

RACINE COUNTY HUMAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT

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RACINE COUNTY HEALTH AND HUMAN DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE AND HUMAN SERVICES BOARD

Monday, July 25, 2016

Ives Grove Office Complex – Auditorium

14200 Washington Avenue, Sturtevant, WI 53177

5:00 p.m.

The above location is handicap accessible. If you have other special needs please contact the Racine County Human Services Department, 1717 Taylor Avenue, Racine, Wisconsin, (262) 638-6646 or for hearing impaired for TTY, contact 711.

AGENDA

1. Call to Order
2. Chairman Comments/Youth In Governance Statement
3. Public Comment Period Not To Exceed Fifteen (15) Minutes (Each Speaker Shall Be Allotted a Maximum of Three (3) Minutes). The Speaker Shall Speak On Any Item.
4. Approval of Minutes of July 11, 2016 Health and Human Development Committee Public Hearing and July 11, 2016 Health and Human Development Committee Meeting – **ACTION**
5. Discuss Public Hearing Comments and Review 2017 Budget Priorities Timetable as Applicable
6. Behavioral Health Services Update
7. Ridgewood Update
8. Correspondence and Other Business
9. Next Meeting Date – Monday, August 8, 2016, 5:00 p.m. – Ives Grove Office Complex, Auditorium
10. Adjournment

Robert N. Miller, Chairman
Health & Human Development Committee

NOTE: If members anticipate needing additional information, please contact Hope Otto or Human Services staff by Monday before noon.

**RACINE COUNTY
HEALTH AND HUMAN DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE
PUBLIC HEARING
July 11, 2016
Ives Grove Office Complex - Auditorium
14200 Washington Avenue
Sturtevant, WI 53177**

Present: Kay Buske, Mike Dawson, Robert N. Miller, Brett Nielsen, Pamela Zenner-Richards

Youth in Governance Representatives: Disheka Moore, Olivia Spaight

Excused: Donnie Snow

Staff Present: Janet Bernberg, Wendy Christensen, Russell Clark, David J. Cooke, Cindy Cornwell, Brenda Danculovich, Jonathan Delagrave, Liam Doherty, Dan Hollimon, Jon Lehman, Carol Melster, Monte Osterman, Hope Otto, Kim Peterson, Tom Roanhouse, Anita Seils

Others Present: Cheryl Betchkal
Patrick Bohon, NAMI Racine County
Mary Koboski
Mary Meddaugh
Ken Melster
Luann Simpson
Stan Timm

Call to Order

Chairman Miller called the Public Hearing to order at 5:02 p.m.

Citizen Comments

Patrick Bohon, NAMI Racine County

On behalf of NAMI-Racine County, thank you for this opportunity to offer public comments as you begin the 2017 Human Services Department (HSD) budget process. Let me begin by recognizing the leadership of the County Executive and County Board in continuing to pursue innovation and expanded capacity in our mental health system. In addition, the dedication of our mental health and human services professionals who provide vital services to those in need deserves recognition.

In the over 35 year history of NAMI-Racine there has never been a more hopeful time. As the countywide Bridging the Gaps public education and anti-stigma initiative proclaims – “mental health recovery is real.” While there is still much work to do, progress has been made in making mental health recovery a reality for an increasing number of Racine County residents. Momentum continues to build throughout the nation and Racine County to reform and expand our mental health system to ensure that appropriate treatment and services are available to those in need. The nearly unanimous vote in the U.S. House of Representatives last week for mental health reform legislation is a prominent example of this emerging consensus.

Our objectives closely align with the Human Services Department stated mission and vision of fostering “healthy, self-reliant individuals and families” resulting in a “healthy, educated and empowered Racine County.”

The significant expansion of mental health counseling and outpatient services delivered by Racine County Behavioral Health Services during the past twelve months combined with efforts of other

community providers represents an encouraging trend. Increases in delivery of community based crisis services and hotline assistance combined with reductions in emergency detentions is also a positive trend. Moving forward, continued expansion of the Comprehensive Community Services model (CCS) combined with more intensive Community Support Program (CSP) services as appropriate for the individual will be crucial components to making recovery a reality for a growing number of Racine County residents living with mental illness.

