

**Walworth County Board of Supervisors  
Health and Human Services Board Meeting Minutes  
Wednesday, November 18, 2020  
Walworth County Government Center  
County Board Room 114  
100 West Walworth Street, Elkhorn, WI 53121**

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The meeting was called to order at 2:12 p.m. by Chair Monroe.

Roll call was conducted and the following members were present, either in person or by remote attendance: Chair Kenneth Monroe; Vice Chair Kathy Ingersoll (arrived at 2:28 p.m.); Supervisors Brian Holt, Joseph H. Schaefer, and Ryan G. Simons; Citizen Representatives Monica Los, Penny Scheuerman, Dr. Richard Terry, and William Wucherer. A quorum was declared.

**Others in Attendance:**

County Staff: County Administrator Mark W. Luberda; Director of Health and Human Services (HHS) Elizabeth Aldred; Deputy Directors of HHS Carlo Nevicosi and Trista Piccola; Public Health Officer Erica Bergstrom; Manager of HHS Administration Kristin Tranel; Supervisor for Economic Support Services Mia Anderson; Human Resources Director Kate Bishop; and Veterans Service Officer Nathan Bond.

**On motion by Supervisor Holt, second by Supervisor Simons, the agenda was approved with no withdrawals.**

**On motion by Supervisor Simons, second by Supervisor Holt, the October 21, 2020 Health and Human Services Board meeting minutes were approved. Motion carried 8-0.**

**Public Comment Period** – There was none.

**Unfinished Business**

7a. County Veterans Service Office Virtual Tour and Update

Walworth County Veterans Service Officer Nathan Bond gave a brief presentation entitled Veterans Service Office: Integration with HHS (Pages 5-13.) Bond expressed appreciation to Director of Health and Human Services (HHS) Elizabeth Aldred, Deputy Directors of HHS Carlo Nevicosi and Trista Piccola, and all HHS staff in making the transition successful and for making them feel welcome. Piccola reciprocated appreciation for the participation and collaboration of Bond and his staff and spoke briefly regarding the integration. Discussion then focused on the history behind the decision to make the integration and the success that followed. Bond concluded with an explanation of the various programs available to the Veterans Service Office to assist homeless veterans of Walworth County.

7b. Services for Individuals Experiencing Homelessness

Aldred spoke briefly regarding individuals experiencing homelessness in Walworth County and provided information, as to how Walworth County is coordinating services and assisting those individuals. Aldred noted every year the HHS Department puts on a Learning to Lead training program for their current and future leaders. Part of the program is that participants are given a real live issue to address. Aldred referred to Page 14, which is a write up of one of those examples entitled The Face of Homelessness in Walworth County in 2020. This assignment was given to Deputy Director of HHS Trista Piccola, Behavioral Health Manager Amy Hart, and Nursing Home Administrator Denise Johnson who will be making a live presentation on December 15<sup>th</sup>.

**New Business**

8a. Economic Support Services Presentation

Manager of HHS Administration Kristin Tranel and Supervisor for Economic Support Services Mia Anderson gave a brief presentation entitled Economic Support Services. Discussion then focused on the 10% increase in

Energy Assistance (WHEAP) payments to Walworth County residents in Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2020 in the amount of \$1,364,558; case load requirements that were met due to reduced State and Federal requirements for consumers to obtain and keep their benefits; and the need to prepare for the reintroduction of State and Federal requirements once the National Public Health Emergency has ended and they begin to roll back some of the COVID related policy changes.

#### 8b. Third Quarter Write Offs

Aldred gave a brief overview of the Third Quarter Write Offs and requested approval. There was a brief discussion regarding the report on bankruptcy. **Citizen Representative Wucherer offered a motion, second by Supervisor Holt, to accept and place on file the Third Quarter Write Offs. Motion carried 9-0.**

#### 8c. Public Health and COVID Program Direction for 2021

Public Health Officer Erica Bergstrom gave a brief presentation entitled Public Health Status and COVID-19 Response Update. This is the first of a two part presentation. Discussion then focused on the importance of maintaining and providing reliable guidance and support relative to COVID-19; Walworth County returning to Phase I of the guidance matrix, which includes various recommendations including the recommendation that school return to a virtual learning model; a request by the State asking the Public Health Department to reintroduce public health services in January of 2021; HHS making many of the decisions through their office due to the lack of direction from the WI-Division of Public Health; Part two of the presentation that will include a request for assistance from the HHS Board relative to obtaining guidance and funding from the State; and additional staffing for public health operations including contact tracing, testing, mass vaccinations and on-going Public Health programming. It was noted that there is a drastically different level of feedback between the various school district administrations and ways in which Walworth County will respond; school Administrator meetings with the focus being on a shared vision of what may be the best practices for the majority of students and what the various districts will require in order to support their decisions to offer the option of face to face education; and whether or not the current COVID-19 model being used is actually working. Aldred noted more detailed data will be presented at the December meeting.

#### 8d. Resolution Accepting CARES Act Funding for Health and Human Services and Lakeland Health Care Center

Deputy Director of HHS Carlo Nevicosi briefly explained the purpose for the proposed resolution and requested authorization to accept the funding. Aldred requested permission to accept any additional funds within this category that may become available on behalf of HHS and LHCC. **Supervisor Holt offered a motion, second by Supervisor Schaefer, to approve acceptance of the CARES Act Funding for Health and Human Services and Lakeland Health Care Center.** Discussion then focused on how the funds could be utilized. **Motion carried 9-0.**

#### Report(s)

##### 9a. Holiday Care Silent Auction

Aldred reported HHS was able to raised almost \$6,000 to be utilized for next year's Holiday Care Program.

**Correspondence** – There was none.

**Announcements** – There were none.

**Confirmation of Next Meeting** – The next meeting was confirmed for Wednesday, December 16, 2020 at 2:00 p.m.

## **Adjournment**

**On motion by Supervisor Simons, second by Supervisor Holt, Chair Monroe adjourned the meeting at 3:50 p.m.**

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Submitted by Patricia Sommers, Administrative Assistant. Meeting minutes were approved by the Health and Human Services Board at the December 16, 2020 meeting.