

MINUTES
RICHLAND COUNTY HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
July 9, 2009

A joint meeting of the Richland County Health and Human Services Board and Finance Committee was called to order at 1:30 p.m. on July 9, 2009 by Jeanetta Kirkpatrick in the Main Conference Room of the Community Services Building, 221 West Seminary Street, Richland Center, Wisconsin.

HHS Board Members Present: Betty Havlik, Fred Clary, Jeanetta Kirkpatrick, Marilyn Rinehart, Paul Kinney, Ray Schmitz, Robert Holets, and Walter Gust.

HHS Board Members Absent: Dr. Jenny Myszkowski.

Finance Committee Members Present: Ann Greenheck, Fred Clary, Gaylord Deets, Jeanetta Kirkpatrick, and Larry Wyman.

Others Present: Angie Rizner, Christy Duhr, Diane Cox, Gary Ilminen, Linda Symons, Lois Martin, Marianne Stanek, Patrick Metz, Randy Jacquet, Tracy Thorsen, Victor Vlasak, and Jack Vig of Vig & Associates.

Approval of Agenda and Posting: Motion by Paul Kinney, seconded by Ray Schmitz to approve the agenda and proper posting. Motion carried.

2008 Health and Human Services Audit, Budget Patterns, Analysis and Recommendations: Jack Vig stated that the patterns of the Health and Human Services budget were reviewed recently and it was requested that he come before the Health and Human Services Board and County Finance Committee to explain his analysis and offer recommendations.

Jack Vig noted that the Health and Human Services financial information flows from county funds 27, 40, 53, 54, 56, and 63; and a centralized accounting system reflects the postings to these accounts. Jack Vig reported that the Health and Human Services Department has billings, cost sharing, and permitted reallocation of charges which are very different from other county departments. Unfortunately, this financial pipeline lags for Health and Human Services and over the last 3-4 years the State calendar has been pushed back to the late spring/early summer. Jack Vig noted that when the CMO and the funds managed by the CMO left the county, the county's cash flow was significantly affected.

Fred Clary stated that in 2010 the county can only raise an additional 3% or approximately \$180,000 in tax levy. Jack Vig noted that Richland County is not alone. Many counties are experiencing increasing expenses without an increase of revenues. Fred Clary reported that the cash flow of the county is of concern and the settlements that are due in August may not be able to be made.

Gaylord Deets questioned the Health and Human Services mandated programs and what would happen if we did not operate these programs. Randy Jacquet stated that the

Richland County Nutrition Program, Transportation Program, participation in the Richland Community Free Clinic operations and all aging programs are non-mandated. Discussion was held regarding the results of “slimming down” mandated programs. Randy Jacquet noted that the “slimming down” of these programs puts the agency and county at risk.

Review Historical Placement and Institutional Costs: Jack Vig reported that deficits in the Health and Human Services budget over the last few years have been primarily due to placements, and the county tax levy allocated to Health and Human Services over the last few years has been insufficient to cover the department’s budget needs which was short approximately \$450,000 in 2008. Jack Vig stated that these placements, coupled with the anticipated State budget reductions, will drastically affect the Health and Human Services budget from 2009 – 2011. It was noted that the Governor’s budget proposal was signed on June 30, 2009, but the State is still analyzing the plan.

Consider Separate Placement Fund Account for 2010: Jeanetta Kirkpatrick questioned if we removed placements from the Health and Human Services budget, would the agency be able to stay under budget? Randy Jacquet stated that this should be sufficient. Patrick Metz distributed a historic placement history handout noting that the children’s placements in mental health institutions were costs that we have had to pay in the past, but would now be required in the State’s new budget plan. The projected cost for children’s placements in 2009 is an additional \$124,980.

When reviewing the historic placement history handout, it was noted that the current tax levy that has been allocated to the department is included within the revenues line items. Patrick Metz reported that when looking at a 4-year average, approximately \$401,839.62 would be needed to cover placement costs in 2010. Jeanetta Kirkpatrick noted that included in this average are all adult and child projected placement costs. Randy Jacquet stated that included in this figure are all the placements that our agency cannot plan for. Fred Clary questioned whether or not these placements are court ordered. Tracy Thorsen stated that these are not all court ordered but many are.

