

FAMILY POLICY BOARD COMMITTEE

Monday, October 3, 2011

Health & Human Services Building – Basement Auditorium

12:00 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Janet Chaney, Chris Clair, Chris Crye, Rande Daykin, Mike Desmond, Megan DeVore, Gloria Doyle, James Falvey, Maureen Freedland, Sheila Garrity, Lorie Graff, Beth Hartung, Grace Jones, Ann Kappauf, Jane Klekamp, Catherine Kolkmeier, Ann Kramer, Janet Kusch, Stephanie Mancuso, Mary Meehan-Strub, Tom Miller, Jeff Murawski, Debbie Olufs, Nancy Pohlman, Pat Ruda, Mike Schnitzius, Gaye Tylka, Jason Witt, Mary Kay Wolf and Joie Zimmerman

GUESTS: Henry Greengrass, Tamera Hill, Christi Nowland and Ruth Ann Schultz

CALL TO ORDER

Mike Desmond called the meeting to order and asked for a motion to approve the August 1st meeting minutes.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM 08/01/11 MEETING

MOTION by Sheila Garrity/James Falvey to approve the August 1, 2011 minutes as presented; **Motion carried unanimously.**

Mike Desmond then introduced Megan DeVore to do the agency presentation for La Crosse County Corporation Counsel.

AGENCY PRESENTATION: LA CROSSE COUNTY CORPORATION COUNSEL: MEGAN DEVORE

Megan De Vore reports the following:

There are 3 attorneys for the County.

She works primarily with Human Services and the Child Support Agency.

She does CHIPS (Children in Need of Protection and Services) cases.

She serves the civil aspect of the Child Protection Services cases.

The DA's office does the criminal aspect of the cases.

The emphasis/focus on these cases is to identify the problems and provide services.

Children can be under a CHIPS petition and be open and staying with their parents, or they can be in a foster care placement or a relative placement.

The case ends when the permanency goal has been reached.

In 2011 she has filed 85 CHIPS petitions per child, 59 families.

In 2010 she filed 133 formal petitions.

Our Judges are pretty proactive.

The CHIPS cases have court ordered conditions, i.e., Parenting Classes, AODA Assessments, Mental Health Assessments, etc.

If a child has been outside of the home 15 months or more we will pursue an alternative permanency plan.

If an adoption happens the child could be adopted by a relative or a foster parent, etc.

Last year (2010) she filed 24 TPR's (Termination of Parental Rights) and in 2009 she filed 26 TPR's.

In Child Support cases they establish paternity in order for the parent to provide child support. The agency doesn't get involved in placement decisions; this is decided through the Family Courts.

She has court 2 days per week for Child Support cases.

She works with Involuntary Mental Health commitments through Clinical Services.

She does guardianships for disabled individuals, elderly individuals and protective placements.

Chris Clair asked if there has been an increase in Emergency Detentions. Megan did not have that information but stated she would check into this and provide this information at a future meeting.

HUMAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT AND BOARD UPDATES:

- **HHS Board Update/Family Policy Board Executive Committee: Jill Billings**

- Jill Billing was not in attendance at today's meeting.
- Chris Clair reports that June 6th was the last meeting of the Family Policy Board Executive Committee and that committee has established a Marketing and Advocacy Committee. This committee is working with Pam Sharp who is the Marketing person for the Onalaska Police Department.
- The Family Policy Board Executive Committee will be meeting after this meeting.
- The Family Policy Board is trying to model the Criminal Justice Management Council.

- **HS Director Update: Jason Witt**

Budget Update:

- Jason Witt reports that this has been a difficult budget year.
- We knew we'd get no additional levy dollars.
- Steve O'Malley will soon unveil the budget to the Board.
- There will be additional information on this in the future and updates will be provided at future meetings.

Income Maintenance Update:

- Jason Witt reports that last Friday we submitted our official application for regionalization. We are joining a consortium with 7 neighboring counties: Pepin, Buffalo, Clark, Trempealeau, Vernon, Monroe and Jackson. La Crosse County is serving as the Administrative Lead for the partnership. This has similarities to the partnerships that were formed under the start up of the CMO and regional ADRC.
- Lorie Graff will be the Regional Manager for everyone, which will help with consistency.
- There will be staff in all of the counties but the supervisory structure will change.
- There will be a 31% decrease to the Income Maintenance funds the region receives.
- We will retain local control and this should not interfere with the "single point of entry" efforts.
- The State is scheduled to make a decision on the application by October 31st.
- We will be operating under the regionalization approach starting January 1, 2012.

