

**HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES BOARD MEETING**  
**Douglas County Board of Supervisors**  
**Thursday, October 11, 2018, 4:30 p.m., Courthouse, Room 207C**  
**1313 Belknap Street, Superior, Wisconsin**

Meeting called to order by Chair Larry Quam.

**ROLL CALL:** Present – Larry Quam, Alan Jaques (left at 5:42), Jim Bolin, Patricia Ryan, Marvin Finendale, Amida Gallito (arrived 4:40 p.m.). Absent – June Farkas. Others present – Erika Johnson, Brian Erickson, Tracy Ruppe, Mark Liebaert, Joan Finckler, Dave Longsdorf, Cary Breitlow, Kathy Ronchi, Shelley Nelson, Doreen Wehmas, Michelle Bittinat, Michelle LaPorte, Pat Schanen, Kaci Lundgren (Committee Clerk).

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** Motion by Finendale, second Ryan, to approve the minutes of the August 30, 2018, meeting. Motion carried.

**INTRODUCTION OF NEW STAFF:** Michelle Bittinat, Children’s Waiver Program, and Michelle LaPorte, Birth to Three Coordinator, introduced.

**ACTION:** Motion by Ryan, second Jaques, to suspend agenda and hear item 6.a. Motion carried.

**Veterans Services:** Claims are level, although veteran population is declining. Continuing work on taxi voucher program with elimination of county veteran transportation van.

**PRESENTATION:**

**County Perspectives and Recommendations to Address Wisconsin’s Child Welfare Crisis:** The opioid and meth epidemic has overwhelmed the child protective services system in many parts of the state, including Douglas County. The number of children and the length of time they spend in out-of-home placements, and the costs related with care have increased significantly. In 2015, Douglas County out-of-home care costs were \$702,424; the 2017 cost increased to \$1,146,159. This dramatic increase has resulted in a reduction of service contracts and reduced access to AODA residential treatment. Despite the dramatic increases in case-loads, out-of-home placements, and costs to the counties, the State of Wisconsin has not developed State-level standards, studies or recommendations for Child Welfare.

**ACTION ITEM:**

**Resolution Requesting Increased Funding and Oversight Reforms for Wisconsin’s Child Protective Services System:** Resolution requests increase to Children and Family Aids Allocation to counties in the 2019-21 state biennial budget by \$30 million annually to assist counties in child welfare crisis to cover out-of-home costs and increase staffing.

**ACTION (RESOLUTION):** Motion by Finendale, second Ryan, to approve resolution with addition of PowerPoint slide as exhibit and refer to County Board. Motion carried unanimously.

**UPDATES AND REPORTS:** Included with agenda; reviewed.

**INFORMATIONAL ITEMS:**

**Comprehensive Community Services (CCS) Update:** Awaiting feedback from state for approval of CCS Plan submitted by H&HS. Human Development Center (program administrator) is gathering resources to begin program January 1, 2019.

**Warrant Resolution Day:** October 23, 2018, individuals with outstanding warrants can visit Government Center and work with local officials to resolve cases.

**Opioid Grant – Collaboration with Community Partners:** Multiple major grants can be used together to assist with jailed individuals in need of treatment. Douglas County Health & Human Services is collaborating with Lake Superior Community Health Center and local law enforcement to maximize the benefits of the grants each entity has received regarding opioids and meth.

**Wisconsin Act 185: Secured Residential Care Centers for Children and Youth:** The Department of Corrections (DOC) is restructuring the Wisconsin Juvenile Correctional system and will be establishing a new Type 1 facility for youth under the serious juvenile offender program. As part of a broader youth justice system the DOC will work with Counties or Tribes to develop 5 regional Secure Residential Care Centers for Children and Youth for non-violent juvenile correctional placements. La Crosse County has expressed interest in developing a facility and Douglas County is interested in contracting with them should they move forward in their efforts.

**CY 2018 Budget:** 1 million over budget through August 31, 2018.

**FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS:** ADRC by-laws; veteran report from Dr. Gallito.

**ADJOURNMENT:** Motion by Ryan, second Bolin, to adjourn. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 6:04 p.m.

Submitted by,

Kaci Jo Lundgren, Committee Clerk