

FAMILY POLICY BOARD

Monday, December 7, 2020

Meeting Held via Zoom

12:00 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Kristi Arenz, Karolee Behringer, Nicole Brei, Hetti Brown, Mandy Bisek, Chris Crye, Isaac Hoffman, Lauren Journot, Ann Kappauf, Catherine Kolkmeier, Sue Mathison, Vie Matty, Melisa Myers, Heidi Odegaard, Roberto Partarrieu, Teresa Pierce, Ryan Stotts, Bridget Todd-Robbins, Tina Tryggestad, Jodi Widuch, Jason Witt, Mary Kay Wolf, Elizabeth Wright, Tita Yutuc

GUESTS/OTHERS PRESENT

Katie Rommes with the Family & Children's Center

CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Tita Yutuc called the meeting to order at 12:02pm

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION by Mary Kay Wolf, seconded by Hetti Brown to approve the November 2, 2020 minutes as presented. **Motion carried unanimously.**

HUMAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT AND BOARD UPDATES

HHS Board Update: Tina Tryggestad – October and November have been mainly budget discussions. A resolution was recently passed in support of Opioid Response Funds. Jason Witt shared with the group that this year the Opioid Response Funds brought about \$350,000 into the community. Next year there will be about \$400,000 which will also bring a new case manager to help those dealing with substance abuse issues.

HS Director Update: Jason Witt – The federal funding that was available for the County to support the homeless population at the Econolodge site ended in October. In recent weeks, the County initiated a new program to provide for homeless individuals who are COVID positive or waiting for results that didn't have a place to go. These individuals are now being offered shelter in the Gundersen hotel for quarantining or while waiting to receive their test results. Meals for these individuals are being provided by the Aging and Disability Resource Center (ADRC). Daily check-ins by phone are being provided by Mental Health Crisis Intervention employees. Jason gave a special "Thank You" to all our partners for working together during this tough time.

Family and Children's Section Update: Tracy Puent – no update

PRESENTATION:

Home Visiting Programs Serving the La Crosse Area: Parents as Teachers (Jodi Widuch) & Healthy Families (Katie Rommes)

- **Parents as Teachers (through The Parenting Place)** – this program has been around for a very long time and is available starting at prenatal to 5 years old. Outcomes show that the program increases family's knowledge of child development and parenting strategies. This program also identifies developmental delays earlier in a child's life. Currently there has been a decrease in participation and there is room in the program for about 8 families.
- **Healthy Families (through The Family and Children's Center)** – Katie shared a PowerPoint with the group, which can be viewed here:

<https://www.lacrossecounty.org/humanservices/docs/Family%20Policy%20Board/12%2007%202020%20Healthy%20Families%20PowerPoint%20Presentation.pdf>. Healthy Families, a program of Family & Children's Center, partners around intake/referrals with the Parents as Teachers program offered at The Parenting Place. This partnership makes it easy for clients to get services. There is "no wrong door" to enter either program. Referrals come in and are appropriately placed based on the need(s) of the clients. This program has been available in La Crosse County for about 30 years. To be eligible for this program the mother must be pregnant, or the child must be 3 months old or younger. Outcomes for this program are for children to achieve milestones in development and early learning, children to be healthy, and children to live in a safe environment. This program also addresses mental health concerns like depression.

Leadership Transition – La Crosse Area Family Policy Board

- **Incoming Chairperson effective January 1, 2021** – *Ann Kappauf* will take over this position.

- **Nominations for new Vice Chairperson** – Tita nominated Hetti Brown. **MOTION** by Jodi Widuch, seconded by Catherine Kolkmeier to approve the nomination of Hetti Brown as the new Vice Chairperson. **Motion carried unanimously.**

Continued Development of Policy Priorities – Jason shared with the group what the next few months could look like:

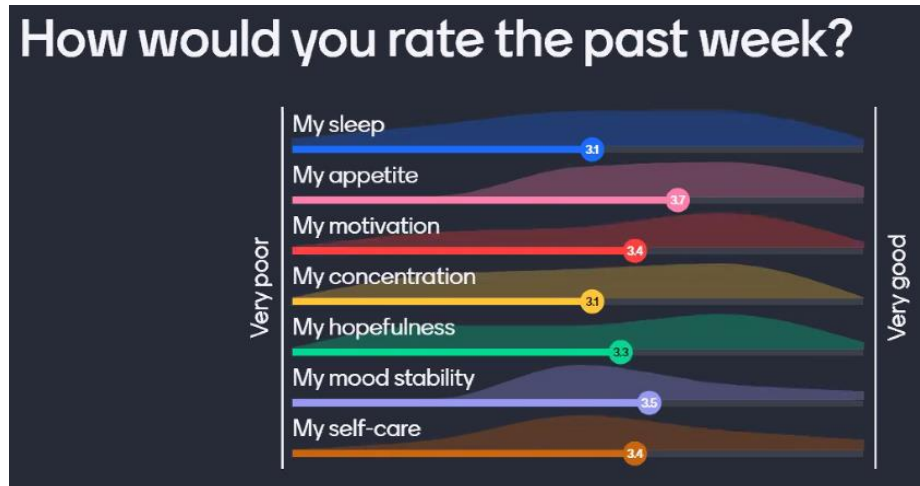
- January-March we would discuss our priorities and proposal developments
- April-June we would focus on Advocacy Activities which include:
 - A possible press conference
 - Biennial legislative meeting
 - Letters to Governor & Joint Finance Committee
- Past priority criteria were:
 - Our local voice can add to the discussion and be *impactful in winning approval*
 - *Fits within at least one FPB area of focus* for children, youth and their families
 - We can articulate *specific and significant benefits to FPB agencies* and the community we serve
 - Includes a balance of items *important to our diverse membership*
- The following lists of items for consideration are being uploaded to the FPB shared folder:
 - Wisconsin Association of Family & Children’s Agencies (WAFCA)
 - Wisconsin Counties Association (WCA)
 - Small group discussion follow-up from October La Crosse Area Family Policy Board

Any other items you wish to be considered can be emailed to Jason Witt (jwitt@lacrossecounty.org).

 - Hetti asked if we want to consider the COVID proposals from the governor and legislators – she will send this to Jason for consideration.

AGENCY ROUNDTABLE – No updates

The meeting ended with members taking the “How would you rate the past week?” survey by Mentimeter at the request of Catherine Kolkmeier. Mentimeter (<https://www.mentimeter.com>) is a company that provides real-time polling tools for groups. This poll showed a snapshot in time of how members were feeling. Below are results for the instant feedback survey.



ADJOURNMENT TO THE NEXT MEETING TO BE HELD MONDAY, JANUARY 4, 2021, AT NOON

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

Approved January 4, 2020, Tiffany Cornell, Recorder