

FAMILY POLICY BOARD

Monday, September 13, 2021

Family & Children's Center

12:00 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Kristi Arenz, Katie Berkedal, Bikers Against Child Abuse Member, Hetti Brown, Michelle Burkhardt, Chris Crye, Lauren Journot, Ann Kappauf, Denise Lorenz, Sue Mathison, Vie Matty, Roberto Partarrieu, Bridget Todd-Robbins, Jodi Widuch, Jason Witt, Mary Kay Wolf, and Tita Yutuc

GUESTS/OTHERS PRESENT

Nicole Brei and Kevin Schaler

CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Ann Kappauf called the meeting to order at 12:04pm

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION by Katie Berkedal and Roberto Partarrieu to approve the June 7, 2021 minutes as presented. **Motion carried unanimously.**

HUMAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT AND BOARD UPDATES

HHS Board Update: Tina Tryggestad – no updates currently.

HS Director Update: Jason Witt –

- Human Services is holding all-staff Town Hall Meetings this week that, among other things, will include a discussion of our strategic vision. We see our future less behind the walls of the Health and Human Services Building and more in the community alongside our partners and those we serve.
- We continue to have employees participate in the intensive YMCA Racial Justice Training, with our objective being all Human Services staff complete the training.
- The Crisis Co-Responder pilot program with the La Crosse Police Department is up and running. Our Crisis Workers have been riding along with law enforcement and responding to situations where mental health issues are present.
- La Crosse County Youth System of Care (Bridget Todd-Robbins) was presented with a unique opportunity from the University of Wisconsin, School of Medicine and Public Health, and Office of the Wisconsin Partnership Program (WPP) to provide financial support for the enhancement of the La Crosse Youth System of Care through the addition of two part-time Community Cultural Liaisons.

Section Update: none currently.

Presentation:

COLLABORATION PRESENTATION: Housing Day Resource Center & Runaway and Homeless Youth Emergency Shelter - Lauren Journot, YWCA Executive Director: Lauren shared with us that YWCA received a 1.4-million-dollar grant from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) to fund the following:

- Day Housing Resource Center: the YWCA is collaborating with Catholic Charities, Couleecap, Independent Living Resources and the Salvation Army to offer a consolidated Day Housing Resource Center for the community located at 212 11th Street South. The partnership between the agencies under one roof will allow one-stop, convenient access for people to walk in and have their needs met. And if people need other help these agencies can't immediately provide, there is a large network the facility can reach out to get the best help as fast as possible. This will be a walk-in service open Monday through Friday 8am-4pm.
- Runaway and Homeless Youth Emergency Shelter: the YWCA is collaborating with Black Leaders Acquiring Collective Knowledge (BLACK), Catholic Charities, CIA SIAB Inc., Couleecap, Family & Children's Center, Independent Living Resources, the Salvation Army of La Crosse County, and the center: 7Rivers LGBTQ Connection. This shelter will address

gaps in services for kids experiencing housing instability and provide 24-hour crisis intervention – giving kids a place to stay and basic care needs such as food, clothing, hygiene, and medical care.

- More information can be found at: <https://www.ywcalax.org/>

DISCUSSION ON GATHERING PREFERENCES FOR FUTURE MEETINGS: there wasn't an agreed upon option, with preferences for both in-person and virtual options expressed. There are not many places that we would be able to meet and social distance. The option of the Skogan Administrative Building on Highway 16 was raised. Ann and Jason asked the group to let them know of any ideas for larger conference spaces that could fit at least 35 people with social distancing.

AGENCY CHECK-INS & ANNOUNCEMENTS –

- Denise Lorenz is new to the committee, she introduced herself as the Community Outreach Specialist for Aptiv.
- Vie Matty shared with the group that their head start numbers are very low, so if you know anyone with children that would like to join head start, please let her know.
- Kevin Schaler shared with us that their second annual Drive the Road to Recovery will be on 10/22 & 10/29. For more information or to register, visit their website: <https://www.atcww.org/2021fallevent>.

ADJOURNMENT TO THE NEXT MEETING TO BE HELD MONDAY, OCTOBER 4, 2021, AT NOON

Chairperson Ann Kappauf adjourned the meeting at 12:49pm.

Approved November 8, 2021, Connie Bublitz, Recorder