

FAMILY POLICY BOARD

Monday, November 7, 2022

Hybrid Meeting (option to meet in person or via Zoom)

Meeting Held via Zoom

12:00 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Mike Baroni, Sandy Brekke, Gina Brown, Hetti Brown, Michelle Burkhardt, Liz Evans Isaac Hoffman, Ann Kappauf, Dawn Kay, Catherine Kolkmeier, Carla Lundeen, Audra Martine, Vie Matty, Jenni Moris, Jodi Widuch, Jason Witt, Tita Yutuc

GUESTS/OTHERS PRESENT

Becky Koske (Couleecap, Inc.)

Bailey McNamer (Recorder)

CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Ann Kappauf called the meeting to order at 12:00pm

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION by Catherine Kolkmeier and Tita Yutuc to approve the October 3, 2022 minutes as presented. **Motion carried unanimously.**

HUMAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT AND BOARD UPDATES

HHS Board Update: Michael Baroni shared that the County Board passed two resolutions that address the homelessness situation. The City of La Crosse is looking to address the situation for individuals, and the County is addressing the situation for families. Some of the monies from a 2018 resolution relating to homelessness had not been utilized due to a surplus from ARPA and the pandemic-related funding. The Board has agreed to use the funding to work with families with minor children who are facing homelessness. This will be discussed by Isaac Hoffman and Becky Koske later in the meeting. The second resolution provides assistance to families who are currently homeless, and the intent is to keep the families cohesive. Both of these programs are to run through April 2023. Michael also shared that a public hearing will be held on Monday for the 2023 County budget.

HS Director Update: Jason Witt shared that the 12th annual Rebuilding for Learning summit was held this past Friday, November 4th. They looked at many of the aspirations the community had expressed over the years, including a future where youth and children are mentally healthy, safe from abuse and neglect, out of the criminal justice system, at school ready to learn, and on track to graduate. When comparing to the summit's inception 12 years ago, many of the gaps have been filled due to collaboration and innovation throughout the community.

COMMUNITY EMERGENCY WINTER SHELTERING PLAN FOR FAMILIES

Isaac Hoffman, La Crosse Area Family Collaborative Director at La Crosse County, shared that there was a planning session for families facing sheltering issues. The Salvation Army will not be housing families this winter and will instead be housing adult individuals. Human Services was asked to form a group to assist with the funding, case management, and organization of the plan specifically for families. Becky Koske, Housing and Community Resources Assistant Director at Couleecap, shared that they run the Wisconsin Emergency Rental Assistance (WERA) program which has served thousands of households throughout the coulee region. They will be supporting households by temporarily placing them in motels. This is not a long-term housing situation but will help the shelters to utilize their space as much as possible. The goal is to also assist the families with finding long-term housing. Isaac shared that this would require case managers who can assist with setting up emergency shelter, and a Family Shelter Team has been created for this plan. The team will present at REACH each Tuesday and Friday from 10am-12pm until April 2023. The Communication Plan for family Winter sheltering can be found here: <https://lacrossecounty.org/docs/default-source/human-services/family-winter-sheltering-communication-plan.pdf>

ADVOCACY REGARDING STATE-LEVEL PROCESSING DELAYS FOR PROFESSIONAL LICENSES

Audra Martine, La Crosse County Health Department Director, shared that there have been delays with licensing Social Workers and Nursing candidates which are creating many issues for those graduating from universities. At the state level, they shared there is a sense of feeling overwhelmed, which is due to being a small agency and the request for more money in the budget being turned down, and also due to priorities shifting at the state level. In the meantime, more lenient rules and regulations were put into place with licensure which began during the pandemic emergency, but there is word that this will end February 2023. There is mention of a new technology consisting of an online portal that would show more "real time" information than what is displayed on the current state site,

which would help the employment industry to see where the applicants truly are in the licensing process. This is an ongoing process, and the online portal will progressively display the status of additional license types.

AGENCY CHECK-INS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Tita Yutuc shared that the Family & Children's Center will be hosting Bridges to Better Tomorrows, which will be held on November 10th from 5:30-7:30pm at the Weber Center. This free event will include food, drinks, and agency announcements.

Jodi Widuch shared that the Diaper Bank at The Parenting Place is going strong. She reminded the group to send families their way to pick up diapers on Thursdays from 11am-2pm.

ADJOURNMENT TO THE NEXT MEETING TO BE HELD MONDAY, DECEMBER 5, 2022, AT NOON

Chairperson Ann Kappauf adjourned the meeting at 12:52pm.

Approved December 5th, 2022, Bailey McNamer, Recorder