Lorie Graff gave an update on the State's Medicaid Change. The most negative and far reaching impact will come if the Federal Government does not approve the State's waiver request. The State will find out if they are approved for the waiver by December 31st.

Rebuilding for Learning:

- Jason Witt reports that efforts are being made to set up a website with the information from the Rebuilding for Learning sessions as requested by the attendees.
- It was asked at this session if anyone has asked the kids involved in the system what they see as barriers to learning, etc. The school district is looking at this to see how to move forward with this.
- Another follow-up from the event was looking at how to be better, consistent with confidentiality laws, in sharing information between systems.
- Next steps: website, surveys from kids, confidentiality issues and sift through the data from the day.

Jason Witt reports that the next two days the staff from the Wisconsin Department of Health Services substance abuse area will be in La Crosse at Human Services invitation to review our AODA services and provide consultation and training sessions. There have been a lot of changes in the Department's AODA services in the last two years. Human Services wants to make sure services continue to be in line with best practices and what the latest research shows works best in serving individuals with substance abuse challenges.

• **Family and Children's Section Update: Nancy Pohlman**

- Nancy Pohlman reports that we received the Permanency Round Table Grant but the State took out \$50,000 which left us with a small amount for staff training. We received \$13,000 for supplies and staff trainings. We will run 57 round tables through the end of the year.

CULTURAL COMPETENCY COMMITTEE REPORT: HENRY GREENGRASS AND PAT RUDA

Chris Crye reports that they have been having individuals tell stories of diversity and then Chris introduced Henry Greengrass of the Ho Chunk Nation and Pat Ruda of Coulee Council on Addiction.

Henry Greengrass reports that he serves a lot of the same people that we serve and that he joined Pat Ruda's Prevention Network Group. Henry reports that he started in his position at the Ho Chunk Nation in June of 2010 and their focus is to provide prevention services. Henry reports that he found a lot of road blocks to finding services for a suicidal client and that is how he became involved with Pat Ruda's Prevention Network; he states without networking it is difficult to know what services each agency provides and that networking opens a lot of doors. Henry states that he works with families but that he also works with kids and states that he has worked with Jeff Murawski of Big Brothers Big Sisters Program and that his daughter loves Pat Ruda and Jeff Murawski as she has met them through Henry's work with them. It was asked of Henry "How many Native American families are there in La Crosse County?" and then someone else asked "How many in Jackson County?" Henry reports that there are over 200 adult Ho Chunk members in La Crosse County and in Jackson County they have about 2000 adult tribal members.

AGENCY UPDATES/ANNOUNCEMENTS: ALL

Ann Kappauf of New Horizons reports that October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month. Ann reports that on Tuesday, October 4th there will be a Candle Light Vigil at 5:30 p.m. at UW-L.

Rande Daykin of Western Technical College reports that they received a grant in Health Care and that the grant is going to expand the health care field at WTC. He will have/provide more information in the future as they just received this grant.

Gloria Doyle, Family Court Commissioner, reports that the Safe Havens grant just received an extension so this program will continue.

Maureen Freedland provided a handout for an upcoming training sponsored by AMOS, D.B. Reinhart Institute for Ethics in Leadership at Viterbo University, Franciscan Sisters of Perpetual Adoration, The National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI, Wisconsin), and La Crosse County Human Services entitled "Mental Illness and the Offender" A Compassionate Community Advocating for Change which will be held at Viterbo University Fine Arts Center, La Crosse, WI on Thursday, October 6, 2011 at 6:30-9:30 p.m.

Ann Kramer of Great Rivers 2-1-1 reminded everyone that she will be doing a demonstration after this meeting on how to navigate the Great Rivers 2-1-1 website.

Mike Desmond asked for a motion to adjourn:

MOTION by Mary Kay Wolf/Catherine Kolkmeier to adjourn; **Motion carried unanimously. Meeting was adjourned at 1:00 p.m.**

NEXT MEETING: Monday, November 7, 2011

Approved November 7, 2011, Tammy Hoskins, Recorder