

FAMILY POLICY BOARD

Monday, March 4, 2019

Health & Human Services Building – Basement Auditorium

12:00 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Jason Witt, Tita Yutuc, Chris Crye, Tracy Puent, Jenni Loging, Mandy Bisek, Heather Quackenboss, Kristi Arenz, Sue Mathison, Sharon Hampson, Elizabeth Wright, Stacy “Sassy” Smith, Jessie Fortuna, Jake Erickson, Lacie Ketelhut, Jodi Widuch, Jane Klekamp, Hetti Brown, Ann Kappauf, Mary Kay Wolf, Barbara Mc Peak, Megan DeVore

GUESTS/OTHERS PRESENT

Kevin Schaler – Adult and Teen Challenge of Western Wisconsin

CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Tita Yutuc called the meeting to order at 12:00pm

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION by Hetti Brown and Mary Kay Wolf to approve the February 4, 2019 minutes as presented. **Motion carried unanimously.**

HUMAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT AND BOARD UPDATES

HHS Board Update: Sharon Hampson - No updates at this time.

HS Director Update: Jason Witt – Governor Evers budget was released last week. Highlights related to Human Services include: (1) expansion of Medical Assistance; (2) a \$15 million dollar increase in child welfare funding; (3) returning 17 year-olds to the juvenile justice system; (4) date and funding changes regarding transition to a new model of juvenile corrections; (5) additional funding related to substance abuse / mental health crisis; and (6) increased funding for children with disabilities. County relevant information regarding the budget can be found at <https://www.wicounties.org/blog/>.

Family and Children’s Section Update: Tracy Puent - In 2018 the Family and Children’s section placed 85 children in out of home care and had an average of approximately 159 children in out of home care each month. Within the Child Protective Services Ongoing Units in 2018, permanency was achieved in the following ways:

- Reunification: 54 children were reunified with parents
- Guardianship: 21 children entered guardianships
- Termination of Parental Rights/Adoption: Parental rights were terminated on 18 children who are now in the process of being adopted

PRESENTATION: “Policy Advocacy for Nonprofits and Community Coalitions”
by Hetti Brown, Executive Director of Coulee Community Action Program

Lobbying is an activity attempting to influence specific legislation. An action is considered lobbying if it includes BOTH 1) a reference to a specific piece of legislation and 2) an opinion or call to action.

Foundation Principles:

- 1) Partisan activity is prohibited. This is separate from lobbying for legislative activity.

- 2) A 501(c)(3) organization may engage in some lobbying. The rule of thumb is that less than 5% of overall activity or less than 20% of annual expenditures can be for lobbying. Your organization should have a way to track their lobbying time and expenditures.
- 3) Legislation is the only type of policy making covered under lobbying rules. Other types of policy making are executive, judicial, or administrative and are not considered partisan activity.

Tips for Successful Advocacy with Legislators

- Find out what their interests are
- Keep it individual – in person (phone included) is always best
- Have the *facts* but more importantly connect the issue to the daily lives of their constituents
- Give them a story to share with other lawmakers
- State who you represent
- Thank them

Additional considerations are that group consensus is not necessary and that members should communicate the agenda with their organizations to gain early buy-in. Remember, progress can be as powerful as crossing the finish line. A policy agenda should have 4 or 5 areas to focus on for the year. The key to effectiveness for the Family Policy Board will be for members to stay engaged and not just come and listen when we meet. We will also consider inviting some legislators to join us during a meeting as another way to connect with them.

The Family Policy Board represents 33 member organizations, we are a public private collaboration and represent a very large constituency. We can be successful advocates by selecting a policy priority, deciding how we want to make ongoing decisions, and making and following through on an action plan.

Helpful websites for staying current on the Wisconsin Legislature are:

<https://notify.legis.wisconsin.gov>

<http://www.thewheelerreport.com>

AGENCY ROUNDTABLE

Victory Over Violence Gala and Auction Saturday March 23rd contact New Horizons for additional information

Childcare Summit Tuesday April 23rd contact The Parenting Place for additional information

Mackenzie Mindel has been hired as Development Director at the YWCA

ADJOURNMENT TO THE NEXT MEETING TO BE HELD MONDAY, APRIL 1, 2019, AT NOON

Chairperson Tita Yutuc adjourned the meeting at 1:00pm.

Approved April 1, 2019, Rachel Klistai, Recorder