

WINONA COUNTY
HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Draft Meeting Minutes
April 12, 2022

Members in Attendance: Andrew Kranz, Ruth Charles; Dr. Andrew Edin, Jen Whetstone, Jerry Obieglo, Mary Eskola, Tim Hopkins, Commissioner Marie Kovecsi;

Others in Attendance: Vanessa Southworth~ Community Wellbeing Director/Live Well Winona

Staff in Attendance: Melanie Frazier, Kendra Mann

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

Approve Minutes from February 8, 2022

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

Community HUB Program Overview/Discussion for MOU

Vanessa Southworth, Community Wellbeing Director with Live Well Winona provided a Power Point presentation on the Winona Community HUB ~ Pathways to Well Being. There are currently 59 participants in the HUB. There are five Community Connectors across four Community Care Agencies as follows:

- Winona Health
- Hiawatha Valley Mental Health Center
- Family & Children's Center
- Winona Volunteer Services

The Community HUB also helps to identify gaps in services to community members and assists with advocating by facilitating conversations toward filling gaps in community needs. A gap identified by Mary Eskola was access to oral health for recipients of Medicaid and how to get local dental providers on-board with providing services.

To view the full Power Point presentation provided at today's meeting, [click here](#). The Community HUB is seeking the Committee's support for Winona County's participation at whatever level of commitment deemed feasible. A motion was made by Andrew Kranz to table a vote until the next meeting when Power Point information provided by Vanessa could be distributed to all and more thoroughly reviewed. Mary Eskola seconded the motion. All were in favor. The motion passed.

Jail Updates

Andrew Kranz reports good progress being made on the new jail. Wall blocks are being erected. Construction is on track for occupancy/use in September 2023. Plans for dispatch going into the former jail portion of the current structure is being considered due to phone wiring ports being more secure at that locale.

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

Justin Green was not in attendance to provide an update therefore the item was table for the next meeting.

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

Andrew Kranz provided an update per Prevention Services and Early Interventions. Completed survey results have been received. Action steps are being formulated. An item mentioned multiple times in surveys received was the need for assistance accessing county services for individuals with Mental Health/Substance Abuse Disorder.

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Creating a Youth Leadership Council

The Minnesota Department of Human Services supports eight (8) Youth Leadership Councils in Bemidji, Duluth, Mankato, Moorhead, Rochester, Willmar, and two in Minneapolis. Councils are comprised of current and former foster care youth.

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.

The Committee is interested in learning more about the Extended Foster Care system in place in Winona County and would welcome Tessa Diepenbrock presenting at a future meeting. Jen Whetstone will reach out to Tessa to start the conversation. It was also suggested to reach out to other counties with Youth Leadership Councils to find out how their programs are structured for potentials of emulating them in Winona County.

Winona County COVID-19 Response Update

Winona County Public Health Manager, Melanie Frazier provided the Committee with an update on Winona County's COVID-19 response. Winona County is in the low range per CDC Community Covid19 infection level rates. A second COVID19 booster is now available and recommended.

Updates from Committee Members

Dr. Edin: Announced his retirement from active practice of Internal Medicine at the end of June, 2022. He has served the Winona community for 53 years. Congratulations Dr. Edin!

Commissioner Kovecsi: Shared clean water protection is part of Public Health. A watershed plan/option display is currently at the Winona History Center until 4/25/2022. The display is entitled "We are Water". A clean up of Speltz Creek is scheduled for 4/16/2022. Volunteers for the cleanup are meeting at the Oakwood Bank at 10:00 a.m.

Ruth Charles: Provided information about the Phoenix Learning Xchange (PLX). The PLX is an interactive multidisciplinary, non-credit certification program aimed at broadening the knowledge of the development, challenges, positive engagement and wellbeing of youth and adolescents in child welfare and other systems. Ruth has a flyer with all registration and program details that will be distributed to Committee members.

Committee Support for 2022

Due to Kendra Mann's retirement from Winona County effective 4/29/2022, support to the Winona County Health and Human Services Advisory Committee needs to be determined for the short/long term. The Committee felt supportive resources should continue to be provided by Winona County to better facilitate the technological needs of the Committee/meetings and to also ensure County Advisory Committee rules/by-laws are adhered to ongoing. Kendra will follow up with Karen Sanness to determine available resources. Karen will report back on this item at the next meeting.

Next Meeting

The next Winona County Health and Human Services Advisory Committee meeting is scheduled for May 10, 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 4:34 p.m.