



THE HUMAN SERVICE CENTER

(HUMAN SERVICES BOARD 51.42/51.437)

P.O. BOX 897

705 EAST TIMBER DRIVE • RHINELANDER, WI 54501-0897

TELEPHONE: 715-369-2215

FAX: 715-369-2214

MINUTES of the **HUMAN SERVICES BOARD**

Regular Board Meeting Special Board Meeting Committee Meeting

Type of Committee: Behavioral Health

Date and Time of Meeting: Thursday, September 9, 2021 at 3:00 P.M.

Person Taking Minutes: Melissa Gauthier

**Minutes reflect the recorder's notations of actions taken and are subject to approval of the appropriate committee and/or Board.*

Members Present: Ron Kressin, Cindy Gretzinger(left 3:40), Maggie Peterson(joined at 3:05), Jennifer Dornfeld(via Teams), Holly Tomlanovich(via Teams), Alan VanRaalte

Members Excused: Nancy Tauer

Members Absent:

Staff Present: Hugo Vargas, Donna Shimeck, Tamara Feest, Melissa Gauthier

Others Present:

I. MEETING CONVENED

Chair Kressin called the meeting to order at 3:00 P.M. It was noted that a quorum was present, and the agenda had been distributed to all members and that the meeting had been announced in accordance with the Wisconsin Open Meeting Law.

II. APPROVE PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES

Motion by VanRaalte, seconded by Tomlanovich to:

APPROVE THE MINUTES FROM AUGUST 12, 2021 AS PRESENTED.

All ayes, motion carried.

III. SUPPLEMENTAL GRANTS

Shimeck reported to the committee that HSC was informed of two supplemental grants that required applications. Shimeck reported to the committee that she and Haselton worked on the applications along with input from Feest to get the applications submitted before the deadlines. Both grants are for March 15, 2021 to March 14, 2022. The first grant is the Mental Health Services Block Grant Supplemental Awards – Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act and is to be used to provide community mental health services and address unmet needs or gaps in services arising from the COVID-19 pandemic and is in the amount of \$39,174. The second grant is the Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment Block Grant Supplemental Awards – Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act that is to address substance use disorder needs impacted or exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic by supporting prevention, treatment and recovery services and is in the amount of \$97,420. Feest reported that HSC plans to use the grant dollars to hire limited term employees and work with Nicolet College with their students in the Human Services program to provide interim services.

Motion By VanRaalte, second by Tomlanovich to:

APPROVE BOTH GRANTS AS SUBMITTED AND FORWARD TO ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE FOR APPROVAL.

All ayes, motion carried.

IV. VACANCY AND RECRUITMENT UPDATE

Vargas reported that there are currently 3 open positions in the Behavioral Health department. There is an opening for a CCS Service Facilitator position and an interview is set up for a candidate. A Mental Health Technician position is open, but there are no plans on filling it at this time and also today was one of the Outpatient Therapist's last day. HSC is currently recruiting for the Outpatient Therapist position as well, but this position is difficult to fill due to a lack of providers in the state.

V. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT UPDATE

Shimeck updated the committee on recent community engagement efforts. Shimeck reported that Bridget Plautz, HSC's Emergency Services Coordinator, presented at the Northern Regional Crisis Grant meeting on August 26, 2021 the Orientation and Training that she developed for the Emergency Services staff. Shimeck reported that Bridget did very well, and response was very good with many counties asking if Bridget was willing to share the resources she has created.

Shimeck reported that HSC continues to participate in the Social Services joint staffing meetings. Oneida County meets on a regular basis and Forest County does not have as many clients in common, so meetings are scheduled as needed. Shimeck also reported that Vargas has taken the lead with Forest County Social Services joint meetings. Shimeck reported that Vilas County Social Services has

been very busy with the Family First training, and she is waiting to hear from them for dates to schedule a meeting.

Shimeck also reported that HSC continues to have a presence virtually in the branch offices and to date 2 referrals have been received from Vilas County and Forest County has made 4 referrals since January. Shimeck reported that Roberta Marcus, HSC's AODA Therapist, has done an informal poll of her Vilas County clients to see if they would be interested in meeting in Eagle River at the branch office at Vilas County Department of Social Services. Marcus has reported that many clients have reported that they would feel uncomfortable meeting at the Department of Social Services.

Shimeck reported that the Northwoods COPE Coalition is working with several local coffee shops on a coffee sleeve campaign for National Suicide Prevention week. Shimeck reported that WXPR and Channel 12 would be reporting on the event.

