

MINUTES
Human Services and Health 2022 Public Hearing
Wednesday July 6, 2022-6:00 pm
Dodge County Administrative Building
Auditorium Rooms H & I
127 East Oak St, Juneau, WI 53039

The following business will be brought before the Board for initiation, discussion, deliberation, and possible formal action subject to the rules of the Board, which may be inspected in the office of the County Clerk.

1. Call to Order by Chairperson Jenifer Hedrick at 6:00pm
2. Roll Call and Non-Committee Member County Board Attendance

Board Present: Jenifer Hedrick, Lisa Derr, Marilyn Klobuchar, Jody Steger, Mary Rosecky, Jennifer Keyes, David Godshall, David Guckenberger

Absent/Excused: Steve Kauffeld

Staff Present: Director Becky Bell, Division Manager Sheila Drays, Division Manager Alyssa Schultz, Division Manager Angela Petruske, Accounting Technician Felicia Bruyette

Others Present: County Chairman David Frohling, Interim County Administrator Jon Hochkammer

3. Public Hearing 2023 Human Services & Health Department Budget-Local Agency Requests
 - a. Consider requests

Thea O'Connor from Church Health Services stated that CHS has been a non-profit for 28 years. Church Health Services provides medical, dental, and mental health services for children and adults which are at 200 percent of the poverty level or below. Clients that are accepted are either uninsured or on Badger Care. Ms. O'Connor stated that CHS is regional and will not deny anybody care. She went on to clarify that if somebody is in dental pain, for example, and they are not from the area, Church Health Services will still help them with immediate relief and will then help them find an affordable provider closer to home. Ms. O'Connor explained to the Board that staff has doubled from 2021 to 2022. Church Health Services currently employs 1 Clinical Therapist, 1 Clinical Therapist in Training, 2 Dual Diagnosis Therapists, 2 Substance Abuse Counselors in Training, 1 Licensed Clinical Social Worker, 1 Social Worker, and 1 Certified Trauma Counselor and is still struggling to provide mental health services for children. The youngest child being seen for mental health services at CHS is 3 years old. Due to the challenge for parents of low income working household to access care during the work day, Church Health Services provides mental health services in the Beaver Dam School District, Waupun School District, Horicon School District, a few schools in the Fond du Lac School District, at Wayland University, and at St. Katherine Drexel Parish during school hours. Some appointments are also seen after school hours in the office. Ms. O'Connor explained that the purpose of providing mental health access in the school districts is to make sure that children are getting the mental health help that is needed in the least intrusive way possible for the family. Counselors use whichever room is available to them at each school for client sessions. There are 9 mental health staff altogether that provide services to around 300 children in the schools for half hour sessions.

Some services are provided in group settings based on the needs of the clients. Mental health appointments may involve therapy, playing games, and talking. Church Health Service is piloting a program with groups of youth that have similar issues. This year's focus is a child truancy group. Ms. O'Connor stated that a therapist worked with the group and was able to talk with the children about coping skills, advocating for themselves, friendships, learning to socialize, and working on personal goals. The budget for CHS this year is \$700,000 which is not federally or state funded. Funding for Church Health Services comes from donations from Dodge County, other personal donors, grants, and fundraising. Church Health Services was able to apply for the American Rescue Plan dollars and received a state grant for work outside of normal school hours outside of a mental health facility. There is also reimbursement through Medicaid. Ms. O'Connor also informed the Board that CHS sees 4,500 patients for dental care 4 days a week. There are currently 2 dentists on staff, though CHS is actively looking to recruit an additional dentist to their team. Due to the high volume of clients, patients are booking appointments out to May of 2023 already.

Ashley Welak, executive director for PAVE, spoke about their services in Dodge County. PAVE provides shelter and services victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, and sex trafficking. PAVE also provides support for victims in court and/or at visitations. A domestic and sexual abuse response team is also available for victims. Ms. Welak noted that PAVE serves about 1,000 clients per year and averages about 1,300 crisis calls and texts. Ms. Welak informed the Board that PAVE is looking to finish renovations on a new building in Beaver Dam, which was paid off in January of 2021, that will increase shelter size and capacity. PAVE received ARPA funding through the State of Wisconsin that went to renovations only. The new building will have 21 rooms altogether. With the new building, PAVE hopes to implement a safe exchange program where parents can meet to drop off and pick up their children in a safe environment. Ms. Welak stated that the hope is that with renovations, grants will become more accessible based on the number of individuals being served through PAVE. PAVE newly took on servicing members of Jefferson County. A request was also made for funding from Jefferson County and PAVE will be receiving \$5,000 next year from that request. The PAVE Board of Directors recently voted to not inquire about more funding for Jefferson County with the intent on another program taking over for the Jefferson County community members in 2024 in order for PAVE to resume its main focus on Dodge County citizens. Ms. Welak continued that by completing renovations on the new building, PAVE wants to work together to make situations better for the victims that they serve. In addition, the intent is that the building will be a community building, not just for PAVE. The first floor of the new building will be leased to tenant to generate revenue and help to offset the operating budget. Ms. Welak stated that PAVE is dependent on the community for donations. In the current 1,200 sq. foot building alone, housing expenses average about \$15,000 per year, not including prevention educations, school supplies, or cleaning supplies.

