

**JOINT MEETING OF THE RACINE COUNTY
HEALTH AND HUMAN DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE & HUMAN SERVICES BOARD
Monday, April 13, 2020
Teleconference**

HHD Present: Kay Buske, Scott Maier, Robert Miller, Don Trottier

HSB Present: Susan Lange-Pruitt, Don Trottier

Excused: Marissa Bray, Adam Graf, Diya Mehra, Rebecca Nelsen, Brett Nielsen

Staff Present: Antonio Chavez, Ed Kamin, Kristin Latus, Hope Otto, Beth Tangerstrom

Call to Order and Roll Call: Chairman Maier called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

Chairman Comments/Youth In Governance Statement

There were no comments.

Citizen Comments

Approval of the Minutes of March 9, 2020 Joint Meeting of the Racine County Health and Human Development committee & Human Services Board

Sup. Buske moved to approve the minutes as submitted. Sup. Miller seconded.

Motion carried.

Report by the County Executive Making a Reappointment to the Racine County Human Services Board

Sup. Miller moved to approve the reappointment of Adam Graf. Sup. Buske seconded.

Motion carried.

Detention and Alternatives to Corrections Through Education (ACE) with COVID-19

Director Otto introduced Tony Chavez, Juvenile Detention Center Superintendent.

Superintendent Chavez described staff protocol and the cleaning process during COVID-19. Skype and FaceTime are being used for family visits with the juveniles. The kids are still receiving their mental health needs and education. New juveniles entering the facility are given a questionnaire and if needed they are medically assessed and quarantined prior to being integrated into the rest of the population.

Sup. Trottier asked what the current population of juveniles was and the number of staff members. The juvenile count is 28, there are 29 staff for all three shifts. A typical shift has seven staff working with juveniles, in addition to supervisors and coordinators.

Chairman Maier asked how many youth are from Racine and out of county. Kenosha County nineteen, Racine five, and other counties six. ACE is nineteen, two will be released today. Chairman Maier thanked Mr. Chavez for the good work being done with our youth.

Secure Residential Care Center for Children and Youth (SRCCCY) Update

Deputy Director Latus reported the current status of the SRCCCY. The \$40M grant has been received and approved. An official award letter has been requested from the state. When the letter is received it will be presented to the County Board for approval to move forward in the process.

Waiting to hear back from Wisconsin Counties Association (WCA) and Department of Corrections (DOC) about finalization of process and payment.

Work continues with Venture Architects. They've drawn up new plans with a lot of the same components previously presented to this committee. The hope is at the next meeting to bring forth a finalized plan, the status of release of RFPs, the award letter, and final location of where the facility will be built. Director Otto explained that the specificities of location are not for public consumption at this time in order to negotiate properties. Work is being done to finalize plans and create a draft resolution for the county board once final documents are in place.

COVID-19 Q&A

Director Otto gave a brief update on Racine County's housing contingency planning for transitional housing for individuals under the Continuity of Operations and Continuity of Government Plan (COOP/COG)

Racine County in partnership with the health departments and Emergency Operation Center (EOC) are looking at surge planning and identifying isolation centers. There are several tiers of housing being planned for and Racine County is taking the lead with its health departments and EOC.

One tier is overflow for hospital level care for COVID-19 patients and in addition to that is sites East and West ends of the County and how to utilize medical personnel from our health care partners to staff them. What's been learned from other communities that have already seen a surge that a more regional partnership is more advantageous because they are very costly facilities to construct. The current guidance within the CDC and our local EOC is to partner with the regional site at State Fair for our hospital overflow location. They have a 1,000 bed capacity. In like communities most facilities saw in between 30 and 200 when they planned for much larger. It makes sense to not go for a \$25M facility and try to recreate something locally. There is a good plan in place that will be developed within the next few days and released. This is only in the final planning stages within our EOC.

The second tier is essential employee housing for those exposed to COVID positive individuals or are COVID positive themselves so they don't have to return home. A plan is being developed for a local hotel to house those individuals. MOU's and contracts are being developed in partnership with Corporation Counsel.

The last tier, the area HSD has been mostly involved is in the isolation centers for special populations and the general public. A partnership with HALO has been secured to house individuals who are either in between housing, in a transient living situation, are homeless, or have special needs, not medical needs. It would be behavioral or mental health needs that will be staffed by individuals who have crisis management skills. Health departments and hospitals will refer individuals to that site and these are following state issued guidance.

