

BAYFIELD COUNTY HUMAN SERVICES BOARD MEETING

EOC & Virtual

June 22, 2023

**FINAL:
Approved at the
8/17/23 BCDHS
meeting**

Board Members Present: Jeremy Oswald, James Crandall, Patrick Irvine, Lona Schmidt, Stephanie Defoe-Haskins*, Mary Dougherty, Madelaine Rekemeyer*, Sue Rosa*
(*attended virtually)

Not Present: Marty Milanowski

Others Present: Elizabeth Skulan, Carrie Linder, Tom Croteau, Mary Anich, Jeanine Spuhler, Stephanie Eder, Heather Gilbertson, Ellie Webb – Dementia Care Specialist

Call to Order and Introductions

Crandall called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m. Introductions were made.

Opportunity for Public Comment (Limit 3 minutes please.)

No Public Comment

Discussion and Possible Action – Review and approval of the May 25, 2023, meeting minutes.

Motion by Schmidt, seconded by Oswald to approve the May 25, 2023, meeting minutes. Motion passed.

Program Presentation – Dementia Live Presentation, Ellie Webb, Dementia Care Specialist

- Webb is the Dementia Care Specialist for Ashland and Bayfield Counties, who works through the Aging and Disabilities Resource Center of the North.
- Webb gave a brief overview of what dementia is, the symptoms of dementia, the percentage of residents in Bayfield County who have dementia and ideas on how to make the community a safe place to live for residents with dementia.
- A ten-minute interactive presentation was provided that simulated dementia. Most participants agreed that they felt frustrated, confused, and irritated from the simulation.
- Some takeaways from the presentation: make eye contact with the individual when speaking; keep conversations short and simple; and never argue with the individual.

Discussion and Possible Action –Open the Floor for Public Hearing for Public Comment, Input on the 2024 DHS Budget, and/or Bayfield County’s Policies and Procedures for Equal Opportunity in Employment, Service Deliver, and Language Access.

Motion by Schmidt, seconded by Dougherty to open the floor for Public Hearing for Public Comment, Input on the 2024 DHS Budget, and/or Bayfield County’s Policies and Procedures for Equal Opportunity in Employment, Service Deliver, and Language Access. Motion passed.

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Opportunity for Public Comment, Comments on the 2024 Budget, and/or Comments Regarding Bayfield County's Policies and Procedures for Equal Opportunity in Employment, Service Deliver and Language access. (Limit 3 minutes please.)

No Public Comment

Review any Written Comments

- Skulan read a letter from a kinship provider thanking the County for financial help she received raising her grandson.

Monthly Section Reports

Economic Support Services – Jeanine Spuhler

- State issued funds were sent out for the summer fill program which is available to customers who heat with fuel oil or propane. As of mid-June, \$121,000 was issued to 235 households.
- There has been a 14% increase in call volume to the Northern IM Consortium call center since April.
- The Northern IM Consortium is offering overtime to employees due to the increased workload due to the unwinding process.
- Maggie Morrison has accepted an offer for employment. Maggie begins her work as an Economic Support Specialist on July 24, 2023.
- Economic Support appreciation week is July 10, 2023.

Family Services – Mary Anich

- Anich praised her team, in her words, “a great bunch of ladies who work well together and are hard workers”.
- Anich participated in a permanency plan with Ashland County. Plans are done every six months children placed out of the home. The plan lists goals for families who hope to be reunited with their child. The plans are fluid and change as needed.
- Anich attended a statewide permanency planning meeting focusing on the Putting Families First initiative.
- Bayfield County has five children placed out of home. The Red Cliff Tribe, for whom Bayfield County DHS is the Fiscal Agents for, has 41 children placed out of home. Permanency Plans are not required for Tribal children.

Support Staff – Stephanie Eder

- Support Staff currently has a vacant Clerk Receptionist position.
- Eder has begun working on the 2022 Wisconsin Medicaid Cost Reporting (WIMCR).
- Kathy Wolfram-Moran and Eder have begun pulling together documents for the auditors to review during the 2022 audit.
- Information for the 2022 DHS Annual Report is being compiled and organized into the first draft.

