

FAMILY POLICY BOARD COMMITTEE

Thursday, March 17, 2011

Health & Human Services Building – Basement Auditorium

12:00 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Jill Billings, Janet Chaney, Chris Clair, Chris Crye, Gloria Doyle, James Falvey, Pam Foegen, Sheila Garrity, Bob Hillary, Grace Jones, Ann Kappauf, Jane Klekamp, Ann Kramer, Janet Kusch, Stephanie Mancuso, Mary Meehan-Strub, Jeff Murawski, Debbie Olufs, Nancy Pohlman, Mike Schnitzius, Sarah Spah, Julie Van Dunk, Jodi Widuch and Jason Witt

CALL TO ORDER

Grace Jones called the meeting to order.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Minutes were approved as is by Chair, Grace Jones and committee members present at today's meeting.

AGENCY PRESENTATION – Options Clinic, Janet Kusch, Executive Director

Janet Kusch of Options Clinic provided brochures and a booklet about the services provided by Options Clinic. If anyone would like copies of the brochure and/or booklet they can contact Janet Kusch at (608) 775-8390 or email jkusch@optionsclinic.org.

Janet reports that last year Options Clinic served 6,293 people.

They help people sign up for Badger Care.

They do a lot of community education; they did 270 presentations to 6,000 participants. Topics include: Sexually Transmitted Diseases, Birth Control, etc.

They are non-judgmental and very confidential.

They are seeing more clients coming in with their parents.

They see teens and ask for the teen's permission to contact parents; the teen can choose if they want their parents contacted or not.

Janet provided copies of the booklet "Solving the Puzzle"; you can contact Janet if you'd like a copy or copies of this booklet.

Janet reports that 12-13% of their clients are teens and 60% are age 20 or older.

May 8-14 is "Women's Health Week".

Janet reports that she has a DVD that tells about how Options Clinic was founded and their history.

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

Coordination of Services – Ann Kramer reports that they will bring a survey to our next meeting and there will be more information provided at our next meeting.

Cultural Competency – Chris Crye reports that they will be bringing stories to our meetings: Pat Ruda and Henry Greengrass will tell about a program they are doing. They would like to start with the story telling at our next meeting.

Mental Health and AODA – There were no updates at this time.

HUMAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT AND BOARD UPDATES

Health and Human Services Section Report - Nancy Pohlman

Nancy Pohlman reports that we have sent out the RFP's (Request for Proposal) for the Family Interaction Program. Then the vendors will turn in their proposals and we will review the proposals and then pick the providers.

HHS Board Update/Family Policy Board – Jill Billings

Jill Billings reports that the Journey Home Bus Tour is scheduled for Monday, March 21st; if you are interested in participating you can contact Jason Witt (608) 785-6095 or Nancy Pohlman at (608) 785-6060.

Jill reports that we are changing the time of this meeting to be more in sync with the Health and Human Services Board meeting.

Jill reports that they have had some ideas; for example, having a press conference, doing letters and testifying in front of the Joint Finance Committee. Jill states that we're trying to send a message regarding the budget.

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

Jason Witt reports that the first round of interviews for the Family and Children's Section Manager interviews are scheduled for next week (week of March 21).

Jason reports that Governor's 2011-13 budget request includes a proposal for the state to take over and mostly privatize the administration of Income Maintenance programs. The model includes: hiring – 250 new State workers who will be IM (Income Maintenance) certified and hiring – 1300 contracted employees who will not be IM certified.

By and large, these workers would be located in Madison. Our staff is IM certified.

The services affected are Food Stamps, Medical Assistance and Badger Care.

1 in 6 La Crosse County residents receive benefits under these programs.

Jason reports that he is concerned about client's access to services should the state takeover go forward. The State currently administers a portion of IM benefits under the model, and has a very poor track record in terms of timeliness, accuracy and customer service. The model has failed spectacularly in other States, such as Indiana and Texas. The State is currently under a federally imposed performance improvement plan because of its poor performance.

The state takeover would be phased in between July 1, 2011 – May 1, 2012.

Approximately 26 positions in the county would likely be lost if the proposal goes forward. The County, because of these staff has received numerous recognition and rewards for IM administration performance.

The fragmentation of services that this creates could result in poor outcomes in several service areas (this sets back the "single point of entry" model that Jason and Jen Timm presented at the last meeting. It will likely result in fewer mental health clients being able to access MA.

Based on prior experience with IM transitions of this nature, the impact on local grocers (who take food stamps) and hospitals (which depend on clients being MA eligible) could be significant.

Jill Billings reports that we were working with the State on efficiencies such as regionalization of IM services with La Crosse playing a central role. An example is the regional Change Center pilot. What would remain County administered would be Energy Assistance, Child Care and for at least through 2011, W2.

Some discussion occurred that it may be beneficial to make the Chamber Board aware of the issue.

Jason reports that the State has put a cap on enrollment in Family Care; this essentially ends Family Care, which at its core promised to eliminate waitlists through managed services. There will now be a wait list.

There is a \$140,000 cut for Youth Aids, which funds County Juvenile Justice Services.

AGENCY UPDATES OR ANNOUCEMENTS: Share information on budget or funding cuts that may adversely affect local families.

Janet Kusch states we should have talking points with people in the business community.

Chris Clair states that we should have a sheet that documents the agencies and how the budget impacts the people they serve. Grace Jones states that she has done this and asks that if anyone has any additional information to provide regarding this that they can email this to her at grace.jones@couleecap.org and she will add it to her documentation. This provides the big picture of what is going on. Chris Crye stated that we should also collect success stories as well and what your agency has actually done for these individuals to help them reach their success/goals. Grace Jones stated that we should take a client's story and include what services were provided to them, what helped the client achieve this goal; for example, perhaps they bought a home, etc. Provide information about their success story and how they got there. Jill Billings stated that you could send the success stories to her at jebillings@charter.net.

ADJOURNMENT:

1:10 p.m. – Grace Jones made the motion to adjourn and the motion was carried.

Approved April 4, 2011, Tammy Hoskins, Recorder