Shimeck also reported that she continues to be present at the Oneida County AODA Coalition monthly meetings and currently they are working on advertising for the Drug Take Back Event that is scheduled in October.

Vargas reported that Vilas County CST was allowed one committee member be involved in the Back-to-School night due to COVID restrictions, but it was a successful event allowing parents to receive an overview of services that would be available to their children. Vargas reported that the feedback from the parents suggested there is interest in parent training.

Shimeck reported that staff members from the Birth to 3 program, CCS program, and Early head Start Home Visitor program were at the MHLT open house and several parents came up and received information on the programs available.

VI. COMPREHENSIVE COMMUNITY SERVICES UPDATE

Vargas reported that there are currently 58 clients enrolled in CCS and the program continues to receive many referrals. Vargas reported that we are continuing to try and increase contracted providers in this program to meet the needs of the clients, including Recreational Therapy and Occupational Therapy. Vargas reported that the CCS team and CLTS team continue to collaborate to identify barriers and opportunities for the clients that are dually enrolled in the programs.

Vargas reported that there have been meetings with Caravel and Aspirus to brainstorm opportunities for clients that have an autism diagnosis. Aspirus notified the CCS team that they have hired a BCBA and would like to discuss possibilities for meeting needs in the community.

Vargas reported that he has been invited to become a member of the Children Come First Advisory Committee. The CCFAC lobbies and advises WI legislators

on matters related to child welfare, developmental disability services and mental health services, particularly for dually enrolled children.

VII. COMMUNITY SUPPORT PROGRAM UPDATE

Vargas provided a CSP update. Vargas reported that Tami Erickson, the Outpatient dually credentialed therapist, is going to begin working with the CSP team and clients now that Heather Mikkelson is no longer here. Tami will see clients for Mental Health Outpatient services and Kirsten Carlson, Behavioral Health Clinical Coordinator, will also have the ability to see some clients as needed. The Mental Health Techs continue to work with clients in the field. Vargas reported there are currently 24 clients enrolled in this program.

VIII. OUTPATIENT CLINIC UPDATE

Shimeck reported that there are currently 160 clients being seen through the AODA Outpatient Clinic, 192 in OWI, and 326 clients in Mental Health Outpatient Clinic. Shimeck reported that the outpatient clinic is continuing to audit their files. Shimeck reported that she worked with Heather Mikkelson on transition planning for all of her clients. Some clients have transferred to Tami Erickson, HSC's other Mental Health therapist, some transferred to CCS contracted therapists, some transferred to other agencies and others have been closed.

IX. EMERGENCY SERVICES UPDATE

Shimeck reported that there are 112 clients currently in ESP. Shimeck reported that due to staff loss, the ESP staff have experienced some stress and concern in regard to having to work more on call shifts. Shimeck reported that the ESP staff worked together to brainstorm ideas and came up with a staggered work shift through August to help absorb some of the on-call shifts to help ease the burden.

Feest reported that she had a meeting with the Vilas County jail administrator and Vilas County Sheriff in regard to the removal of inmates from suicide watch. Feest reported that they discussed the responsibilities of each department, and that HSC is not able to remove inmates from suicide watch. Feest reported working on trying to set up an MOU between HSC, Vilas County jail and the crisis line to provide support to inmates and staff. Shimeck reported that a meeting with Forest County jails still needs to be set up.

Shimeck reported that the Northern Regional Crisis Grant may no longer be used to pay for the crisis line starting for 2022. In 2019 and 2020, HSC paid \$7,808 and \$6,781 for the crisis grant and the Crisis Grant paid the rest. The expected cost for HSC in 2022 for the crisis line will be between \$45,000-\$60,000.

A. STATE HOSPITAL RATE INCREASE

Shimeck reported that HSC received a memo from the Division of Care and Treatment informing HSC that beginning October 1, 2021, there will be a 5% rate increase from \$1,174 per day to \$1,233 per day for Mendota Mental Health Institute and Winnebago Mental Health Institute.

B. EMERGENCY SERVICES REPORT

The Emergency Services Report was distributed to the committee. Vargas reported fewer calls to the crisis line in August and number of diversions improved. Fewer COVID related calls were also reported.

X. NEXT MEETING DATE

Thursday, October 14, 2021 at 3:00 PM

XI. ADJOURNMENT

Chair Kressin adjourned the Behavioral Health Committee meeting at 4:02 P.M.

Melissa Gauthier
Administrative Assistant

APPROVED