

WINONA COUNTY
HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Meeting Minutes
September 14, 2021

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

Staff in Attendance: Karen Sanness, Karen Bunkowski, Ken Fritz, Kendra Mann

Others in Attendance: Kalene Engel; Karin Sonneman; Kris Sather; Rebecca Church; Renee Rumpca

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 Sammy and seconded by Timothy to approve the minutes from the August 3, 2021 meeting. All were in favor. The motion passed.

Jail Programming Updates/Follow-ups

Per results of SIM Reporting, ease of navigating access to county mental health services is an identified gap/area for improvement. Justin has drafted a plan for consideration in helping fill this gap and is requesting direction from the Health & Human Services Advisory Committee on content/implementation. The proposed plan will be sent to Karen Sanness to share with the Health & Human Services Management Team for viewing/consideration prior to it being placed on a future agenda (October, 2021) for consideration by the full Health and Human Services Advisory Committee.

Commissioner Kovecsi provided the following on the new jail project:

- The Winona County Board approved a bid from Market and Johnson for the construction of the new jail
- The total cost for the jail project totals approximately 28 million dollars
- A ground breaking ceremony is soon to occur, exact date to be determined and announced
- Parking for the surrounding county buildings will be disrupted during construction
- Project completion and occupancy is estimated for June, 2023

Juvenile Justice Updates

Karen Sanness shared the Winona County Board approved at their 8/24/2021 County Board meeting the recommendation that the Health & Human Services Advisory Committee assist in mapping a current state of prevention and early intervention services continuum and provide a proposal for a future state of prevention services and early intervention continuum for all children at risk of out-of-home-placement. In 2020, Winona County spent 2.3 million dollars in out of home placement costs. Without a Title IV-E Agreement with the Department of Corrections, children in the Juvenile Justice system cannot access prevention services. It's suggested currently available community resources be utilized as enhanced/streamlined juvenile justice programming plans are formulated moving forward. The data indicates incarceration of juveniles by Winona County is not a problems since there have been very few since 2015. Educating the public to change juvenile justice misconceptions is needed.

There's concern the work of this Committee and that of the Juvenile Justice Committee could be duplicated. In order to avoid duplication of effort the Health & Human Services Advisory Committee will review the Juvenile Justice Committee information per the link provided by Kalene. Committee members are asked to email their questions/comments/input to Kendra by end of business day on Friday 10/1/2021 to be compiled and distributed with the agenda packet sent to committee members in preparation for the 10/12/2021 H&HS Advisory Committee meeting.

Winona County COVID-19 Response Update

Karen Sanness reports a surge in the number of positive COVID-19 cases in Winona County. Unvaccinated are primarily the population infected, though there have been a small number of breakthrough cases. Winona County is focusing on increasing its COVID-19 vaccination campaign. Approximately 60% of Winona County residents have received their COVID-19 vaccination. Some planning has been in the works in preparation for mass vaccination of COVID-19 booster shots if/when a booster is FDA approved.

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Updates from Committee Members

Dr. Edin reports incidents of breakthrough COVID-19 being seen, however cases of those having received COVID-19 vaccination are not severe enough where hospitalization is necessary.

Marie appealed to Committee members to provide testimonial with local COVID-19 Compassion Campaigns to encourage others to get vaccinated

Jen provided update on the progress of the Alternative Response Team (ART). 1 FTE mental health worker has been hired and is currently in training. It is anticipated by 10/1/2021 that individual will begin taking/responding to ART calls/needs. A second FTE mental health position has been posted. Preferred qualifications include a bachelor's degree in Social Work or Psychology with emphasis and/or background in Health and Human Services.

Next Meeting

The next Winona County Health and Human Services Advisory Committee meeting is scheduled for October 12, 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 4:35 p.m.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Kendra Mann.