Chairman Maier asked if there have been major difficulties serving the elderly population who may not have access to a computer and applications needed to meet, those who need more one on one type of interaction with stay safer at home and the COVID-19 problem? He asked if staff are able to navigate those hurdles to provide services to individuals who need it at this time.

Director Otto described two separate initiatives being worked on to address two different populations for that exact question. In terms of homebound seniors who need help with meals in addition to the Meals on Wheels Program. The congregate home delivered meals program received a grant through ADRC to help with traditionally home bound individuals to receive more meals. An RFP will go out later this week to have local restaurants to be able to partner in delivering meals to senior citizens, anyone over the age of 60. It's not needs based, so it's unknown how long that additional supply will last. Anyone expressing a need for meals can partner in this. It will depend on how many people request it and the demand. If it is a success we'd look for additional funds through our community to support it.

In terms of the digital divide, both by income as well as geographical areas, the Performance and Analytics Director, Travis, is putting together a grant for a little over \$100,000 to put up Wifi spots around the county, including western Racine County, as well as high need, high impoverished areas within the city that could benefit also for getting access for schooling, telehealth, and other critical services by having access to the internet. There is a quick turn around on this grant, roughly two to three weeks, and get those sites established in early May. Those are two ways that are helping to address that as well as anyone enrolled in care coordination through ADRC, in addition to people who are known to us, staff are making calls to those individuals checking in on them and also put out our 211 number so there is a triage point for people to call in if they have expressed hardship.

Chairman Maier asked about staff moral and how they're being supported if needed. Director Otto described bi-weekly check-in calls held with HSD managers who are asked how they're coping, how their team is coping, and how they can best be supported. She said people's spirits have been pretty high and they've been staying positive. Support has been amazing from the top down with the commitment to pay employees. There are challenges in BHS and the Juvenile Detention Center being 24 hour operations. Superintendent Chavez added how he supports his staff. He said through this pandemic his staff has stepped up and they're doing the best job they can. Deputy Director Latus praised the managers and how they are supporting staff and their families. She expressed how proud she is to work with this team throughout such an unknown crisis.

Ms. Lange-Pruitt asked how food banks are holding up with so many people currently unemployed. Director Otto referenced an email she sent to HHD and HSB members earlier today. United Way and Racine Community Foundation have put together a relief fund to help support and fill financial capacity for nonprofits and social service agencies serving individuals who have the greatest impact by COVID-19. The application is available on the website. Food banks are a high priority, as well as homeless shelter, and other places directly providing services to COVID-19 affected individuals. There haven't been any problems brought to Director Otto's attention directly.

The Wisconsin Department of Health Services issued a notice Friday that a supplemental benefit for all Food Share recipients would be given to anyone not receiving the maximum allotment for their family size. They will receive that addition to make it the maximum amount of an allocation possible. The Economic Support Manager, Claribel Camacho, will run those numbers to figure out exactly what that financial impact will be for our residents.

Correspondence and Other Business

Chairman Maier closed the meeting with a heartfelt thank you to all who have served on this committee for the past two years. He thanked Vice Chairman Sup. Buske and Sup. Miller, committee Secretary, for their input, guidance, and support for this committee. He thanked Sup. Trottier and Sup. Nielsen for pulling double duty and serving on both the committee and the board. He thanked Director Otto and her staff for their help and tireless efforts behind the scenes to keep the committee running smoothly. He thanked the County Executive, who not only works closely with this committee but all the committees of the county, they appreciate all the work that everyone does for our county. He said it's really wonderful that we can all work together with the ultimate goal and the best interest of our county. Chairman Maier continued, stating that he was very proud of this committee and everything its done to assist our residents with information, education, and programming. He thanked everyone for their time and effort making these meetings possible during this time. Without face-to-face meetings, the extra thought and time to make the virtual meetings and conference calls is much appreciated as we continue to serve our residents of Racine County. He wished everyone luck in their new committee assignments and said wherever they land they'll be lucky to have them on their committee.

Director Otto thanked Chairman Maier and said it's been a pleasure working with this board and committee, they've been incredibly supportive and thanked everyone.

Next Meeting Date – May 11, 2020, 5:00 p.m., TBD - either Ives Grove Office Complex or teleconference.

Adjournment

Sup. Buske motioned to adjourn. Sup. Trottier seconded.

The meeting adjourned at 5:35 p.m.

Distributions

- How to Participate in the Teleconference Call
- Report No. 2019-46 Report by the County Executive Making a Reappointment to the Racine County Human Services Board – Adam Graf
- Health & Human Development Committee Meeting 4.13.2020

Respectfully submitted by,

Kimberly R. Bartel