

**WINONA COUNTY**  
**HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES ADVISORY COMMITTEE**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**February 8, 2022**

Members in Attendance: Andrew Kranz, Ruth Charles; Dr. Andrew Edin, Jen Whetstone, Jerry Obieglo, Rick Pospichal, Mary Eskola, Commissioner Marie Kovecsi; Commissioner Marcia Ward; Commissioner Chris Meyer

Staff in Attendance: Karen Sanness, Karen Bunkowski, Jon Loomis, Naomi Morris, Melanie Tatge, Rebecca Church, Maureen Holte

The RingCentral virtual/call-in meeting was called to order at 3:00 p.m.

Approve Minutes from December 14, 2021 and January 11, 2022

A motion was made by Jerry Obieglo to accept the minutes as written. The motion was seconded by Andrew Kranz. All were in favor. The motion passed.

Welcome and Introduce New Committee Appointees

Newly appointed members include: Jerry Obieglo, Rick Pospichal, and Mary Eskola.

Determine Chairperson and Co-Chairperson for 2022

Elected Chairperson = Ruth Charles

Elected Co-Chairperson = Andrew Kranz

Jail Updates

Commissioner Kovecsi reports construction of the new jail continues with renovation of the internal tunnel within the current law enforcement structure.

Sim Reporting ~ Update on Recommendation for Improved Ease in Accessing Winona County Mental Health Services

Justin Green was not in attendance but Rebecca Church provided the committee with an update. CJCC work group Navigator Network (professionals) were give a survey. Work is being done on improvements to the roles/responsibilities of an early intervention prevention worker. Survey results will be reviewed. More information will be available by the end of February.

Juvenile Justice Update ~ Prevention Services/Early Interventions Model for Winona County

Andrew Kranz provided an update per Prevention Services and Early Interventions

Rebecca Church provided update per CJCC activity

A juvenile justice flowchart was created whereby diversion programs have been added

Creating a Youth Leadership Council

Justin Green suggested establishing a Youth Leadership Council. Since Justin is not in attendance at today's meeting, the agenda item is table for a future meeting

In Winona County there is not a Youth Leadership Council, however an Extended Foster Care system is in place that's assigned to Winona County Health & Human Services Child and Family Services Social Worker, Tessa Diepenbrock. Tessa has approximately ten 17 – 21 year olds on her caseload. Winona County could be seen as doing Youth Leadership through Extended Foster Care services which keeps teens in the system, helps them be independent, and provides funds, support, and options.

It's reported last week in Winona County alone, 12 children were removed out of home due to drug issues in the household. Removals happen where drug use and Law Enforcement are involved arresting parents. Children are unsafe with homemade meth now being produced. "Shake and bake" meth is made in the microwave and is very dangerous. Winona County has 52% kinship placements in comparison to the statewide rate of 35%. What can be done? Consider being a foster parent. Details about becoming a foster parent is posted on the Winona County Human Services webpage. The Committee requests to receive a report from Tessa Diepenbrock specifically more information about teens in foster care and how they may best be supported.

***Winona County  
Health & Human Services Advisory Committee  
Meeting Minutes  
February 8, 2022***

The Committee also requests to receive a report from Sheriff Ron Ganrude on meth use in Winona, in particular “shake and bake” home method of process the drug to determine its impacts on Child Protection services.

Winona County COVID-19 Response Update

Winona County Public Health Manager, Melanie Tatge provided the Committee with an update on Winona County’s COVID-19 response. [Click here](#) for a recap of the updates provided.

Updates from Committee Members

Commissioner Kovecsi: Mental health training offerings through Hiawatha Valley Mental Health Center (HVMHC) are posted on their website

Jen Whetstone: Kathryn Meyers has been hired by HVMHC to work in the School Linked Program

Naomi Morris: Food (SNAP) benefits now has a new app – Mobile Benefits. The application process has been greatly shortened to one that can be completed in 10 – 15 minutes to apply for benefits.

Rick Pospichal: Rick works with CareerForce in Winona and reports they do outreach with the community. Examples include outreach conducted at the Public Library and at the Day Treatment Center.

Next Meeting

The next Winona County Health and Human Services Advisory Committee meeting is scheduled for April 12, 2022, starting at 3 p.m. via RingCentral virtual/call-in meeting arrangements. An email containing sign-in details will go out to committee members approximately one week in advance of the meeting.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 4:30 p.m.

*Minutes respectfully submitted by Ruth Charles*