

MINUTES
Human Services and Health 2023 Public Hearing
Wednesday June 7, 2023-5:00 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 5:00pm
2. Roll Call and Non-Committee Member County Board Attendance

Board Present: Jenifer Hedrick, Marilyn Klobuchar, Mary Rosecky, Jennifer Keyes, David Godshall, David Guckenberger, Steve Kauffeld

Absent/Excused: Lisa Derr, Jody Steger

Staff Present: Director Becky Bell, Division Manager Sheila Drays, Division Manager Alyssa Schultz, Division Manager Angela Petruske, Accounting Technician Felicia Bruyette, Public Health Officer Roman Mullen, Clinical Supervisor of Community Programs Kimberly Kunz

Others Present: County Chairman David Frohling, County Administrator Cameron Clapper

3. Public Hearing 2024 Human Services & Health Department Budget-Local Agency Requests
 - a. Consider requests

Fred Hebert, Executive Director, and Letty Castillo, Dodge County Coordinator, spoke on behalf of Central Wisconsin Community Action Council. Mr. Hebert explained that CWCAC has a \$9 million budget that includes Adams, Juneau, Sauk, Columbia, and Dodge County. Each year, CWCAC asks each county for an annual contribution just as an overall support of the agency. Mr. Hebert stated that Dodge County has previously given \$5,000. Central Wisconsin Community Action Council is requesting \$12,500 to be used towards administration costs. Funding will also be used for the homeless program. Mr. Hebert stated that funding is running low. Ms. Castillo and Mr. Hebert explained that through the CWCAC emergency rental assistance program, they were able to assist with security deposits, first month's rents, and up to 18 months in assistance clients. Dodge County Rapid Rehousing didn't have as many referrals because of the Wisconsin Emergency Rental Assistance program. Ms. Castillo stated, however, that CWCAC could use the funding for rapid rehousing since fair market rents are a current struggle. Mr. Hebert noted that in the past 4.5 years, the National Exchange Bank has given around \$450,000 towards Dodge and Columbia Counties. Around \$50,000 per year also goes towards Crisis clients. No administrative money comes out of that \$450,000. Mr. Hebert also stated that there are no federal requirements to receive that funding except to provide information back to the National Exchange Bank. Mr. Hebert explained that 90% of the funding for CWCAC comes from grants. Around \$3 million goes towards winterization programs and \$1 million towards the homeless program. There are also 15 food pantries that about \$2 million dollars' worth of food goes through each year. Central Wisconsin Community Action Council receives about \$7,500 from the other counties that they service each year. Dodge County received around a quarter of the services provided by CWCAC.

Olivia Nichols, Director of Rock River Community Clinic in Watertown, explained about services provided to the public. Rock River Community Clinic was once three different care clinics that came together to develop Rock River Community Clinic in order to receive higher Medicaid reimbursement dollars. Rock River Community Clinic has been working to become a Federally Qualified Health Center. Watertown, Whitewater, and Jefferson fall under that category and Jefferson dental program should be started under that status as of July 1, 2023. The Federally Qualified Health Center status will allow the clinic to expand more. In order to maintain a federally Qualified Health Care Status, Ms. Nichols explained that 75% of their patients must reside within 13 area zip codes per the requirements. Services are open to everybody with or without insurance. For medical patients, the clinic provides transportation, housing, and childcare resources. The operational budget is just around \$2 million. In 2022, the clinic has \$1.4 million in write offs. The dental clinic in Fort Atkinson sees a lot of patients from the Watertown area. Ms. Nichols stated that next year, the clinic will be able to expand their dental hygienic services, fighting that uphill battle with oral healthcare needs for private measures. At this time, hygiene scheduling is about 9 months out and Medicaid only reimburses for adults once per year. Rock River Community Clinic is also looking to start a “vaccines for children” program to get immunizations from the state for families. The clinic is also working on starting a behavioral health program, which will also get a higher Medicaid reimbursement. Supervisor Guckenberger inquired about the number of Dodge County residents utilizing services through the clinic. Ms. Nichols explained that RRCC operates out of the YMCA in Watertown every Monday and Tuesday and sees a lot of Watertown area patients from Dodge County. The dental program sees about 30% to 40% of Dodge County Watertown area patients as well. Ms. Nichols stated that unfortunately, due to provider availability, they are only able to open two days per week in Watertown. Expanding would hopefully help RRCC to recruit and retain staff for more services.

Thea O’Connor from Church Health Services stated that CHS has been a non-profit providing services for Dodge County for 30 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. This amount generally applies to a family of 4 earning less than \$53,000 per year. Church Health Services is currently seeing about 5,500 low income individuals per year. They have mental health programs in 29 schools and see approximately 300 children per week. Ms. O’Connor explained that one challenge that CHS is facing includes finding providers to do those services. Church Health Services has 2 dentists that are open to clients 4 days a week. Dental hygienist services are currently being contracted due to not being able to compete with the cost of that service. Ms. O’Connor noted that they are looking to hire their own dental hygienist because that is a very important service. The CHS medical clinics are on hold at this time due to the expansion of the building. Construction is expanding the facility to meet the mental health needs of the community. Church Health Services will then be able to allow 7 individuals at one time to receive services. Church Health Services is a state certified AODA clinic with 11 mental health providers. Ms. O’Connor also noted that CHS has a clinic site in the Rock River Intermediate School in partnership with the Waupun School District that has 4 mental health therapy rooms. On June 25th, CHS will be holding their first medical clinic for sports medical physicals at that site. They will be doing 4 similar clinics 100% free of charge. Church Health Services strictly deals with low income parties either free of charge or on a sliding scale. For mental health cases in children, parents may either identify issues at home or reach out to school counselors, or a teacher at the school could refer the child into the program. Parents must sign permission forms. No child will be refused access to care, no matter the income. If a child is really struggling and in crisis, CHS will provide services, sometimes as an interim.

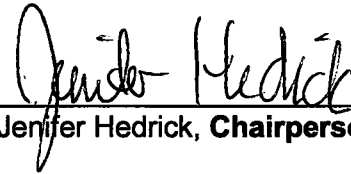
Emily Shier, executive director for PAVE, explained services and recent activity of the non-profit organization. Ms. Shier commented that the previous director made the difficult decision to close the shelter for a short period of time due to lack of staffing. The shelter is a 24 hour facility and PAVE was down to 1 shelter staff. PAVE was using hotel services for victims as an option while they worked on staffing. A total of \$31,000 was spent on hotel expenses while they were closed. The shutdown was from September 23, 2022 to March 8, 2023. Ms. Shier noted that PAVE received a grant to renovate the shelter. They were able to put in all new flooring, paint, add a new boiler, get a new furnace, fix the air conditioning, get new windows, doors, and a new security system, and fix the roof. PAVE provides a 24 hour hotline and a text line for English and Spanish speakers. The biggest problems that PAVE has been addressing is housing crisis, child care shortage, and mental health crisis. They are focusing and limiting services to individuals who qualify for sexual assault advocacy and domestic abuse advocacy at this time.

b. Close Public Hearing

4. Adjourn: 5:37 PM



~~Jennifer Keyes, Secretary~~ Marilyn Klobuchar



Jennifer 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.