

## **FAMILY POLICY BOARD COMMITTEE**

Monday, March 2, 2015

Health & Human Services Building – Basement Auditorium

12:00 p.m.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Todd Bjerke, Chris Crye, Megan DeVore, Gloria Doyle, Melissa Fannin, Troy Harcey, Heather Hertzell, Amanda Jalensky, Lee Johnson, Grace Jones, Jane Klekamp, Kim Knutson, Catherine Kolkmeier, Jason Larsen, Lisa Luckey, Mary Meehan-Strub, Tom Miller, Majel Olson, Teresa Pierce, Joseph “Nerd” Pigott, Nancy Pohlman, Pat Ruda, Ruthann Schultz, Sarah Spah, Beth Sullivan, Paige Wandling, Jodi Widuch, and Jason Witt

**GUESTS:** Gina Brown, Workforce Connections, Kristy Braunreiter, The Parenting Place and Katie Rommes, Healthy Families, WKBT News Channel 8

**CALL TO ORDER:** Pat Ruda called the meeting to order at 12:03 p.m.

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM 1/05/15 MEETING**

Pat Ruda asked for a motion to approve the February 2, 2015 meeting minutes. **MOTION** by Beth Sullivan/Grace Jones to approve the February 2, 2015 minutes as presented. **Motion carried unanimously.**

### **HUMAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT AND BOARD UPDATES**

- **HHS Board Update/Family Policy Board Executive Committee: Sharon Hampson**  
Nothing to report.
- **HS Director Update: Jason Witt**  
Jason reported waiting for the governor’s proposed budget and what changes it will have on human services and schools. He will have more to report next month..
- **Family and Children’s Section Update: - Nancy Pohlman**  
Nancy Pohlman reported that there is a high number of kids in out-of-home care right now and that there were a lot of referrals in the month of February 2015.

### **AGENCY PRESENTATION**

- **The Parenting Place –Kristy Braunreiter and Healthy Families – Katie Rommes**  
Kristy and Katie gave a presentation on Home Visiting Services that are offered by The Parenting Place and the Healthy Families program at Family & Children’s Center. The two agencies partner together to offer the Partnership for Families. The services include:  
Personal visits in which a family system specialist or parent educator shares appropriate child development and parenting information, helps clients to learn to observe their child(ren) and address the parenting concerns.  
Screenings will help to assess the child’s overall development, health, hearing and vision  
Resource network will link the family to other community services.  
Parent group meetings are support groups where parents learn and support each other and observe their children with other kids and practice parenting skills.  
Families are matched with the program that best fits their needs. The services are free and participation is voluntary.

- **Changes in Food Share Program – Gina Brown, Workforce Connections and Tom Miller, La Crosse County Economic Support**

Jason Witt introduced Tom Miller from La Crosse County Economic Support and Gina Brown from Workforce Connections. Tom Miller stated that in 2008 the food share program was voluntary and as of April 1, 2015 the State mandates that if you are between the ages of 18-49 and have no one other than yourself in your home there will be some work requirements in order to receive food share. In order to be approved for the program you must apply through Economic Support and if approved Economic Support will make the referral to Workforce Connections. Gina Brown of Workforce Connections presented a power point which went over services they provide, locations and hours. Gina also stated that a person needs to be eligible for food share before Workforce Connections can help them.

- **Work Group Updates:**

Safe & Healthy Environment Work Group – Catherine Kolkmeier stated that their workgroup now has an intern working with them to assess the need for trauma-informed care training, and that they are now talking with trainers about what kind of training is available.

Economic Security Work Group – Jane Klekamp stated the group is discussing drawing a map and diagram of what is in the community and what is missing and to have a meeting with community members.

Mental Health & Substance Abuse Work Group – Lisa Luckey had no update from the group.

#### **AGENCY UPDATES:**

- Catherine Kolkmeier stated that the Health Science Consortium Annual Health Summit is scheduled for Friday, April 17, 2015 from 8:00 am – 12:00 pm. Karen Timberlake, Director of the Population Health Institute at the University of Wisconsin School of Medicine and Public Health will be the keynote speaker. The event will be held at the Lunda Center and the event is free of charge.
- Majel Olson stated that on April 20, 2015 from 11:30 am – 3:30 pm Lonnie Berger will be at the Black River Beach Center speaking on “Public Policy Impacting Poverty”.
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#### **ADJOURN**

Pat Ruda Adjourned the meeting at 12:50 p.m.

**NEXT MEETING:** Monday, April 6, 2015.