

FAMILY POLICY BOARD

Monday, November 2, 2020

Meeting Held via Zoom

12:00 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Ann Kappauf, Barbara McPeak, Bridget Todd, Heidi Odegaard, Isaac Hoffman, Jodi Widuch, Kristi Arenz, Lacie Ketelhut, Mandy Bisek, Mary Kay Wolf, Megan DeVore, Roberto Partarrieu, Tita Yutuc, Tracy Puent, Vie Matty, Catherine Kolkmeier, Jason Witt, Nicole Brei, Teresa Pierce, Tina Tryggestad, Elizabeth Wright, Lauren Journot

GUESTS/OTHERS PRESENT

Tom Berkedal – Executive Director at LevelUp

CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Tita Yutuc called the meeting to order at 12:01pm

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION by Jodi Widuch, seconded by Isaac Hoffman to approve the October 5th, 2020 minutes as presented. **Motion carried unanimously.**

HUMAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT AND BOARD UPDATES

HHS Board Update: Tina Tryggestad – no updates currently.

HS Director Update: Jason Witt – shared below in budget updates.

Family and Children's Section Update: Tracy Puent – no updates currently.

PRESENTATION:

Safe Place – A potential new program for the La Crosse Community: Tom Berkedal is the Executive Director at LevelUp, a partnership to end domestic and sexual violence (formerly Coulee Region Voices of Men). LevelUp is looking into starting a new program called “safe place”. Tom shared a video with us to give an introduction, the link to this video is: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qYqySCzIJ94>. This program would offer runaway youth in crisis a place to go to receive help. “Safe place” locations could be any business, restaurant, organization, fire station, etc. LevelUp is currently in the stage of educating and gauging the need for this possible program in the community. Bridget Todd-Robbins feels there is a need for this program in the community. Catherine Kolkmeier encouraged Tom to talk to the student health center. Mary Kay asked if there is a structured training for volunteers? Tom told the group that the national organization for “safe place” would provide the training. Heidi Odegaard suggested that with two large health organizations in the community with residency programs, this group of individuals would be a great resource to tap into. You would have a continuous source of professionals.

This topic will more than likely come back to Family Policy Board once things are more into place, but at this time we wanted to provide an overview. If there are any questions or concerns regarding “safe place” you can email Tom directly at Tberkedal55@gmail.com.

2021 La Crosse County Human Services Budget Highlights: Jason Witt shared a PowerPoint with the group highlighting some of the Human Services Budget updates.

- Financing Factors
 - o State Driven
 - o Deep-End Focused
 - o Constrained by levy caps
 - o Complicated by uncontrollable costs
 - Children & Youth Out-of-Home Care
 - Adult Inpatient
- Strategic Priorities
 - o More Upstream
 - Secondary Prevention/Early Intervention
 - o Better Integrated

- Across programs within Human Services
 - With community partner agencies
 - With the neighborhoods we serve
 - Trauma & Resiliency (Incorporating the Science of)
 - Serving consumers
 - Supporting employees
 - Creating an equitable community
- Program Impacts
 - Continued Support for COVID – Delayed Items
 - Safe Babies Court – 1 Coordinator + Technical Assistance
 - Child Welfare Early Intervention – 1.5 Social Workers
 - Housing Specialist – at the Salvation Army
 - Racial Justice Training – for Human Services Employees
 - Adding Support for Successful Pilots/Start-Ups
 - Huber/Hintgen Neighborhood – 1 Social Worker (*Cost shared with School District of La Crosse)
 - Assistant Position to Youth System of Care Administrator (*Cost shared with School District of La Crosse)
 - Fresh Start Program – 1 Social Worker
 - New Items
 - Enhancement of Mental Health Crisis Services
 - Additional Resources
 - 1 Supervisor
 - 4 Mental Health Specialists
 - Consultation for Intensive Permanency Services & Child Welfare Community Alignment
 - Community Responsive Innovation Services (contracted through The Parenting Place)
 - Enhanced Community Services Team (CST) Coordination

This budget request will be presented to the board in November.

Continuing Discussion on Development of Policy Priorities, Including 2021-23 State Biennial Budget & Federal Family First Prevention Services Act:

Small group discussion follow-up:

- Home visiting
- Safe places for children and families (foster homes, host homes and respite opportunities)
- Other prevention expansion (community response innovation and system of care)
- Childcare (access and affordability)
- Prenatal Care
- Welcome Wagon

Potential Policy Priorities

- In home services supports (Department of Children and Families)
- Aging & Disability Resource Center funding
- Income maintenance funding (Department of Health Services)
- Subsidized guardianships
- Inpatient funding responsibility
- Home visiting
- Return of 17-year olds to Youth Justice System
- Medicaid expansion

AGENCY ROUNDTABLE

None currently.

ADJOURNMENT TO THE NEXT MEETING TO BE HELD MONDAY, DECEMBER 7, 2020, AT NOON

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

Approved December 7, 2020, Tiffany Cornell, Recorder