

**JOINT MEETING OF THE RACINE COUNTY
HEALTH AND HUMAN DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE & HUMAN SERVICES BOARD
Monday, May 11, 2020
WebEx**

HHD Present: Jason Eckman, Eric Hopkins, Scott Maier, Fabi Maldonado, Robert Miller,
Jody Spencer

HSB Present: Adam Graf, Susan Lange-Pruitt, Rebecca Nelsen, Don Trottier

YIG Present: Marissa Bray, Diya Mehra

Staff Present: Claribel Camacho, Jonathan Delagrave, Antonio Chavez, Michelle Goggins,
Ed Kamin, Kristin Latus, Kerry Milkie, Hope Otto, Travis Richardson, Chairman
Thomas Roanhouse, Beth Tangerstrom, Gwen Zimmer

Others Present: Sophia Schoenfeld

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

Chairman Comments/Youth In Governance Statement

Chairman Maier welcomed everyone, specifically the new members.

Citizen Comments

There were no comments.

Approval of the Minutes of April 13, 2020 Joint Meeting of the Racine County Health and Human Development committee & Human Services Board

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

YIG: Ms. Bray – Aye, Ms. Mehra – Aye

Motion carried.

Introduction of Human Services Management Team

Director Otto welcomed Chairman Maier as the returning chairman of the HHD Committee for the next two more years as well as returning Supervisors Miller and Trottier. She also welcomed the new supervisors to the committee, Supervisors Hopkins, Eckman, Spencer, and Maldonado. Director Otto will meet one-on-one with each supervisor at some point. She introduced the Human Services Management Team and provided an overview of the Human Services Department.

Secure Residential Care Center for Children and Youth (SRCCCY) Overview Presentation

Director Otto provided the background to why Racine County has been looking at building an alternative facility for the past four to five years. Simultaneously there were some issues at the State-run facility that resulted in making substantial changes in how youth justice programming was delivered, particularly in the areas of confinement. This has given Racine County a great opportunity to leverage State partnerships and funding to move in the securing of an additional facility for Racine County without impacting its budget.

Superintendent Chavez provided the history of Racine County's Juvenile Detention Center. The current location is at the Dennis Kornwolf Service Center, it can house up to 121 juveniles, and the environment is very correctional like an adult facility. It is outdated for housing juveniles and the current facility layout makes it difficult to run programs. He continued, describing the Alternatives to Corrections through Education (ACE) Program that started in 2002. This program has been recognized as a superior alternative to state corrections. It lowers the recidivism rate and gives the kids an opportunity to obtain high school credits.

As a result of ACT 185 Lincoln Hills/Copper Lake will close July 2021 and three types of facilities will be created. He explained why the SRCCCY is right for Racine County, how ACE youth do not receive felony charges with one year of completion and explained that helps with recidivism rate and prevents youth from going into adult correctional facilities. There are currently 22 youth in the Racine facility, 18 are enrolled in ACE, seven of those are Racine youth and eleven are Kenosha.

Deputy Director Latus explained the process of how the decision was made to apply for the SRCCCY and why Racine County feels it is the right grant and the right time for Racine County. She presented the building design, including the outdoor space, and the proposed budget.

An RFP was issued for a construction manager and was published in *The Journal Times* Friday, May 8. Proposals are due to the County May 27. The time between those dates is when the RFP Team will review proposals and a recommendation to the full County Board at the June 19 meeting. Location will be brought to the Executive Committee tomorrow in a closed session.

Discussion ensued regarding financing the facility, 2019 Juvenile Detention budget, and additional revenue for bringing in other county juveniles.

Director Otto informed the committee of a future ask that will be brought to this committee as well as the Finance Committee proposing a wage increase for detention staff.

Here to Help Initiative

Director Otto provided background of how the Here to Help Initiative started. HSD partnered with the YMCA. Calls are being made to families who have been helped in the past to proactively direct issues. Within one day fifty emails were received and a lot of those were resource navigation.

Keep Our Kids Safe flyers have been disseminated within our school districts and community organizations to keep our children safe. Contact information was provided to report concerns, report a child who may be vulnerable and need to report abuse and neglect. HSD is also working with the sheriff's office and the Women's Resource Center to make sure our families are safe.

Members were offered flyers to distribute, they are also available on the Dashboard, and will be posted on social media.

Sup. Maldonado thanked staff for everything they do. He asked if there is anything the supervisors can do to help. Director Otto expressed her appreciation and said it would be helpful to share the material and resources presented today as well as continuing to be an advocate and a champion of the work HSD does. She added that trying to educate the community on the good things Human Services does to improve its reputation in the community, particularly the work being done regarding race and equity in the minority community. HSD is very proud of the partnerships they have built, and they want to build upon those successes, so anything the supervisors can do to help in that area would be appreciated.

Correspondence and Other Business

Mr. Richardson provided a high-level overview of the Rebound Racine County Report 2020 that has been sent to the taskforce members and will be released to the County Board in a couple of days. It has also been sent to *The Journal Times*.

Next Meeting Date – June 8, 2020, 5:00 p.m., TBD

Adjournment

Mrs. Lange-Pruitt motioned to adjourn. Sup. Miller seconded.

The meeting adjourned at 6:23 p.m.

Distributions

- Overview: Racine County Human Services
- Building a Racine County SRCCCY
- Here to Help Flyer
- Keep Our Kids Safe Flyer
- Rebound Racine County Report 2020

Respectfully submitted by,

Kimberly R. Bartel