

**JOINT MEETING OF THE RACINE COUNTY
HEALTH AND HUMAN DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE & HUMAN SERVICES BOARD
2022 BUDGET PLAN PUBLIC HEARING
Monday, July 12, 2021
George Bray Neighborhood YMCA
924 Center Street
Racine, WI 53403**

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

HSB Present: Scott Maier, Don Trottier, Rhonda Zuck

YIG Present: Antonia Marz, Margarita Reyes-Pena

Staff Present: Waleed Ahmad, Steve Bedwell, Jonathan Delagrave, Al Gardner, Michelle Goggins, Melvin Hargrove, Hope Otto, Beth Tangerstrom, Gwen Zimmer

Others Present: Van A. Carson Sr, Wanda Minued, Joshua Williams, Tanya Williams, Tim Zuck

Excused: Fabi Maldonado

Call to Order/Roll Call

Chairman Maier called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m. Silent roll call.

Chairman Comments/Youth In Governance Statement

Chairman Maier thanked the George Bray Neighborhood YMCA for hosting the meeting and providing an opportunity for people to come out and speak regarding the 2022 Budget Plan.

Sup. Maldonado was excused. Sup. Hopkins and YIG representative Margarita Reyes-Pena were absent and expected to arrive.

Ms. Marz read the YIG Statement.

Present 2022 Strategic Plan

Director Otto introduced herself and had her management team introduce themselves via a previously recorded video. The managers presented their respective division, described challenges they foresee in their division in the upcoming budget, as well as strategies they hope to employ to address those challenges. Members viewed the managers' introductions.

Director Otto explained that every year, in partnership with the management team, and the County Executive, they set a vision for the upcoming year. She described the key objectives of her Three-Year Strategic Plan.

Present 2022 Budget Planning Paper

Director Otto indicated that Fiscal Manager Gwen Zimmer will give a brief overview of the Human Services Planning Paper that is essentially projections through May. She explained that the best

information from this year is used to forecast where HSD will be at the end of the year. They take into account interventions or changes that may influence an increase or a decrease in a respective area.

Ms. Zimmer went through the Planning Paper and explained the budget.

Sup. Spencer asked for an explanation of the alternatives program. Ms. Goggins gave an overview of RCAP (Racine County Alternatives Program), a bond monitoring program within the county jail.

Public Comment Section

Mr. Tim Zuck asked how much of an impact on these budgets, for the County, are Foxconn going to contribute to the overall budget? How much monetarily, or percentage, and will this be an ongoing payment to the County or just a one-time lump sum?

County Executive Delagrave replied, the County's obligation to Foxconn originally was to borrow them \$112M. He explained that through land acquisition and infrastructure costs that went down to just over \$100M. The County borrowed that money for infrastructure and land acquisition costs. Foxconn must pay the County back over a twenty-year period. They are in year three of that twenty-year obligation. They have made the payments, ahead of schedule, for the first two years. The County's obligation is from a loan perspective only.

Supervisor Miller added, there is no budget line that is directly from Foxconn. That is a separate equation that doesn't come into the County's normal budget process.

County Executive Delagrave went on to say the Village of Mount Pleasant is also a local partner. He described their responsibilities as being a little bit different to Foxconn through a tax incremental financing district. He continued, describing what has been accomplished thus far with the money borrowed; I-94 has been redone, the necessary water and sewer infrastructure out to I-94 was done and that helps because Racine is a large corridor between Milwaukee and Chicago. He continued, referencing the time it takes getting from the freeway to the lake by either Highway 20, Highway 11, or Highway K. Through state funding attached to the Foxconn project County Highway KR was expanded to four lanes to Old Green Bay Road. Highway 11 was redone that allowed for access to new roads in that area. He stated that he did not say this for pro Foxconn or anti-Foxconn, it's just a fact of what the County was able to do with that economic development project that is still fluid and ongoing. Summation is that Racine County's obligation was to borrow Foxconn just over \$100M over twenty years.

Mr. Gardner stated that he didn't know if it was appropriate to ask, but said he was going to ask it any way. He asked if the American Rescue Fund money could be used for the budget? Director Otto said the County Executive has asked the Cabinet to assemble an American Recovery Plan Act (ARPA) Review Committee. There is limited use of the funds that the County can employ them; infrastructure, significant financial loss because of COVID, the impact of that, and public and mental health. The County Executive said those are the three categories, but it is flexible within those three categories how to use them.

Mr. Gardner asked if public health means to help people? Director Otto said no, it's for public health systems, behavioral health systems, or significant financial burden that the counties have realized because of COVID. She provided the following example, the increase in mental health costs could be argued has a direct impact of COVID and we could offset any swings in the budget to help pay for increasing our behavioral health footprint.

Mr. Gardner asked if there is nothing in there for youth? Director Otto replied that she thinks so. She said this is what must be investigated and discussed with the Wisconsin Counties Association, other

municipalities, and counties to see how they are interpreting it both from a financial and legal sense. She gave examples of the increase in gang violence, increases in unemployment, increases in poverty can have a direct nexus to some programs, like potentially summer jobs. County Executive Delagrave said things like housing potentially fall under that category and things like educational attainment could fall under that category. He said there is flexibility. He explained the concern that it's one time money, so the County must watch how it folds in things operationally. He referenced County Board members, if there is a huge budget after four years, members will be upset with him for creating a budget deficit. He said there are a few years to figure this out. He referenced the newspaper article that the County wants to pay its front-line service workers; mental health, public works, corrections officers, and 911 dispatchers an increase in pay. They will offset this so there isn't an increase to the taxpayer. An initial expenditure of the ARPA money is for the pay increases. Director Otto added that she thinks it's about \$7 million that would be spent from ARPA funds.

Mr. Gardner asked if the County, the City and Unified could not partner with all the money? County Executive Delagrave said yes, and he added Gateway. County Executive Delagrave has met with Brian Albrecht, Eric Gallien, Mayor Mason, RAMAC, and separately with some leaders on the west end to discuss how they can leverage the ARPA money. He said it's not as easy as people think because the services the County provides are different than the district, but housing, educational attainment, and public health are things they can potentially leverage. Mr. Gardner added, summer jobs.

Mr. Gardner said he's been getting questions about the community meetings the mayor put out about what they can do with this money. County Executive said the first piece of this is that he and his team are going to put together an initial plan. That plan will go to the leadership of the County Board who he believes the chairman will put together an ARPA sub-committee. The County wants to educate and hear from community stakeholders on what the County thinks should happen, as well as a process and a roadmap from county stakeholders.

Adjournment

The public comment portion adjourned at 6:04 p.m.

Distributions

- Human Services Department 2022 Budget Planning Paper

Respectfully submitted by,

Kimberly R. Bartel