

WINONA COUNTY
HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Meeting Minutes
May 11, 2021

Members in Attendance: Andrew Kranz, Dr. Andrew Edin, Jen Whetstone, Larry Goodlund, Ruth Charles; Timothy Hopkins; Commissioner Chris Meyer, Commissioner Marcia Ward, Commissioner Marie Kovcesi

Staff in Attendance: Karen Sanness, Karen Bunkowski, Naomi Morris, Melanie Tatge, Kendra Mann

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

Review/Approve Minutes from Previous Meetings

A motion was made by Larry and seconded by Tim to approve the minutes from the April 13, 2021 meeting. All were in favor. The motion passed.

Contract for Child Welfare Targeted Case Management (CWTCM) Services

At the last meeting, Karen Sanness provided a presentation on rate setting and variables that impact rate decreases. To recap, CWTCM is a Medical Assistance benefit that counties and contracted providers can bill through a supplemental health care claim for a child that is considered high risk. CWTCM offsets some of the Child Welfare workers cost to the county. A child is identified for CWTCM through 1) child protection intake 2) child protection investigation 3) child welfare services intake 4) safety of the child is deemed to be at moderate to high risk through a structured decision making tool. The average monthly qualifying children and CWTCM monthly rate continues to rise resulting in overall increased monthly costs. Barriers to stabilizing CWTCM rates and serving more families include:

- Decreased services to families requesting Child Welfare Services
- Difficulty recruiting social workers for temporary positions when there is employee turnover
- Onboarding and training of temporary positions
- Cannot wait list to control the number of children coming into the system
- Employee overtime – costly and burnout

Committee members were asked to consider supporting a recommendation for Winona County to contract with a community provider(s) to provide CWTCM Services. In doing so, benefits realized include giving Winona County the ability to stabilize social service cost/# of children; eliminate the need to recruit temporary positions to cover employee turnover; reduced overtime; increase the number of families that can be served on a voluntary basis; families work with a community based provider vs government; costs are controlled through rate setting with providers. Contractors are required to go through Child Safety Training given by the Minnesota Department of Human Services. If approved by the Winona County Board, the anticipated timeline for having contracted programming up and running is by January 1, 2022. A motion was made by Andy and seconded by Jen to approve support of the recommendation brought forward. All were in favor. The motion passed.

Jail Programming Updates

Winona County Justice Programs ~ third and final listening session to determine next steps is set for May 26th @ 6 p.m., and is open to all via Zoom. The focus of the session is on taking steps toward ways the community and county can work together. There will be three breakout sessions on the following topics:

- Youth Community-Based Programs and Services
- Adult Community-Based Programs and Services
- Restorative Justice & Healing Programs

Key stakeholders will be identified and actions steps will be mapped out.

Karen Sanness shared Winona County has approved and is pursuing filling a full-time Criminal Justice Social Worker position. An email to determine if there is internal interest among those currently in a Social Work job classification will go out. If there is not internal interest/selection, the position will be posted externally. The position is under the supervision of the Health & Human Services Director. Candidates must be MN Merit eligible. This is a grant funded position through September 30, 2023

Determine ways to Support Foster Care Families

Discussion continued in pursuit of determining ways to support those in foster care as well as those who foster. Jen offered to have the Intensive Foster Care Coordinator from Hiawatha Valley Mental Health Center speak at a future Health & Human Services Advisory Committee meeting. Jen will have the Coordinator reach out to Kendra to schedule a date/time to attend.

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

Ruth shared the City of Winona Human Rights Commission passed a Zero Youth Incarceration Policy. At their 5/25/2021 meeting, the Winona County Board will be determining whether to approve or deny a future agenda item to discuss the content of the Human Right Commission Resolution. [Click here](#) to view the Resolution. Follow up discussion per the County Board's decision will be added to the next H&HS Advisory Committee agenda.

Also shared were other items of interest as follows:

- The video "ReMoved" ~ based on a child in foster care that helps to illustrate how childhood experiences, despite the help being provided, affect behavior that is not what is "expected". [Click here to view](#)
- Article by Terry Cross on Child Welfare Reform in Indian County that includes the diagram of Maslow's Hierarchy through Indigenous Eyes. [Click here to view](#)

Next Meeting

The next Winona County Health and Human Services Advisory Committee meeting is scheduled for June 8, 2021, starting at 3 p.m. To remain in compliance with social distancing requirements, a RingCentral virtual/call-in meeting will be arranged. An email containing sign-in details will go out to committee members approximately one week in advance of the meeting.

Adjournment

By consensus of committee members, the meeting was adjourned at 4:45 p.m.