As County Executive Delagrave stated in the recent state of the county address: "It is our responsibility to not rest on these strides alone." In 2017 NAMI Racine County looks forward to continued expansion of the number of people served in the CCS program to move us closer to the goal of a mental health recovery that fully embraces opportunity, independence, self-reliance and dignity. The continued emphasis on developing a peer support component to service provision, provided by certified peer support specialists, will further enhance the impact of recovery services. Maintaining important funding commitments to a complete continuum of care to ensure that treatment and recovery services are customized to the needs of the person living with mental illness is a critical part of making recovery a reality. This continuum must include quality inpatient and crisis services on the acute portion of the spectrum as well as a full range of accessible counseling, outpatient, soft skill development and employment related services. NAMI Racine supports the stated intention of the County Executive and Human Services Department to increase the number of clinicians within Behavioral Services to move us closer to the goal of increasing service accessibility and responsiveness.

Inappropriate incarceration of people living with untreated mental illness remains a significant challenge facing the nation and Racine County. We are encouraged by the recent initiatives to establish a mental health diversion program in Racine County. The collaborative model followed to build children's mental health services capacity in Racine County could serve us well in developing innovative solutions supported by all stakeholders in the legal and human service systems to address unnecessary incarceration of people living with mental illness.

A spirit of cooperation and innovation is evident throughout our community as we build bridges to eliminate gaps in public understanding of the potential for recovery for those living with mental illness and make prudent investments in services that help people reach their full potential. Racine County HSD continues to serve as a catalyst for change and reform. We look forward to maintaining a constructive dialogue on areas of progress while continuing to explore opportunities for advancement in our mental health system.

Chairman Miller read the following public comments received via e-mail and by telephone.

Jim Yoghourtjian

I would like to express my gratefulness to Ridgewood Healthcare for the excellent care and compassion that has been shown to my father-in-law over the past several weeks. He has been in for extensive rehab and it is progressing slowly. The staff continues to be patient and understanding as they care for him. Kim and I are thankful for their professionalism.

Mary K Meddaugh

As a resident of Racine County, I have been following the proposed sale of the Ridgewood complex as recommended by the Task Force assigned the job of reviewing options regarding County involvement in skilled nursing facilities. While the County Board Executive Committee and Health and Human Development Committee is meeting on Monday July 11 at 5:30 pm to discuss the future sale of Ridgewood, I ask that HSD Budget planning for 2017 still include Ridgewood as an ongoing portion of the County operations.

While the prospect of dropping Ridgewood for a one-time \$10 million (this is only one realtor's "estimate") payment may be a way to address the County's operating expenses, a sale of this facility to private ownership is a radical step that could adversely affect our County's service to some of the most vulnerable residents of the community. It also may precipitate future decisions to "trim the fat"

by looking at other assets and programs that depend on County funding in the future. Thank you for your consideration.

Mary Kaboski

Please ensure that adequate funding for Ridgewood Care Center is included in the Racine County Human Services 2017 Budget Plan.

As a five-star nursing home, Ridgewood is a reflection on Racine County, demonstrating how we care for the infirm and aging members of our community. It is important that the 2017 Budget Plan includes the money Ridgewood needs to continue to provide high quality care.

Thank you for doing what is necessary to make sure ample funding for Ridgewood is included in the 2017 Budget Plan.

Sheila Polzin

I am concerned about the decision of the county board to engage with a broker regarding the sale of Ridgewood care center. My father has been a resident for the last three years and I find it hard to imagine that any potential buyer would provide the excellent care he the other residents currently receive. They think of Ridgewood as home and their caregivers as family.

I realize Ridgewood is not what you refer to as a mandated service but serves with compassion those in our community that are frail, elderly and physically or mentally challenged. Many come here because they have no one to care for them and the staff embraces them.

I would hope you would give strong consideration to add the operation to the tax levy before you make the irrevocable decision to turn your back on your residents who have no voice in this matter.