Wendy Schneider and Fred Hebert, Executive Director, spoke on behalf of Central Wisconsin Community Action Council. Mr. Hebert explained that CWCAC provides homeless prevention intervention. Central Wisconsin Community Action Council spans across 5 counties and has been assisting citizens experiencing homelessness since 1966. Mr. Hebert informed the Board that CWCAC is requesting funding to help support management and administration needs. Contributions are also received from sources such as the United Way and The National Exchange Bank. Over the last 5 years, the National Exchange Bank has noted around a quarter of a millions dollars to CWCAC. Mr. Hebert explained that 60% of those donation funds have been utilized in Dodge County. Central Wisconsin Community Action Council relies on states and federal grants, as well as donations. Funding from ARPA was received and used towards the purchase of a men's shelter, which Mr. Hebert is hopeful will be in operation by Thanksgiving.

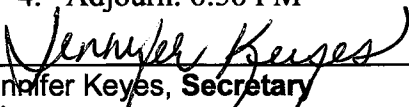
Mr. Hebert informed the Board that the Wisconsin Emergency Rental Assistance program has assisted 197 families with almost \$700,000 in rent so far in 2022.

Anybody on an 80 percent or less fixed income can apply for assistance with rent, energy, water or utilities. Mr. Hebert stated that 27% of WERA assistance has gone to Dodge County citizens. National Exchange Bank and United Way will help with similar assistance when WERA ends. Mr. Hebert also let the Board know that CWCAC has put multiple people into motels because there was no men's shelter. Due to Covid-19, only 1 family can be housed per room at the women's shelters. Mr. Hebert explained that a new program currently being funded is the Youth Demonstration Grant. This helps youth aged 17-24 years old get into transition housing, then active housing. Central Wisconsin Community Action Council was awarded \$240,000 per year to assist with independent living needs for youth that are aging out of foster care.

Olivia Nichols, Director of Rock River Community Clinic, explained about services provided to the public. Rock River Community Clinic provides cost effective health services to Jefferson, Walworth, and Dodge County. The Dodge County clinic is located in Watertown and is formerly known as the Watertown Area Cares Clinic. Rock River Community Clinic merged three free clinics and added one in Whitewater known as Community Health Center. Several of the locations are still heavily serviced by Dodge County residents. Ms. Nichols explained that the merge of the clinics happened right before Covid-19, which desolated a lot of progress towards the Rock River Community Clinic's goal of becoming a Federally Qualified Health Center. Services that are provided included medical health, dental health, and behavioral health services. Ms. Nichols informed the Board that one of the goals for Rock River Community Clinic is to expand the behavioral health services that are provided. A grant was applied for and received for both behavioral and telehealth services. Rock River Community Clinic also provides a sliding fee discount schedule to ensure patient access to care. Another goal that RRCC is working towards is to employ a social worker on staff. Ms. Nichols stated that they are currently operating through referrals to other entities. The main goal of RRCC is to obtain FQHC status in order to expand and meet the needs of the community. Due to a large mistrust in health care professionals, Rock River Community Clinic would like to become more of a presence in the Watertown area and become more of a staple in the community to earn and establish trust of the community members.

b. Close Public Hearing at 6:36 PM

4. Adjourn: 6:56 PM


Jennifer Keyes, Secretary

Jenifer Hedrick, Chairperson


Felicia Bruyette, Recording Secretary

It is possible that individual members of other governing bodies of the County government may attend the above meeting to listen, gather information and comment. Such attendance may constitute a meeting of other governing bodies pursuant to *State ex rel. Badke. v. Vill. Bd. of Vill. Of Greendale*, 173 Wis2d 553, 578-74, 494 N.W. 2d 408 (1993). No action will be taken by any other governmental body except by the governing body noticed in the caption above.

Any person wishing to attend whom, because of a disability, requires special accommodation, should contact the Dodge County Clerk's Office at 920-386-3600, at least 24 hours before the scheduled meeting time so appropriate arrangements can be made.