

HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE  
December 12, 2024

The Health and Human Services Committee met on Thursday, December 12, 2024 at the Grant County Administration Building 111 S Jefferson St, Lancaster, WI 53813 in the Grant County Board room.

The meeting was called to order at 5:00 p.m. by Chair Gary Ranum.

Members present: Gary Ranum, Diane Nelson, Rick Sanson, Carol Beals (z), Adam Day, Rich Dhyanchand, Holly Muench.

Members Absent: Neil Martin

Others Present: Department of Social Services - CeCe Fishnick, Interim Director; Health Department - Kessa Klaas, Health Officer; Amy Miller, Asst. Director.

Others Absent: Robert Keeney, County Board Chairman; Nate Dreckman, County Administrator; LeaAnne Smith, Office & Financial Coordinator.

The meeting was found to be in compliance with the open meeting laws. Adam Day made a motion to approve the agenda, second by Rick Sanson, motion carried.

**Health and Human Services Minutes November 14<sup>th</sup>, 2024:** Diane Nelson made a motion to approve the Health and Human Services minutes; Adam Day seconded the motion, the motion carried.

**Citizen Comments-** None

**HEALTH DEPARTMENT FINANCIAL REPORTS:**

**VOUCHERS AND CREDIT CARD:** The Board reviewed the vouchers and credit card accounts. Adam Day made a motion to approve the vouchers and credit card, seconded by Rick Sanson, motion carried.

**MONTHLY FINANCIAL REPORT:** The Board reviewed the monthly financial report. Adam Day made a motion to accept the monthly financial report, seconded by Rick Sanson, motion carried.

**SEMINARS AND TRAINING COSTS:** Informational only.

**Community Needs Assessment Priorities:** Kessa shared the finalized report with the board. Kessa explained the report and who was all involved in the report. Kessa will post the report on the Health Departments website. Adam Day made a motion to approve the report, seconded by Rich Dhyanchand, motion carried.

**Health Department Health Officer Report**

Kessa stated Pertussis is slowing down and there has not been a case since middle of November. Kessa stated the COVID and Flu vaccines from last year September to December there has been 300 more COVID vaccines this year and the same number of influenza vaccines. Rick Sanson made a motion to approve the Director's report, seconded by Adam Day, motion carried.

**Health Department Assistant Director's Report** – Amy stated their patient census is the same from where we were last time. Amy stated one of the physical therapist the Health Department contracts

with will be sending new rates and she will hopefully know the rate by next month. Amy stated contracts for physical therapy is getting expensive. It was asked if something was being done in house for physical therapy. Amy stated they were as it was part of the wage review done. It was recommended to leave where it was to get the nurses higher. Amy stated she was told Unified was going to be put on our schedule and they have physical therapist there. Once this happens it would be the time to address this. Amy stated our physical therapy rate is very low and Unified rate is quite a bit higher. Amy explained currently the Health Department pays their LTE, \$50 an hour and if they would become fulltime they would have to drop with benefits to \$32 an hour. Amy stated they will see what the physical therapy contract comes in at as they are more expensive, but are utilized the most besides are own. Carol Beals stated this was the exact argument that was used with Unified; it was more cost effective to put the position on the books then to contract it out. Adam Day asked where the staffing was at. Kessa stated there is still an opening for a Public Health Nurse. Amy stated there is an opening for a Homecare Hospice float, but have not been actively recruiting for it due to staffing and patient census, etc. Amy stated there is an opening for a Hospice Social Worker open that needs to be filled. Kessa stated there is a fulltime physical therapist that has been open for three years and have had no applications for it due to the pay rate being too low. Diane Nelson made a motion to approve the Assistant Director's report, seconded by Rich Dyanchand, motion carried.

#### **DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES FINANCIAL REPORTS:**

**VOUCHERS:** The Board reviewed the Voucher Accounts. Rick Sanson made a motion to approve the vouchers, seconded by Adam Day, motion carried.

**MONTHLY FINANCIAL REPORT:** The Board reviewed the Monthly Financial report. Rick Sanson made a motion to approve the monthly financial report, seconded by Rich Dyanchand, motion carried.

**SEMINARS AND TRAINING COSTS:** The Board reviewed the seminar and training costs. Board accepted the Seminars and Training report as informational.

**APS Policy Update -** CeCe stated she met with Ben Gavinski and Dustin Bierman; they made the updates; added "excluding the primary residence"; APS was added to the title. This was sent to Attorney Ben Wood; he said to take number 5 "the exceptions" completely off; if we have anything outside the norm we will follow Chapter 54 and 55 in determining if we could help someone. Adam Day made a motion to approve the APS policy and take to the full county board, seconded by Rick Sanson, motion carried.

**After hours beeper calls:** CeCe stated dispatch contacted her for a meeting to discuss the after hour beeper calls. CeCe stated over the next couple months the after-hour procedures will be changing. CeCe stated the after-hour message will still say "contact the Sherriff's Department if it is an emergency" dispatch will still take the after hour calls, but if it is not an emergency instead of calling the social worker they will be able to forward to the on call social worker. IT will have to do some work on the phones to make this work and what the best method is. The Grasshopper was mentioned as this is what Unified uses. The after hour fuel calls will be the same way. The Health Department is also looking into changing their after hour calls. This was accepted as informational only.

**DIRECTORS REPORT:** CeCe stated the Home Energy program has done over 1200 applications and is booked out to the second week of January. CeCe stated there was more information requested for the audit and this was sent on. Economic Support the week after Thanksgiving break was busy. Social Workers have had a lot of calls over the holiday and will probably continue during the holidays as this is a more stressful time. CeCe stated one child who moved into the area from another state Social Services will be working closely with Unified. This child will be turning 17 in February. CeCe stated they have a meeting with Unified tomorrow and have received information from the state this child moved from. CPS and CCS will be working closely to get a plan in place for the child. CeCe stated Medicaid is going to pay for some housing benefits starting February 1<sup>st</sup>, 2025. Wisconsin is one of the first states in the country to do this. This does not cover ongoing rent and expenses, but will help get them into a place and will do ongoing assistance and counseling. They will have to have mental health or substance abuse issues, which is where Unified will come in and the Medicaid is where the Economic Support comes in. Diane Nelson made a motion to accept the Director's report, seconded by Rich Dyanchand, motion carried.

**ADJOURNMENT-** At 6:00 P.M. Diane Nelson made a motion to adjourn until January 9<sup>th</sup>, 2025 at 5:00 PM, which was seconded by Adam Day. The motion carried, the meeting was adjourned.