Fred Clary questioned the impact of closing the Boscobel Hospital has had on our agency. Tracy Thorsen noted that it has been both positive and negative. Discussion was held regarding a rural regional placement center being more cost effective compared to transporting individuals to an urban setting. Ann Greenheck questioned if the agency is still pursuing a crisis intervention team. Tracy Thorsen stated that a workgroup has been meeting to begin developing this team. An institution diversion plan and related savings handout was distributed. It was noted that this institution diversion plan would cost approximately \$69,072 to implement, but could save approximately \$81,430 annually when averaged over a 4-year period.

Discussion was held regarding the relationship the agency has with law enforcement. Randy Jacquet stated that the agency is not only working on developing a better relationship with local law enforcement, but is also working on being medically certified for crisis intervention by the end of 2009. Discussion was held regarding the reliability of the Comprehensive Community Services (CCS) Program and Medical Assistance

revenues. Tracy Thorsen stated that she is more confident this year with CCS, as we are receiving the revenues just as we have projected. Lori Thuli noted that management is closely tracking the CCS revenues and expenses monthly.

Larry Wyman questioned whether or not the agency can afford what they have been doing given the current economic times. Ann Greenheck questioned what thoughts we have for the future. Jack Vig stated that the Health and Human Services Department must look at “surgical” cuts, as each cut has potential reductions in revenue as well, and doing blanket reductions to this agency doesn’t always save money.

Ray Schmitz questioned if the agency has maximized all their revenues. Jack Vig noted that the agency has maximized all revenues, but the difficult collection of cost share payments is something that all counties face. Lori Thuli stated that all parents are billed for detention costs, but per statutes, if we don’t receive the payment the enforcement of the payment must go before legal counsel. Lori Thuli noted that we are still working on this collection process, but this is the best process we’ve come up with as many of our families are too poor to pay.

Review Budget Reduction Measures 2007-2010: A handout was distributed that reflected the budget reduction measures the agency has already taken. It was not discussed in detail.

Discuss 2010 Health and Human Services Budget in Light of New State Budget Passage: Randy Jacquet reported that if no changes were made, the agency is anticipating a \$478,000 overage for 2010 excluding children’s placements of an additional \$124,980. Randy Jacquet noted that he and Patrick Metz have met with managers individually to develop a plan.

Jack Vig noted that historically the county has supported this Health and Human Services Department appropriately, but times have changed and the State has routinely supplied start-up funds for a few years but then changed their reimbursement methods. Jack Vig reported that various counties are considering only providing law enforcement and human services programs if these tough economic times continue.

Citizen Comments: None.

Decide on Next Steps in 2010 Health and Human Services Budget Process: It was noted that the 2009 and 2010 budget issues that the Health and Human Services Department is facing must be addressed now. Jeanetta Kirkpatrick noted that the 2010 funds earmarked for the Richland Community Free Clinic totaling \$10,000, the Richland County Nutrition Program totaling \$56,000, and Passages totaling \$6,000 would still be allocated to the Health and Human Services Department for the department to utilize as necessary. Randy Jacquet stated that he would like to implement the cuts being considered for 2010 within the next few months of 2009. Patrick Metz questioned if the county is still considering joint services across all departments, such as office supply purchasing, snowplowing, etc. Larry Wyman noted that the Finance Committee is still considering this possibility.

Ann Greenheck noted that the Personnel Committee is scheduled to meet with the various unions next week to begin negotiations. Diane Cox, Professional Union President, stated that the Professional Union has met and they are looking forward to the conversations next week, as they are prepared to offer ideas to save the budget and limit the number of reductions. Motion by Fred Clary, seconded by Walter Gust to schedule a Special Health and Human Services Board Meeting on August 3, 2009 at 1:30pm to review the proposed Health and Human Services budget reductions necessary in order to meet the 2010 budget requirements, and forward those proposed reductions onto a Joint Finance and Personnel Committee meeting on August 10, 2009 at 2:00 pm. Motion carried.

Adjourn: Motion by Robert Holets, seconded by Ray Schmitz to adjourn the Health and Human Services Board Meeting. Motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted,

Angie Rizner
Office Supervisor