

## **FAMILY POLICY BOARD COMMITTEE**

Monday, April 2, 2012

Health & Human Services Building – Basement Auditorium

12:00 p.m.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Mike Boehm, Tina Cannon, Janet Chaney, Chris Clair, Chris Crye, Mike Desmond, James Falvey, Maureen Freedland, Lorie Graff, Beth Hartung, Grace Jones, Jane Klekamp, Catherine Kolkmeier, Ann Kramer, Janet Kusch, Mary Meehan-Strub, Jeff Murawski, Nancy Pohlman, Pat Ruda, Mike Schnitzius, Sarah Spah, Cinda Todd, Denis Tucker, Rob Van Nuland, Jodi Widuch and Mary Kay Wolf

### **CALL TO ORDER**

Grace Jones called the meeting to order and asked for a motion to approve the March 5, 2012 meeting minutes.

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM 03/05/12 MEETING**

**MOTION** by James Falvey/Janet Kusch to approve the March 5, 2012 minutes as presented; **Motion carried unanimously.**

Grace Jones then announced that this would be Mike Schnitzius' last meeting as our citizen representative. Mike Schnitzius thanked everyone and stated that it has been an interesting year and that this is a wonderful group. Mike suggested that we get more media coverage of what the Family Policy Board does. Mike stated that for his replacement he would recommend finding someone with power in the minority community.

Grace Jones then talked about the recent request for a letter of support and asked for people to be on a subcommittee that develops a process for the letter of support. The following people volunteered to be on this subcommittee: Grace Jones, Nancy Pohlman, Janet Kusch and Rande Daykin.

### **AGENCY PRESENTATION: FAMILY AND CHILDREN'S CENTER – ROB VAN NULAND**

Rob Van Nuland reports that the Family and Children's Center is sponsoring Camp Coulee which will be held June 18<sup>th</sup> through August 17<sup>th</sup>, 2012. They serve children ages 15-17. It is experience based. They put kids into Community Activities at low cost or no cost. They work closely with community partners. They do planting, weeding and picking the final product. They are not able to handle kids with high crisis needs. They take the kids on outings to different places, i.e., Wisconsin Dells, etc. They have pre and post care for parents who need to get to work or who work later. They take kids throughout the community; they had a lot from the school district last year. The maximum number of kids they can take this year is 50.

Mike Desmond reports that there is a camp called "Sunday Camp" which is held one week in August and it is for high risk kids. There will be information coming from the La Crosse Tribune.

Beth Sullivan of Work Force Development reports that they are applying for a grant that is due on April 17<sup>th</sup>. The contact person for the grant is Julie Mitchell and they are asking if anyone can contribute in any way to this grant to contact Julie Mitchell.

## **MA CHANGES/REPORT (DISCUSSION): LORIE GRAFF**

Lorie Graff reports that there were a lot of changes made to the original cuts. The cuts do not affect disabled people, pregnant women and children.

There was some discussion again regarding the report referencing the budget cuts.

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

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

Jill Billings was not present at today's meeting.

- **HS Director Update: Lorie Graff for Jason Witt**

Lorie Graff reports that we continue to work on the issues with the State in reference to the CDPU (Central Document Processing Unit) and their inability to code documents at an acceptable level of accuracy. This is continuing to cause issues for our consortium and is impacting our ability to process applications and benefit changes timely. The CARES System (which is the State Web-Hosted software on which Income Maintenance Staff perform their work) server is overloaded at 99% capacity. We are having meetings weekly with DHS regarding this issue as it is also having a significant impact on our consortium's ability to perform its work timely. In April Human Service Directors responsible from counties in our consortium wrote a joint letter to Department of Health Services Deputy Secretary Kitty Rhoades stating our concerns on the CDPU issue. We wrote a letter to WITSA. Jason Witt hand delivered the memo to Ms. Rhoades when she was in town for the recent listening session on Long Term Care sustainability. If people have concerns you can contact Lorie Graff. You can write letters or go on-line to express concerns as an individual.

There was further discussion about the issues regarding Economic Support and the CDPU and the State whose performance issues are holding up processing of the applications for Economic Support. Grace Jones reports that she contacted Jill Billings and Jennifer Shilling regarding this issue after our last meeting. It is reported that DHS is trying to put the blame back on the consortium for these delays. Grace Jones asked Lorie Graff if a letter from the Family Policy Board would be of any help and she stated that she would check with Jason Witt.

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

Nancy Pohlman reports that we are now totally staffed. We have two new Juvenile Justice workers who replaced the two that had retired. 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor reception area is now closed and is now on the 1<sup>st</sup> floor in the foyer. Child Protection Services referrals are up, Juvenile Justice referrals are up and Children with Special Needs referrals are up.

## **AGENCY UPDATES/ANNOUNCEMENTS: ALL**

Janet Kusch of Garrison Counseling, Inc. reports that they have a new brochure which she provided handouts. Garrison Counseling is located at 319 Main Street, Suite 510 in La Crosse.

Jane Klekamp of Justice Sanctions reports that the Transition from Jail to Community committees are having a Resource Fair for Judges, etc. This will be held in June 2012 at the Law Enforcement Center. Many of you will be invited to this.

Jeff Murawski of the Big Brother Big Sisters Program reports that they received a grant along with Black River Falls to match Native American children with mentors and they also need Native American mentors.

Catherine Kolkmeier reports that they had 118 people at the Health Summit.

James Falvey reports that they have a Community Impact Director opening at the United Way and that Great Rivers United Way has grants available and that people should check their website.

Grace Jones then asked if anyone has any comments on trends:

Cinda Todd of the Salvation Army reports that they have a lot of families currently and that they currently have 7 families and 18 children. Cinda reports that they received a grant to serve some people in motels.

Jodi Widuch of the Parenting Place reports that transportation is an issue for their programs.

Maureen Freedland asked Jane Klekamp about the women's population in the jail and Jane Klekamp reports that the women's population in the jail is up and that it has grown a lot.

Pat Ruda of Coulee Council on Addictions reports that drug driving is a danger and that they are having Underage Drinking meetings/Parents Who Host Lose the Most. Heroin use in our community is increasing and we are seeing more drug overdoses and deaths because of this. We are seeing an increased use of drugs in our community. Sarah Spah of the Health Department reports that they are seeing clusters of Hepatitis C increasing due to heroin use. There is an Underage Drinking forum on Tuesday, April 3, 2012 from 7:00-8:30 p.m. at Viterbo and there is a Heroin Summit on Wednesday, April 25<sup>th</sup> from 7:00-8:30 p.m. at Viterbo Nursing Center.

Mike Desmond wanted to recognize Chris Clair as she was in today's Tribune.

Chris Clair wished Denis Tucker a Happy Birthday.

**ADJOURN:** Today's meeting was adjourned at 1:00 p.m. by Grace Jones

**NEXT MEETING:** Monday, May 7, 2012

**Approved** May 7, 2012, Tammy Hoskins, Recorder