

FAMILY POLICY BOARD COMMITTEE

Monday, January 5, 2015

Health & Human Services Building – Basement Auditorium

12:00 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Todd Bjerke, Vicki Burke, Janet Chaney, Chris Crye, Mike Desmond, Gloria Doyle, Mary Fitzpatrick, Shelia Garrity, Heather Hertzell, Amanda Jalensky, Ann Kappauf, Jane Klekamp, Kim Knutson, Catherine Kolkmeier, Lisa Luckey, Mary Meehan-Strub, Majel Olson, Nancy Pohlman, Pat Ruda, Ruthann Schultz, Regina Siegel, Beth Sullivan, Trisha Wavra, Jodi Widuch, Jason Witt, and Mary Kay Wolf

GUESTS: Juan Jimenez and Lisa Strange

CALL TO ORDER: Pat Ruda called the meeting to order at 12:01 p.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM 11/03/14 MEETING

Pat Ruda asked for a motion to approve the December 1, 2014 meeting minutes. **MOTION** by Mary Kay Wolf/Ruthann Schultz to approve the December 1, 2014 minutes as presented. **Motion carried unanimously.**

HUMAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT AND BOARD UPDATES

- **HHS Board Update/Family Policy Board Executive Committee: Sharon Hampson**
No updates.
- **HS Director Update: Jason Witt**
Jason reported that recruiting for new 2015 positions has started. Locations in the Northside Depot and Powell/Hamilton neighborhoods have not yet been set for the two social worker positions that will be located in these neighborhoods.
- **Family and Children's Section Update: - Nancy Pohlman**
Nancy Pohlman stated that Family & Children's is fully staffed and ready for the new year.

AGENCY PRESENTATION: Consumer Credit Counseling Services – Majel Olson

Majel Olson reported that Consumer Credit Counseling offers the following services: Financial Analysis; Bankruptcy Counseling and Education; Debt Management; Credit Analysis; Preparing for living on your own; Representative Payee; and Consultations on identity theft, abusive debt collectors and credit disputes. Majel also stated that Consumer Credit Counseling Services is funded through United Way and they do accept donations.

Discussion on Homeless Youth – Shelia Garrity:

Shelia Garrity led the discussion on homeless youth. It was stated that there are roughly 100 homeless youth in the La Crosse School District (of this 100 some are at the Salvation Army and New Horizons) and roughly 12 homeless youth in the Holmen School District. Most times these children will stay with friends or neighbors. It was also mentioned Crossfire is no longer used. Lutheran Social Services has a runaway bridge and any youth can call RAYS and they will then go to a LSS home and LSS work with families to reconnect. Conversations are taking place with AMOS to see if they can take on homeless youth. Regina Siegel, School District of La Crosse, handed out an informational sheet with the children's rights and services the La Crosse School District offers to homeless children.

AGENCY UPDATES:

- Jodi Widuch – reported that on January 16 there will be a training “Stewards of Children Training” at The Parenting Place. The training is free of charge.
- Catherine Kolkmeier reported that the “Consortium Health Summit” is scheduled for April 17, 2015 and is a free event.
- Mary Kay Wolf reported that United Way has partnered with H & R Block to do taxes at no charge.
- Trish Wavra gave update on the Affordable Care Act stating that enrollment events are coming up. On January 6 will be open to the community to sit w a certified application counselor.

ADJOURN

Pat Ruda Adjourned the meeting at 12:40 p.m.

NEXT MEETING: Monday, February 2, 2015.

Approved February 2, 2015, Tammy Bond, Recorder