FAMILY POLICY BOARD COMMITTEE
Monday, April 7, 2014
Health & Human Services Building – Basement Auditorium
12:00 p.m.


GUESTS: Jeff Murawski, Beth Plummer and Raj Ramnarace

CALL TO ORDER
Pat Ruda called the meeting to order at 12:04 p.m. and then asked for a motion to approve the March 3, 2014 meeting minutes.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM 03/03/14 MEETING
MOTION by Grace Jones/Vicki Burke to approve the March 3, 2014 minutes as presented; Motion carried unanimously.

HUMAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT AND BOARD UPDATES:

- **HHS Board Update/Family Policy Board Executive Committee:** Karin Johnson
  - Karin Johnson reports that the county’s grant for the Car Seat Safety Program is over but the County Board wants to continue to administer the program for car seat education and inspection.
  - The County Board continues to support Ophelia’s House and is looking forward to an upcoming evaluation of the program by the National Institute of Corrections.
  - Karin reports that this is her last meeting as she is finishing school and her term on the County Board.

- **HS Director Update:** Jason Witt
  - Jason Witt reports that the Affordable Care Act had its last mass enrollment and it was the largest we have had; Jason reports that he doesn’t have any concrete numbers yet to share with this committee for this meeting, but data is being gathered for presentation at a future meeting. Sheila Garrity/Grace Jones made a motion to have the Family Policy Board do a letter thanking volunteers and Human Services staff for their efforts in the Affordable Care Act Enrollment and to submit this to the La Crosse Tribune. There will be a couple of other events around the Affordable Care Act.
  - Jason reports that we have had a vacancy in Human Services for some time for a Business Analyst and we have now hired Lindsey Menard for this position and she starts in May.
  - We have received word that La Crosse County will be receiving a substantial increase in its allocation for the Children’s Long Term Support (CLTS) Waivers program. CLTS provides services to support children with developmental, physical or severe emotional disabilities. There are currently approximately 140 children on a waitlist for these services, and the additional funding will help serve a significant number of those children.
  - The onsite visit to Madison to learn about the neighborhood-based human services delivery model is still in the process of being scheduled. There has been a significant amount of community interest in the exploration of this model. We expect to have a date firmed up within the next couple of weeks. Anyone who is interested in joining the visit should email Jason.

- **Family and Children’s Section Update:** Nancy Pohlman
  - Nancy Pohlman reports that May is National Foster Care Month.
  - We have a huge need for foster homes.

AGENCY PRESENTATION: Jobs for Life/Neighborhood City Church: Chris Crye

Chris Crye talked about their program entitled “Jobs for Life” and provided a handout. Chris reports that Jobs for Life provides the following:

- Helps clients find meaningful work.
They have a trainer.
They work with Temp. Agencies.
The class is a 12 week session; they teach it in a biblical context.
The work in itself has value and provides dignity.
They look at the obstacles.
They talk about interviewing skills.
They identify interests and what they can do.
They help them put together resumes.
They have employers tell what they are looking for.
They attend graduation and connect them with employers.
People can refer people to this program.
If you have anyone that would benefit from this program have them call.
The next class is in the Fall.

WORK GROUP UPDATES:

1) Mental Health and Substance Abuse:
   Jason Witt reports that we have been having each group report to the Executive Committee and then to the County Board (providing them with their recommendations). On 03/24/14 the Mental Health and Substance Abuse Subcommittee reported to the Executive Committee; they will be taking their recommendations to the County Board tomorrow night 4/8/14. On 04/28/14 the Economic Security Subcommittee will report to the Executive Committee.

2) Economic Security:
   Mary Kay Wolf reports that they have two outcomes they are working on. They are looking at the need for a Financial Literacy Center.

3) Safe and Healthy Environment:
   Jodi Widuch reports that they met today with Denise Olson-Dorff regarding Trauma Informed Care. They will be developing a survey. They haven’t gotten to their recommendations yet.

UPDATES:

Majel Olson introduced herself as she is a new member and she comes to this committee from Consumer Credit Counseling.
Sheila Garrity reports that the La Crosse Community Foundation has moved. She reported that there is a Human Trafficking Presentation on June 1st at the Lunda Center.
Ann Kappauf reports that April is Child Abuse Prevention Month and Sexual Abuse Awareness Month.
Catherine Kolkmeier reports that there will be a Health Summit on May 2nd from 8:00-12:15 with a speaker on Health Equity. Call Catherine for more information at 785-5151.
Mary Kay Wolf reports that the Great Rivers United Way grant application is due May 1st.
Pat Ruda wanted to report for Mike Desmond that the Heroin Task Force will be providing their recommendations to the Health and Human Services Board and there is legislation with the governor to be signed. We have an epidemic of heroin overdoses in this State. There is a drug called NARCAN that can stop the overdose and it is put into a muscle with a shot and it is a life saving drug. There are many areas that are impacted by the heroin issue.
Grace Jones reports that they have new money at Couleecap for Housing Rehab.

ADJOURN
Pat Ruda adjourned the meeting at 12:58 p.m.

NEXT MEETING: Monday, May 5, 2014

Approved: May 5, 2014, Tammy Hoskins, Recorder