

FAMILY POLICY BOARD EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Thursday, February 17, 2011

Health & Human Services Building – Basement Auditorium

1:00 P.M.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Jill Billings, Jason Witt, Maureen Freedland, Sheila Garrity, Grace Jones, Todd Bjerke, Chris Clair, Jeff Trotnic, Janet Chaney, Mike Schnitzius

MEMBERS EXCUSED: Gaye Tylka, James Falvey, Jodi Widuch

STAFF & GUESTS: Mary Meehan-Strub, Renee Weston

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Jill Billings called the meeting to order at 1:08 p.m.

INTRODUCTIONS

Meeting attendees introduced themselves.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION by Freedland/Schnitzius to approve the January 20, 2011 minutes as presented.

Motion carried unanimously.

HUMAN SERVICES OVERVIEW

Jason Witt presented on how this committee fits in with the La Crosse County Health & Human Services Board (handout provided). Human Services is the county's largest department with 235 employees and an aggregate budget of \$35 million (\$12.5 million tax levy) which represents 1/3 of the county's budget. The Department is divided into 5 sections: Economic Support, Mental Health Recovery Services (adult), Family & Children's, Aging & Disability Resource Center, and Chemical Health & Justice Sanctions. Jason reviewed the Department's mission, core values, and 2011 goals. The Department is facing many environmental challenges including the economy, diminished resources, higher needs, and increased regulatory complexity.

Family Policy Board roles include communication, coordination, and collaboration. Family Policy Board Executive Committee's role with the Health & Human Services Board includes providing policy advice, priority identification, and plan proposals. Jason reviewed

- 1) indicators of health with regard to family status in the community;
- 2) key actors who, by working together, can make a difference; and
- 3) proven ways communities have made a difference.

Jill sees the FPB Executive Committee playing a role in providing a community voice to the Health & Human Services Board as they make tough decisions on how the county can run leaner and provide services more efficiently with less in these tough economic times.

Discussion on the Governor's Repair Bill and the ripple effect it will have on the county, children's safety, and our most vulnerable populations. At the next FPB Executive Committee meeting we'll talk about the budget and how it will affect us.

VISIONING EXERCISE

Brainstorming to identify indicators (10 years from now) that would show we have a healthy community for families and children in La Crosse County. This information was captured on a separate document. There was a suggestion that it may be interesting to survey high school students to see how many average hours they're working.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

- How the budget will affect us

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 2:06 PM.

Approved March 17, 2011, Renee Weston, Recorder.