

FAMILY POLICY BOARD

Monday, February 7, 2022

Hybrid Meeting (option to meet in person or via Zoom)

12:00 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Kristi Arenz, Karolee Behringer, Gina Brown, Hetti Brown, Michelle Burkhardt, Chris Crye, Isaac Hoffman, Ann Kappauf, Jane Klekamp, Catherine Kolkmeier, Carla Lundeen, Sue Mathison, Vie Matty, Heidi Odegaard, Roberto Partarrieu, Heather Quackenboss, Joella Striebel, Tina Tryggstad, Jodi Widuch, Jason Witt, Tita Yutuc

GUESTS/OTHERS PRESENT

Lisa Stablier

CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Ann Kappauf called the meeting to order at 12:01pm

The meeting began with members taking the “How would you rate the past week?” survey by Mentimeter at the request of Catherine Kolkmeier. Mentimeter (<https://www.mentimeter.com>) is a company that provides real-time polling tools for groups. This poll showed a snapshot in time of how members were feeling. Below are results for the instant feedback survey.



APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION by Tita Yutuc and Jodi Widuch to approve the November 8, 2021 minutes as presented. **Motion carried unanimously.**

HUMAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT AND BOARD UPDATES

HHS Board Update - none at this time

HS Director Update: Jason Witt

Partners of the Family Policy Board joined the Human Services Department at the Fall Conference for Wisconsin County Human Services Association. Presented on the collaboration that has been done and how the community has become successful in joining together. Other communities expressed their interest in the types of things our county has done in terms of a collaborative approach throughout our community.

HS Service Section Update - none at this time

Presentation:

2022 Human Services Department Budget: Strategic Goals, New Resources and Opportunities

Jason Witt shared the 2022 Human Services Department Budget, which can be found here:

<https://www.lacrossecounty.org/humanservices/docs/Family%20Policy%20Board/02%2007%202022%20Jason%20PowerPoint.pdf>

Not all these new positions will be starting simultaneously. Rather, looking at how to add them more strategically in a sustainable, meaningful manner that fits into the goals outlined above.

Wisconsin Opportunities Act Update - Hetti Brown

There was a delay but expecting the release on March 2nd. This is an Omnibus anti-poverty piece of legislation that will be introduced for the second session in a row to the WI State Legislature. Over the last two years, funding has been utilized in various forms: Covid vaccination outreach, mental health, housing stability, job and income support, household independent care services, tax credits, subsidies, public transportation, healthcare, and more. The bill was endorsed by the Family Policy Board and the La Crosse County Board of Supervisors when previously introduced and the hope is for the endorsement this time around, as well. Materials will hopefully be presented at next month's FPB meeting.

AGENCY UPDATES -

Ann Kappauf asked for ideas for future meeting topics, where to go and what to work on throughout remainder of the year.

Tita Yutuc shared the board could look at how legislation and the community could get behind the issues of workforce shortage, difficulty with licensing, and other ideas to help the workforce in general.

Hetti Brown shared that lawmakers many times come in during the budget process to talk about priorities. Our next meeting is after the February Primary but before the Spring election. Could invite school board candidates to discuss issues that are important to local families and children.

Jodi Widuch shared there could be a round robin on what agencies are seeing going on with families and all other participants in the community, including the struggles and gaps that we may be able to address.

Catherine Kolkmeier shared that Better Together is providing training opportunities for Using Motivational Interviewing to Support Behavior Change among Adolescents. To register or for more information, visit this link: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/MI-Regis-2022>

Catherine also shared that the Health Science Consortium is bringing back its health summit after two years. The topic will be on loneliness and social isolation, especially looking at the impact that Covid has had. This 3-hour virtual presentation will be on Friday, April 22nd.

Hetti Brown shared that the Wisconsin Help for Homeowners program will be launching this month. This Covid stimulus program is for those who have fallen behind on their mortgage, property taxes, and related expenses since the beginning of the pandemic. Email contactus@couleecap.org to refer families.

Heather Quackenboss shared that the Life Span Program is offering a statewide education program on Wednesdays for another five weeks. Topics include advanced directives, doing more things in the bitter cold, retirement transitioning, and gardening. This is open to older adults and caregivers for the aging.

Ann Kappauf shared that February is Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month. One in three girls in the United States is a victim of physical, emotional, or verbal abuse from a dating partner. It is more prevalent in teenagers than adults and can lead to long-term consequences, including AODA issues, eating disorders, thoughts of suicide, etc. Fifty percent of teenagers who have experienced rape, sexual, or domestic abuse do attempt to commit suicide. Please talk about it because it is happening.

ADJOURNMENT TO THE NEXT MEETING TO BE HELD MONDAY, MARCH 7, 2022, AT NOON

Chairperson Ann Kappauf adjourned the meeting at 1:00pm.

Approved March 7, 2022, Connie Bublitz, Recorder