

**JOINT MEETING OF THE RACINE COUNTY
HEALTH AND HUMAN DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE & HUMAN SERVICES BOARD
Monday, April 8, 2024
Ives Grove Office Complex - Auditorium
14200 Washington Avenue
Sturtevant, WI 53177**

HHD Present: Eric Hopkins, Renee Kelly via phone, Scott Maier, Robert Miller, Q.A. Shakoor II, Jody Spencer

HSB Present: Brenda Danculovich, Scott Maier, Q.A. Shakoor II, Don Trottier, Rhonda Zuck

YIG Present: Will Casterton, Jamillah Jallow

Staff Present: Jonathan Delagrave, Katy Hansen, Jelena Jones, Amy O'Brien, Hope Otto

Others Present: Tim Zuck

Excused: Rae McWhorter, Olga White

Call to Order/Roll Call

Chairman Miller called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.

Mr. Casterton read the YIG statement.

Chairman Miller announced the current YIG class is continuing. He thanked Miss Jallow, and Mr. Casterton for their participation in the program.

Chairman welcomed back Ms. Zuck and acknowledged Mr. Zuck was in attendance.

Public Comments

There were no comments.

Approval of Minutes from the March 11, 2024 Joint Meeting of the Racine County Health and Human Development Committee & Human Services Board

Sup. Maier moved for the Health and Human Development Committee and the Human Services Board to approve the minutes as presented. Sup. Trottier seconded for the committee. Sup. Shakoor seconded for the board.

YIG: Mr. Casterton and Miss Jallow – Aye

Motion carried.

Senior Nutrition Updates and Challenges

The month of March was a March for Meals campaign. Several Representatives and the County Executive rode along to deliver Racine County meals.

Director Otto stressed the importance of highlighting issues and challenges regarding funding for seniors, specifically in the nutrition program so committee and board members can help advocate for this important program.

Ms. Hansen described the Congregate Dining Program and the Meals on Wheels Program, eligibility, locations, and how many meals were served last year. Volunteers are needed for Meals on Wheels.

Ms. Hansen referenced the Wisconsin Agency Network (WAN) 2022 handout. The new 2023 handout is pending. The 2022 request from Racine County was rejected. The new ask is to fund both local nutrition programs, 30% for congregate, and 30% for the home delivered program.

A meal prioritization project is being piloted with 16 other counties in Wisconsin. Currently seniors are offered five meals per week. Partners and spouses of participants are currently eligible for meals as a form of respite.

County Executive Delagrave indicated that the reduction of funding may cause Racine County to look at a priority system for Meals on Wheels verses being able to provide a meal to anyone in need.

Ms. Hansen continued stating that if a prioritized system is implemented it would impact approximately 72% of current participants. Care givers, spouses, and partners would likely go down to zero meals per week. That may impact other aging programs and funding as that group depends on respite resources in that manner.

Statewide there has been no increase in the nutrition programs since the mid 80's. Ms. Hansen stressed the importance of advocating for our seniors.

Ms. O'Brien indicated surrounding counties, including Kenosha, already have a wait list for the home delivered meal program. The aging population is doubling, and the funding stream has stayed stagnant. The State is implementing the prioritization model, Racine County is piloting it. Meals will be reduced in lieu of a wait list, but both may occur. The counties that have implemented it are doing both.

Sup. Trottier asked for literature to recruit volunteers. He will advocate for additional funding for the programs the next time he is in Madison. County Executive Delagrave suggested writing a resolution addressed to Bryan Steil and senators.

Sup. Maier motioned for both the Health and Human Development Committee and Human Services Board to move forward, requested that staff develop a resolution requesting more money federally and from the state of Wisconsin for the senior nutrition programs. Sup. Shakoor seconded for the committee and the board.

YIG – Mr. Casterton and Ms. Jallow – Aye

Motion carried unanimously.

Worker Development/Talent Pipeline Update

Director Otto referenced the initial request from this group that asked the County Board to write a resolution to advocate for additional funds being allocated to Racine County through the Southeast Workforce Development Board. There was a conversation with DWD leadership that included County Executive Delagrave, Workforce management, and Racine County's legal counsel. Their guidance was to partner better with the Southeast Board to leverage funds first. This program is on hold.

Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) dollars come through the local tri-county Workforce Board that includes Walworth, Kenosha, and Racine. A for profit agency, Dynamic Workforce Solutions, oversees that program. The W2 Program replaced AFDC. That was run by the County, then privatized which has resulted in an incredible decline in participation. Enrollment has dropped from 400-500 individuals down to 100 or so. For Racine County to support and uplift people in our community, Racine County wants that funding stream back. The RFP is up and due in about one week. HSD is putting together a competitive, regional RFP with a County operated system. The consortium would put together a letter to say we'll integrate it into the Human Services model that was successful years ago. That is a \$6M grant with Racine County receiving over a quarter of the funds based on our population. This would help build up that diversified revenue stream, optimize available resources, and help loop into our existing work. DCF did a research paper that described how ineffective the model has been over the past eight years.

HSD Capital Construction Update

Director Otto distributed photos of the Youth Development Care Center (YDCC) site to show progress. Things are on track and to date still within budget. Furniture delivery is expected in the second week of October with a soft opening in November.

A future meeting and/or tour will be scheduled at the YDCC site.

Meetings have been held with the architect about the Behavioral Health building. The contractor awarded is Gilbane.

There will be a similar workforce engagement process, not the same level of a contract to do the diversity tracking. Amanda Roman and Domina Consulting will do that work.

Director Otto reached out to the City Administrator about the permit. He initially said they wouldn't have to go through the comprehensive plan, then later said they must go through the comprehensive plan to get the zoning permissions.

Correspondence and Other Business

Director Otto reported that Health Officer Langlieb is beginning the analysis on blood testing for children age five years or less. He hopes to have a report an update in May. The goal is to understand the number of children the pediatricians may or may not be testing and what role Public Health has in that and whether to advocate for that or not

There has not been a spike alert in 2024. Opioid and Overdose Update will be a standing item on future agendas.

Next Meeting Date

There will be a new class of County Board supervisors in May.

The next Joint Meeting of the Health and Human Development Committee & Human Services Board is scheduled for Monday, May 13, 2024, at Ives Grove Office Complex.

Adjournment

Sup. Maier motioned for the Health and Human Development Committee and the Human Services Board to adjourn. Sup. Shakoor II seconded for the committee and the board.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:48 p.m.

Action

- Send senior nutrition program information to members.
- Staff develop a resolution requesting additional federal and state funding for senior nutrition programs. Present resolution to this group next month.
- Schedule a meeting and/or tour at the YDCC site.

Distributions

- Wisconsin Aging Advocacy Network Flier
- The Case for Meals on Wheels: An Evidence-Based Solution to Senior Hunger and Isolation
- Meals on Wheels America Wisconsin's Aging Population by the Numbers
- Meals on Wheels America 2024 Advocacy Agenda
- Youth Development and Care Center Site Photos

Respectfully submitted by,

Kimberly R. Bartel