

## **FAMILY POLICY BOARD**

Monday, October 7, 2019

Health & Human Services Building – Basement Auditorium

12:00 p.m.

## **MEMBERS PRESENT**

Jason Witt, Tita Yutuc, Kristi Arenz, Heather Quackenboss, Tracy Puent, Jenni Loging, Jane Klekamp, Stacy “Sassy” Smith, Mandy Bisek, Elizabeth Wright, Isaac Hoffman, Mary Kay Wolf, Sharon Hampson, Jodi Widuch, Heidi Odegaard, Vie Matty, Karolee Behringer

## **GUESTS/OTHERS PRESENT**

Kevin Schaler – Adult and Teen Challenge of Wisconsin

## **CALL TO ORDER**

Chairperson Tita Yutuc called the meeting to order at 12:00pm

## **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**MOTION** made and seconded to approve the September 9, 2019 minutes as presented. **Motion carried unanimously.**

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

### **HHS Board Update: Sharon Hampson**

Currently the County Board is reviewing Opioid legislation.

La Crosse County has accepted crisis intervention funds from the state of Wisconsin.

Wisconsin Counties Association named Jason Witt the 2019 Friend in County Government for outstanding service.

### **HS Director Update: Jason Witt**

The State Child Welfare conference was held in Wisconsin Dells last month with this year’s topic being how to effectuate timely permanency. On average children are spending about one year in out of home care. The emphasis at the conference was on front end efforts as the first 30 days are critical to connecting to services. The number one thing that affects permanency is if everyone involved thinks that it is possible and works tirelessly to make it happen. The existence of at least one stable adult is also important. Moving forward there is more of a focus on keeping children in the home because removing them has such a significant impact on their development. If a child is removed, the focus must be on moving quickly to get them back in the home.

The 2020 La Crosse County Human Services budget will be presented to the Health and Human Services Board on October 8<sup>th</sup> and will be discussed with the Family Policy Board at a future meeting.

### **Family and Children’s Section Update: Tracy Puent**

Deanna Hoffman, whose is currently a supervisor in one of the Initial Assessment Units, is moving to be a supervisor in one of the Ongoing Units. This means the department will now be hiring for an Initial Assessment supervisory position.

### **PRESENTATION: Adult and Teen Challenge of Western Wisconsin - Kevin Shaller**

The Adult and Teen Challenge of Western Wisconsin is a faith-based drug and alcohol residential recovery program. It is a 24/7/365 facility with 14 beds in a newly remodeled wing of the Family and Children's Center at 2505 Weston Street. The program is a 501C3 Non-Profit organization which does not accept government money and is funded exclusively by donations and fees. The history of adult and teen challenge can be read in founder David Wilkerson's book entitled "The Cross and the Switchblade."

The Adult and Teen Challenge uses a holistic approach to recovery which considers the mind, the body, and the soul. Their recovery system is designed to be worked during a one year residency in a highly structured environment. The Bible based program runs in three month increments and includes personal and group studies, chapel, life skills, work therapy, and family restoration. The Adult and Teen Challenge of Western Wisconsin already has enough applicants to fill the facility when it opens in November. Currently they can support only female applicants and do not take applicants with a history of violence or sexual offences.

In addition to understanding who they are, it is also important to understand what they are not. They are not an inpatient medical treatment facility. They do not have doctors, nurses, licensed therapists or counselors on staff. You must be medically cleared to participate, and all assessments are a cost incurred by participants. If a person requires intensive outpatient therapies and medical treatments for their addictions this may not be the best treatment option for them. There is a non-refundable application fee of \$500 and the monthly cost of participation is \$2000. No one will be turned away based on financial hardship.

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

October 10<sup>th</sup> Census Counting Committee, La Crosse County Administrative Building.

October 19<sup>th</sup> Paint the Town Purple in Vernon County, Family and Children's Center Domestic Abuse Awareness project.

October 22<sup>nd</sup> Open House at Planned Parenthood, 1201 Caledonia Street.

October 25<sup>th</sup> Dementia Coalition Experiential Summit, sign up required – contact Heather Quackenboss.

October 28<sup>th</sup> Rebuilding for Learning Summit, Family Policy Board website has a link to invitations if you have not received one.

October 29<sup>th</sup> Third Annual Family Feud Fund Raiser for the Parenting Place.

November 9<sup>th</sup> Eighth Annual Soup Cook Off Fundraiser for Bikers Against Child Abuse (BACA).

November 12<sup>th</sup> Voices of Men "Call to Action" event at UW-La Crosse Student Union.

### **ADJOURNMENT TO THE NEXT MEETING TO BE HELD MONDAY, NOVEMBER 4, 2019, AT NOON**

Chairperson Tita Yutuc adjourned the meeting at 1:00pm.

**Approved** November 4, 2019, Rachel Klistai, Recorder