Ridgewood is a treasure! Handle it with care. Remember your motto, still running on cable TV commercials today, RIDGEWOOD LIFE EMPOWERED.

Sue Ellingham

I am just sending you a quick note to let you know I have been following the proposals for Ridgewood. I can appreciate the financial difficulty of trying to weigh what is best for the facility. My mother in law has been there for 6 years. We have been thrilled with the care from the staff. The staff and residents have been like family. So have the residents' family members been like family. I have read about your thoughtful approach of not rushing into a decision and it is appreciated. My humble opinion is that if things were to change, leasing the facility so the county has some control would be preferable.

I have a sidebar of other personal experience in the past year and a half. My father was at Lakeland in Elkhorn which is Walworth County's facility. My mother moved my dad from Lakeland to a for profit facility she could drive to. She moved him back to Lakeland because she was much more satisfied with the care despite her transportation difficulties.

There seems to be a pride of facilities that are for the communities that own them. I wish you the best of luck in tackling this issue. Thank you for your time and service.

Dave Ellingham

Often when we have special needs, we find the way. Care of elderly should be a high priority. It is our duty, we should find the money to support Ridgewood.

Warren Larsen

I am Warren Larsen, I'm at 3900 N. Main Street, in the Atrium for seniors. From what I see, you know my grandmother who died at 100 years old was at several different nursing homes. None of them treated her very well. One day a week they would have them lined up in their wheelchairs down two hallways waiting for baths, that's just one thing. So many things they don't do properly.

I've been to Ridgewood many times, one of my best friends was over there, she knows one of the guys that runs the place, she got excellent care. Everybody gets that same excellent care.

Once a year an Italian restaurant comes over and feeds them for the day too, it's pretty nice. It's really a special place.

These other places get in and they don't listen to anybody for one thing. Maybe it's like being at your work place I don't know. At our place nobody is listening to us now that there's new ownership. That's my bid, it's a good place and it shouldn't go away.

Mary Koboski

I did send an e-mail in, but after I sent it I thought of two things I want to mention. One is the importance of putting this in our budget, they're thinking about selling it I understand that, but my understanding is that is not anything definite. So in the meanwhile I really do believe we need to be sure this item for Ridgewood is in our budget with adequate funding, that's number one.

Number two, I guess I would say this at your next meeting, but if you sell Ridgewood you need to keep in mind that they can sell again. Whoever buys it, even if the first people who buy it are somebody that we think is going to be great we have no control beyond that. The fact that this is such a good place, such a wonderful place for our people, it's a really important item for Racine County. There was an ad once, it's a nice reflection on us, additionally to the fact that it's wonderful for the people who are there, from a community stand point it reflects very well. Those are the items I wanted to mention, thank you.

Kim Peterson

I want to introduce myself, my name is Kim Peterson. I don't live in Racine County, but I work in Racine County at Ridgewood. My address is W 768 Dixon Drive, Burlington, I'm a Walworth County resident. I am the face of Ridgewood. I'm a registered nurse, I've been a team leader, I'm working into a management position. I've worked all shifts. I see residents, co-workers and family members of residents here.

I just want to say that I was charge nurse over the weekend. One of the duties we do as charge nurse is to give tours of our facility when the administrations department isn't in on the weekend to do this and it's the charge nurses job to do that.

The first thing I do when I introduce myself to someone who is looking to come in to Ridgewood with their family members, I ask who they are and why they want to be here. I tell them a little bit about myself and that I drive 45 minutes a day one way, 30 miles. I've been there 10 years. I've worked in other facilities. I could work close to home, I know where Lakeland is, I'm closer to Lakeland, but our facility is phenomenal with the residents. We don't line them up for baths, we get them into a beauty shop, they go out on outings; they go to Brewer Games, they go to Potowotomi, they eat at the Golden Corral, they patronize the businesses in our community, the businesses in our community bring their business in by us. I also work with at least 150 different employees who live in Racine County and put their money back into Racine County.

The care at Ridgewood when you walk in the door is like no other and I pride myself on that. When I introduce myself and give a tour I let them know I drive this way because this is a good job, it's a good facility.

