**

Thursday, February 17, 2011

Health & Human Services Building – Basement Auditorium

12:00 p.m.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Liz Beard, Jill Billings, Todd Bjerke, Janet Chaney, Chris Clair, Chris Crye, Mike Desmond, Gloria Doyle, Sheila Garrity, Grace Jones, Ann Kramer, Janet Kusch, Stephanie Mancuso, Mary Meehan-Strub, Tom Miller, Debbie Olufs, Mike Schnitzius, Sarah Spah, Beth Sullivan, Jeffrey Trotnic, Julie Van Dunk, Jason Witt and Joie Zimmerman

**STAFF & GUESTS:** Diane Gates and Jen Timm

### **CALL TO ORDER**

Grace Jones called the meeting to order.

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Regarding the minutes of 01/20/2011:

Maureen Freedland asked that a change be made to the minutes next to a notation with her name as she represents the Judiciary and Law Committee. Jill Billings asked that on page 3 the statement she made be changed to “It is illegal to have a walking forum” and that all voting should be done at the meetings rather than by email.

Gloria Doyle asked that when using the letterhead that we take Gloria Doyle and Todd Bjerke off of the letterhead as they should not be involved in soliciting funds; in other words if the agency requesting the letter of support is asking for money they should be taken off of the letterhead. Sheila Garrity stated that the Community Foundation and the United Way should be taken off if soliciting funds too.

**AGENCY PRESENTATION - School District of La Crosse-School Social Work Department:** Julie Van Dunk & Stephanie Mancuso

Julie Van Dunk and Stephanie Mancuso presented on what the School Social Work Department does and indicated that they do the following:

- Do social history on families.
- Help kids with transportation due to homelessness.
- Staff trainings.
- IEP meetings (for special education).
- They are community liaisons.
- They are on community committees, i.e., Family Policy Board, etc.
- Do home visits.
- Attend team meetings.
- Make referrals for community services.

- Provide groups, i.e., Bullying Groups, etc.
- Participate in Holiday Needs.
- Maintain statistics on what they do in the community.
- They are on many committees, i.e., Safety Committee, etc.
- They help set up summer activities for kids, i.e., camps, etc.
- They see a lot of parents with mental health issues who are not able to get their kids to school so they help the parents with this.
- They see a lot of kids who are residing with grandparents and try to provide and/or refer for services if needed.
- For more information contact Julie Van Dunk at [jvandunk@lacrosseschools.org](mailto:jvandunk@lacrosseschools.org) or Stephanie Mancuso at [smancuso@lacrosseschools.org](mailto:smancuso@lacrosseschools.org).

**SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS** – any updates? Coordination of Services, Cultural Competency and Mental Health and AODA

The subcommittee for the **Coordination of Services** met today at 11:00 a.m. prior to the Family Policy Board meeting. Ann Kramer reports that they talked about sharing assessments on-line and supporting families as a community. Ann asked if there are people who are not on a subcommittee yet and would like to be on this subcommittee that they can join this group on the third Thursday at 11:00 a.m. prior to the Family Policy Board meeting in the basement auditorium. Ann Kramer will provide this subcommittee's updates to the Strategic Plan to Tammy Hoskins to add to the Strategic Plan.

The **Cultural Competency** subcommittee, Chris Crye, reports that they are in the process of working on a strategy to work on presentations by people who can report what they are doing in reference to Cultural Competency; they hope to get these presentations up and running by March.

The **Mental Health and AODA** subcommittee had no updates at this time.

**CONSIDERATION OF A SUPPORT LETTER FOR THE SAFE HAVENS GRANTS – Diane Gates**

Diane Gates reports that they are in the last year of a 3 year grant (Safe Havens Grant). This grant serves a population of domestic violence in families by providing "safe exchanges" through Family Resources, supervised visitation which just started in October of 2010. Currently 4 families are doing supervised visits. The referrals for these services are primarily coming from the Family Courts and the Circuit Courts. Futuristically they'd like to expand the hours for visitation and exchange programs. There have been 30 families as of January who have participated in the safe exchanges. They are looking at a site possibly on the north side of La Crosse, Onalaska or West Salem.

The current grant expires 09/30/11. They are applying for another 3 year grant and are requesting a letter of support from the Family Policy Board for this grant.

Chris Clair made a motion in favor of the letter of support for this grant, Janet Kusch seconded the motion and the motion was carried by committee members present at today's meeting.

## **HUMAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT AND BOARD UPDATES**

### **Health and Human Services Section Report - Nancy Pohlman**

Nancy Pohlman was unable to attend today's meeting.

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

Jill Billings reports that they have been approached by the Jockey Corporation as they are interested in child protection services and adoption and they have been offered to do a "brown bag" lunch. This is set up for March 21<sup>st</sup> and the presentation will be about:

- a day in the life of a child;
- what an unsafe home environment is like;
- what happens in an investigation;
- and a doctor will come on the bus and explain what is involved in a child being brought to the clinic/hospital for examination; there will be representatives from the schools and Stepping Stones. They will get to see an interview. Judge Gonzalez will speak.

They will be inviting policy makers, legislators and agency officials.

The media is on board for this event.

The La Crosse County Board and the Family Policy Board will be invited.

Jill reports that this is coming at a good time.

Jill reports that she is the chair of the Family Policy Board Executive Committee and that they are looking at the ordinance again. Jill states that they are looking at/being visionary about "what are the indicators of a Healthy Community in 10 years".

### **HS Director Update on Access, Intake and On-Call plans – Jason Witt**

Jason Witt reports that our mission is "Enhancing self sufficiency and quality of life with respect for the dignity of the person served".

Jason reports that they have started the recruitment for the section manager and that they are looking for the right person. They have advertised locally, state wide and to all managers and supervisors around the state. They hope to have this position filled sometime in April. The application for this position is on the County Website.

Jason reports that we are waiting for the official budget on Tuesday, February 22, 2011 and to see what happens with the Budget Repair Bill.

Jason reports that we are seeing changes in the Human Services environment with people having diminished fiscal resources, stressors from the economy, more clients with more needs (people needing services from many of our sections) and higher client activity.

Jason introduced Jen Timm who was on the committee that looked at the Human Services Access/Intake process.

Jen Timm reports that they are trying to get the word out about the plan/proposal that was recommended by this committee. The committee recommended that there be a single point of entry where the client would come and talk to one person and only have to tell their story once. At this point a report would be written up and referred to the appropriate section(s) as to what services the client is looking for or what services may be needed. The single point of entry would also take phone calls and write up reports and refer to the appropriate section(s).

Jen reports that they are currently looking for feedback and what people think of this proposal. For more information or to provide your feedback contact Jen Timm at (608) 785-5708.

**OTHER:**

Janet Kusch reports that she will be retiring and that they are recruiting for her position as Executive Director of the Options Clinic. For more information call the Options Clinic at (608) 775-8380.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Grace Jones made the motion to adjourn and the motion was carried.

Approved March 17, 2011, Tammy Hoskins, Recorder