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Behavioral Health & Community Programs – Tom Croteau

- CCS
 - Echo is the new electronic health record program used for the program. The system is very new, and staff are still learning the program.
 - Service Facilitators are diligently entering information into the Echo system so that providers can start entering their notes to avoid any delays in payments issued for services rendered.
 - Croteau stated that there have been several discharges in the last week and seven to eight new referrals.
- BH
 - Staff are providing case management for individuals who were emergently detained.
 - One placement may need to be extended.
 - Funds for Mental Health Institutional stays have already exceeded 171% for the year. However, supplemental funds, private insurance, Medicaid, and Medicare are anticipated to offset some of these expenses.
 - Essentia Health has allowed Bayfield County DHS to access their grant funding for the cost of room and board for residential placements. Essential is also willing to provide funding for some of the treatment provided .

Aging & Disability (A&D) Services – Carrie Linder

- Service Coordination in the Birth to Three program is contracted from Ashland County.
- Children’s Long-Term Care (CLTS) staff are busy completing the unwinding requirements.
 - Seven functional screens, four annual reviews, and three new referrals were completed in the last month.
- Adult protection staff recently processed twelve new referrals and established three new guardianships for individuals who were hospitalized.
- The World Elder Abuse Awareness Day (WEAAD) events were well received. There were many positive comments on the surveys from the event.
- Elder Benefit Specialist Marianne Johnson and Disability Benefit Specialist Jamie Mackin were recognized for Benefit Specialist Recognition week.
- Linder hosted a Transportation Coordination Committee (TCC) meeting this week. Most of the meeting was used to discuss Door2Door program. A recommendation was made to increase the hours transportation is available each week from 50 to 60 hours. The most use has been in the Cable and Mason areas. The most common destination has been Ashland.
- Linder will be hosting the first Seniors’ Social Connection meeting next week; the focus of the workgroup will be how to address loneliness and social isolation.

Monthly Reports

Monthly Financial and Training reports were reviewed and placed on file.

2024 Budget Guidance – Preparation Memo to Department Heads from County Administrator Mark Abeles-Allison, May 31, 2023

- The 2024 Budget focuses on two key factors: housing, youth and senior services.

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2024 DHS Budget Priorities

- DHS is advocating for a Mental Health Professional/Service Facilitator and a Children with Disabilities Services Manager/Youth Services Coordinator position which both address issues related to the Aging and Disability Services Section Manager's workload and the growing caseloads in the CCS and CLTS programs.
- Unused space in the County is being considered to address the additional office space needed to house additional staff.

High-Cost Pool Fund for Tribal Placements Award

- Skulan received an award letter for the High-Cost Pool Fund for Tribal Court Placements. Bayfield County was awarded 4.96% of the funds, a total of \$31,872.87.

Discussion and Possible Action –Close the Floor for Public Hearing for Public Comment, Input on the 2024 DHS Budget, and/or Bayfield County's Policies and Procedures for Equal Opportunity in Employment, Service Deliver, and Language Access.

Motion by Schmidt, seconded by Oswald to Close the floor for Public Hearing for Public Comment, Input on the 2024 DHS Budget, and/or Bayfield County's Policies and Procedures for Equal Opportunity in Employment, Service Deliver, and Language Access. Motion passed.

Other (Informational Items)

- Irving stated that as a citizen of Bayfield County, he feels Bayfield County could improve promoting itself and providing information regarding new projects, programs, and partnerships.
- Oswald noted Bayfield County is the first fully carbon neutral county in Wisconsin.
- It was pointed out that Bayfield County is proactively researching options for increasing housing in our communities.
- Crandall stated that Bayfield County is one of the most progressive counties in the state.

Future Meeting Dates

- July/August Combined Meeting, Thursday, August 17, 2023
- September 28, 2023
- October 26, 2023

Crandall Adjourned the meeting at 5:33 p.m.

Submitted by Heather Gilbertson, Clerk III