I would put my mother in there and I bring family members of the residents and the employees that work in there and help them. I really love what I do. I am nervous about a sale to a private sector. I'm in there for the long haul, I'm going to be there to the end, provided all willing. I really invest my time every day walking in there and do it not because I change a dressing or put an IV in somebody, but because I have phenomenal coworkers as a team and watch what happens when residents make a change and are comfortable at the end of that cycle of life.

This facility is like no other I've ever worked in. It feels like a home when you walk in there and we do a lot of different things for our residents that other facilities don't do. We have activities all the time. We have therapy in there that is top notch. We have nurses that I've never seen work as hard as they do. CNAs every day who come in short cause it's not just our facility it's everywhere, a nursing crisis with shortage of staff and they keep going.

So I just want to say that as an employee, it's been just amazing what we've seen and done and transformed in that building. I just wanted to say that as someone that works there, I love that facility. It is a very positive investment. I know we're in a crunch, I've understood the budget we've been through wage freezes in there because we know there is a budget to run. I'm asking that there is somewhere in there we can find it to work that into the budget. I know we need to keep things, we can't afford to cut, we want to keep taxes down, but just try, I'm not a budget expert, but to keep that facility where it is no matter what it takes or what changes in the future, so we provide that care for those residents.

The public hearing session closed at 5:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kimberly R. Bartel, Recorder

DRAFT

**RACINE COUNTY
HEALTH AND HUMAN DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE
July 11, 2016
Ives Grove Office Complex - Auditorium
14200 Washington Avenue
Sturtevant, WI 53177**

Present: Kay Buske, Mike Dawson, Robert N. Miller, Brett Nielsen, Donnie Snow,
Pamela Zenner-Richards

Youth in Governance Representatives: Disheka Moore, Olivia Spaight

Staff Present: Janet Bernberg, Wendy Christensen, Russell A. Clark, David J. Cooke, Cindy
Cornwell, Brenda Danculovich, Jonathan Delagrave, Liam Doherty, Dan
Hollimon, Jon Lehman, Carol Melster, Monte Osterman, Hope Otto, Kim
Peterson, Tom Roanhouse, Anita Seils, Alex Tillmann

Others Present: Cheryl Betchkal
Patrick Bohon, NAMI Racine County
Mary Meddaugh
Ken Melster
Luann Simpson
Stan Timm

Call to Order

Chairman Miller called the Committee to order at 7:30 p.m.

Chairman Comments

There were no chairman comments

Citizen Comments

There were not citizen comments

Approval of Minutes of June 13, 2016 Health and Human Development Committee Meeting

Sup. Dawson moved to approve the minutes as submitted. Sup. Zenner-Richards seconded.

Youth In Governance vote – Moore – aye Spaight – aye

Motion carried.

**Report No. 2016-25 – Report by the County Executive Making an Appointment to the Housing
Authority of Racine County (Fritz Cape)**

Sup. Zenner-Richards moved to recommend the appointment to the County Board. Sup. Buske
seconded.

Youth In Governance vote – Moore – aye Spaight – aye

Motion carried.

Report No. 2016-26 – Report by the County Executive Making a Reappointment and Appointments to the Racine County Human Services Board (Supervisor Brett Nielsen, Supervisor Kiana Harden-Johnson, Supervisor Ronald Molnar, Supervisor Katherine Buske, Citizen members District Attorney Rich Chiapete, Susan Lange Pruitt)

Sup. Zenner-Richards moved to recommend confirmation of the appointment and reappointments to the County Board. Sup. Snow seconded.

Youth In Governance vote – Moore – aye Spaight – aye

Motion carried.

Correspondence and Other Business

There was no other business.

Discuss Public Hearing Comments and Review 2017 Budget Priorities Timetable as Applicable

Chairman Miller recommended to meet July 25, 2016 to address this item. Ms. Otto asked if it was appropriate to include the Human Services Board for the first joint meeting. Chairman Miller asked Director Otto to give him a recommendation.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 7:33 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kimberly R. Bartel, Recorder

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