

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

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

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

YIG Present: Sophia Schoenfeld, Sarah Stone

Excused: Fabi Maldonado

Staff Present: Jonathan Delagrave, Ed Kamin, Kristin Latus, Hope Otto, Travis Richardson,
Beth Tangerstrom

Others Present: Brian Erickson, David Huber, Raquel Villareal as tech support

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

Chairman Comments/Youth In Governance Statement

Ms. Stone read the YIG statement.

Citizen Comments

Deputy Director Latus read the following customer comment submitted by Ms. Margery Lowry.

To whom it may concern:

I absolutely do not agree with last week's, Racine City Council's hastily called meeting on Tuesday & vote (9-5) to approve a new "Forward Racine" public health ordinance, just days after the judge slapped a temporary restraining order on the city's previous "Forward Racine" regulation nor the city council-generated new ordinance, giving the UNELECTED health officer the ability to close businesses and lock down the city. I do agree with the judge who stated, "Pursuant to the Court's last order, both Defendants were enjoined from enforcing the substantive portion of the Forward Racine order. When issued, that meant both Defendants were barred from forcing the residents, faith organizations, and businesses in the City of Racine to comply with the Forward Racine Order while the constitutional and statutory power to issue such orders, as well as the constitutionality and statutory breadth and scope of the orders, remain at issue in this case."

I assume vows to uphold state & U S. Constitutions were taken seriously by Racine mayors & other elected officials when they took office. Giving unprecedented power to unelected officials is wrong no matter Racine's circumstances. Citizens would have no avenue of redress for power grabs by such unelected officials. We have seen this play out in other states where executive orders are being enacted as law, where citizens' Constitutional rights are arbitrarily infringed upon, and where said citizens were arrested, fined & threatened by police, health board officials & mayors. We do not want this in Racine! The trend of overstepping legal boundaries must end! Do not give such authority to the Board of Health officials. You serve the citizens of Racine, not the other way around. Guidelines regarding

health concerns are fine but arbitrary orders & authority over citizens by unelected people is going too far & should go no further. I will be informing all I know in Racine of this leap to quash citizens' rights.

Margery Lowry
Racine, WI

Approval of the Minutes of June 22, 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. Eckman seconded.
Sup. Trottier moved to approve the minutes as submitted. Mr. Graf seconded.

YIG: Ms. Schoenfeld – Aye, Ms. Stone – Aye

Motion carried.

Report No. 2020-17 Report by the County Executive Making Reappointments to the Aging and Disability Resource Board – Rhonda Owens-Deneka, Linda Woods

Sup. Miller moved to recommend confirmation. Sup. Spencer seconded.

YIG: Ms. Schoenfeld – Aye, Ms. Stone – Aye

Motion carried.

Report No. 2020-21 Report by the County Executive Making Reappointments to the Racine Commission on Aging Board – Rhonda Owens-Deneka, Linda Woods

Sup. Miller moved to recommend confirmation. Sup. Eckman seconded.

YIG: Ms. Schoenfeld – Aye, Ms. Stone – Aye

Motion carried.

Human Services Dashboard

Ms. Tangerstrom presented the Human Services Dashboard and provided a brief description of the many resources available, including Here to Help information, outreach information, the County data link, a variety of statistics, reports, popular acronyms, downloadable links, and images. Here to Help business cards were previously sent to County Board Supervisors to share with their constituents.

Ms. Tangerstrom continued, she went through the Workforce Solutions Dashboard explaining that statistics, graphs, videos, flyers, news articles, program information, staff contact information, etc. are available.

Mr. Kamin provided a Workforce Solutions update. He described the difference between the initial unemployment claims verses ongoing unemployment claims. Beginning the week of July 25 the additional \$600/wk as authorized by the Federal Government will end. The State of Wisconsin recently allowed for an additional thirteen-week extension of unemployment benefits going from 36 weeks to 49 weeks.

Mr. Kamin provided updates about the Talent Pipeline Management initiative and STARTS Racine Grant that involves CDBG (Community Development Block Grant) funds. STARTS (Service, Technology, Advanced Technology & Production, Rehabilitation & Health Care, Trades, Supervisors) was awarded in March of this year and will be used to train and place individuals on job sites.

The County started an initiative that included employers, non-profits, and faith-based organizations. This taskforce in conjunction with RAMAC resulted in the Rebound Racine Report. The County was able to leverage the Emergency Operation Center who had the ability to go to the top of the list to purchase PPE. That allowed employers the ability to get their employees back to work safely.

Discussion ensued. There is a Hot Line available for anything employment related, including all available employment programs and resources, that number is 262-638-6622. The Dashboard link and Rebound Racine Report will be sent to members. Both can be found on the County's website.

Human Services Annual Report

Director Otto and Deputy Director Latus presented the 2019 Human Services Annual Report.

Discussion ensued. A link to the report will be sent to members and hard copies will be available at the August meeting for those who attend in person. The August 10 Public Hearing will potentially be a blended option of in person and virtual.

Human Services Rebound Plan

Director Otto referenced a comprehensive Phase-In Plan for Human Services that has been created. She provided a general status update of the level of services and the vital safety net services being provided by the department in response to COVID-19. The Phase-In Plan will be sent to members.

Digital Divide Update

Mr. Richardson explained that this project was initiated when Racine County thought about the broader impact that COVID-19 and shelter in place had on our community. The impact was disproportionately felt by the most vulnerable and low-income populations.

Mr. Richardson presented data for Racine County's household internet access and lack of access. It was determined that the lack of internet access is strongly related to unemployment, more than level of education, poverty status, or minority status.

A key objective was to enhance internet connectivity especially among neighborhoods with the highest concentration without internet. Through extended internet the County can extend access to critical services. Through extended access to services will address long-term systemic barriers and close the digital divide throughout the county. Mr. Richardson explained how access points were identified, the feasibility of those locations, and the project timeline.

Community sponsors are Gateway Technical College who donated \$50,000 and Higher Expectations secured \$15,000, they anticipate securing an additional \$15,000. That is \$130,000 for expanded internet access and the goal is \$150,000. RUSD was initially a sponsor but are no longer. The presentation will be forwarded to members.

Correspondence and Other Business

There was no other business.

Next Meeting Date – August 10, 2020, 5:00 p.m., Ives Grove Office Complex Auditorium and Virtual

The Public Hearing will be held August 10 and will start earlier to accommodate County Board the same evening. Members will be notified of the start time.

Adjournment

Sup. Eckman motioned to adjourn. Sup. Miller seconded.

The meeting adjourned at 6:28 p.m.

Action Items

- Report Racine County unemployment backlog
- Send the following information to members:
 - o Dashboard link
 - o Rebound Racine Report/Phase-In Plan
 - o 2019 HSD Annual Report link
 - o Digital Divide

Distributions

- Report No. 2020-17 Report by the County Executive Making Reappointments to the Aging and Disability Resource Board - Rhonda Owens-Deneka, Linda Woods
- Report No. 2020-21 Report by the County Executive Making Reappointments to the Racine Commission on Aging Board – Rhonda Owens-Deneka, Linda Woods

Respectfully submitted by,

Kimberly R. Bartel