

FAMILY POLICY BOARD

Monday, January 6, 2020

Health & Human Services Building – Basement Auditorium

12:00 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Jason Witt, Vie Matty, Heidi Odegaard, Gloria Doyle, Carrie Jick, Lisa Duncanson, Jake Erickson, Sue Mathison, Sharon Hampson, Catherine Kolkmeier, Kristi Arenz, Isaac Hoffman, Mary Kay Wolf, Bridget Todd-Robbins, Chris Crye, Jenni Loging, Jane Klekamp, Tracy Puent, Mandy Bisek, Ann Kappauf, Karolee Behringer, Barbara McPeak, Elizabeth Wright, Teresa Pierce

GUESTS/OTHERS PRESENT

Julie McDermid, project manager for the La Crosse Collaborative to End Homelessness

CALL TO ORDER

Vice Chairperson Ann Kappauf called the meeting to order at 12:03 pm

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION by Jane Klekamp and Mary Kay Wolf to approve the December 2, 2020 minutes as presented. **Motion carried unanimously.**

HUMAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT AND BOARD UPDATES

HHS Board Update: Sharon Hampson

The board is currently researching and considering the impacts of vaccine exemptions. Expanding vaccine exemptions has had significant impacts on the renewed spread of diseases such as measles in other states.

HS Director Update: Jason Witt

Jason Witt provided a summary of the fall Wisconsin County Human Service Association conference. The conference was held in December and titled “Showcasing Seeds of Change.” Topics covered included:

- The Child Welfare to Prison Pipeline. There are disturbing statistics about the number of adults who were initially in the child welfare system and later moved into the youth justice system only to end up in adult correctional facilities. “Not Enough Apologies” is recommended viewing to help understand the pipeline using a Trauma Informed Care perspective. Our family and children’s system must focus on belonging, forming connections, and prevention to disrupt this path. <https://pbswisconsin.org/trauma/>
- The Federal “Family First Prevention Services Act” will increase emphasis on prevention and keeping children connected with stable long-term relationships. It will impact how funding flows with more of it going to prevention.
- Examples of county change among four Wisconsin counties. The La Crosse Area Family Collaborative and Youth System of Care from La Crosse county were highlighted, with Isaac Hoffman and Bridget Todd-Robbins presenting.

COLLABORATION PRESENTATION: La Crosse Collaborative to End Homelessness

2019 Accomplishments and 2020 Direction

The Collaborative was restructured to include Monroe, Crawford, and Vernon Counties. Five "Innovation Teams" have been started with projects that include the development of an online systems navigation tool, working to increase and improve landlord relationships, and recruiting landlords for upstream homelessness prevention efforts.

The Collaborative was rehoused, and they have restructured their outreach efforts. They are now located in the Independent Living Resources offices at 4439 Mormon Coulee Road. Independent Living Resources now assists in assessing referrals and routes them to either a Collaborative Specialist or, if more appropriate, an Independent Living Resources Specialist.

The agency website (<https://endhomelessnesslacrosse.org/>) has been updated and now includes a dashboard, printable brochures, a referral link as well as many other resources and facts. You are welcome to embed this into your own agency site. The dashboard which was added is a repository of information and tracking of a variety of homeless population groups in our area. It also includes a detail asset map of where investments have been made. The map reflects the inflow and outflow of people from programs as well as the outcomes.

Prevention Services have been reimagined with case management support services focused on Housing First Principles. Financial assistance is applied to resolve an existing crisis AND increase the likelihood of sustainability. This is different than traditional Housing and Urban Development funding which assists in emergency situations only.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Jane Klekamp has information and promotional items in Room 2105 regarding the 2020 census.

Mary Kay Wolf shared that the Great Rivers United Way has been significantly less successful in their fund raising attempts this year and have seen a reduction in the amount being given by employees via payroll contributions.

ADJOURNMENT TO THE NEXT MEETING TO BE HELD MONDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 2020, AT NOON

Chairperson Ann Kappauf adjourned the meeting at 1:00pm.

Approved February 3, 2020, Rachel Klistai, Recorder