

# IRON COUNTY HUMAN SERVICES BOARD Meeting

August 12, 2024

6:00 p.m. – County Board Room

1. **Meeting called to order:** @ 6:00 p.m. by Lauer.  
Members present: Karen Lauer, Kurt Wolff, Tom Innes, Carol Matson, Vic Ouimette, Mario Loreti, Roy Haeger, Doug Swartz and Larry Youngs, County Board Chair.  
Student members absent: Serena Tauer.  
Staff members present: Cally Bucknell, Diane Schmidtke, Krystal Ferrell  
Staff members absent: Trista Olson.
2. Bucknell acknowledged the meeting was properly called and posted.
3. **Public Comment** – None
4. **Approval of minutes from previous meetings:** Motion by Loreti to approve minutes from June 3, 2024 Human Services Board meeting (with a correction to the spelling of his last name), seconded by Haeger, All in favor.
5. **Discussion/Action on Resolution Advocating for an Inpatient Behavioral Health Facility for Northern Wisconsin.** Bucknell explained that there are very few psychiatric beds available in Northern Wisconsin and recent closures of hospitals in Eau Claire and Chippewa Falls have resulted in even fewer beds available. Northern Counties are asking their Human Service Committees and County Boards to support a resolution requesting the State provide funding (either a State facility or subsidies for private, non-profit organizations) to establish an in-patient acute behavioral health unit to serve Northern WI counties. Ouimette made a motion, seconded by Innes to support the resolution and forward the recommendation to the County Board.
6. **Budget Update 2024** - Bucknell referenced handout #6 and answered a few questions regarding the status of the 2024 budget.
7. **Adult and Children Placements 2024** – Handout #7 was discussed. Several questions were answered regarding children’s placements.
8. **Discussion/Action 2024 Contracts** – Bucknell explained the purpose of each of these contracts and answered questions.
  - a. Hurley Senior Center – Loreti made a motion to approve this contract, Innes supported. All in favor.
  - b. Northern Breeze Landscaping – Haeger made a motion to approve this contract, seconded by Loreti. All in favor.
9. **Discussion of Required/Preventative programming** – Bucknell explained handout #9 and answered several questions regarding Crisis. Wolff and Lauer emphasized that we need to contact the state regarding the difficulty for small, rural counties (especially in the Northern part of the state) to meet staffing and supervision requirements for Crisis certification and the loss of revenue due to not being certified.
10. **Discussion on County Budget Reduction Ideas** – Bucknell reported that during the County Board meeting, one budget reduction idea that was brought up is to sell the ADRC building and relocate staff to the Hurley Senior Center. Bucknell gave a history of when and why the ADRC building was purchased and emphasized the issues we would face with putting staff at the Hurley Senior Center. She answered several questions. Bucknell also explained that another idea given was furloughing some staff. Human Services would have to work out some schedule changes to ensure coverage and avoid additional overtime.
11. **Discussion/Action on Proposed 2025 Budget.** An extensive discussion was held regarding the Northland contract. Lauer suggested that we call for RFP’s and/or look at hiring some Northland & Highline staff as County employees. We need the services, but we need to look at different ways of obtaining the services. Loreti made a motion, seconded by Ouimette to forward the 2025 budget as presented to Finance. AIF.

- 12. Agency Updates and Information**
- 1. Director Update**
- a. Transportation Quarter 2, 2024 – Bucknell referenced handout # 12-1a and answered some questions. Bucknell informed that we are projected to be approximately \$28,000 over budget by the end of the year and asked, due to budget constraints, what direction the Board would like us to go seeing that we will be over budget in quarters 3 & 4. The Board decided that they will look for other ways but cutting Transportation programming is not a direction they wish to pursue.
- b. Mercer School – Bucknell explained that Ferrell, Lauer and herself have met with the Mercer school and are hopeful they will be more receptive to Human Services programming in the future. School staff cancelled a follow-up meeting, however, is anticipated it will be rescheduled in the near future.
- 2. Children & Families Update** – Ferrell provided updates for the Children & Families unit as highlighted in handout # 12-2:
- Ferrell continues to provide support to social workers preparing to take their national exam.
  - Ferrell referenced the Foster Care brochure and emphasized the need for more foster homes. Iron County currently has two licensed foster homes.
  - Ferrell advised that there are currently five children in out-of-home care which is a reduction of two since the last Board meeting.
  - Case updates were provided.
- 3. Aging and Disability Resource Center (ADRC) and Aging** – Bucknell referred to handout #12-3a & b
- a. **Aging Advisory Committee** –
- The next Aging Advisory meeting is scheduled for September 17<sup>th</sup>, 2024
  - The next Nutrition Advisory Meeting is September 12<sup>th</sup>, 2024
- b. **ADRC & Aging Services Updates**
- Caseloads: Miranda = 32 Gerard = 18 Jerri = 5
  - Gerard and Miranda - ADRC regional line - April Regional calls taken: Miranda = 84, Gerard = 104. Jerri had 5 unduplicated cases and a monetary impact of \$9,055 savings to seniors.
  - Olson submitted a draft of the 2025-2027 Aging Plan to GWAAR and is awaiting feedback. Public meetings will be held in Hurley and Mercer in September to review the plan.
  - There will be a brainstorming meeting on 8/26 to discuss Mercer meal options. Lauer would like to invite more Mercer residents to that meeting (both those who participate in the senior meal programs and those who currently do not participate).
- 13. Review/Approve credit card bill and vouchers for June & July 2024.**– Motion by Innes, seconded by Swartz to approve the June & July credit card bills and vouchers and forward to Finance.
- 14. Future Agneda Items** – Carol Matson resigned after 22 years of serving on the Human Services Board. Vic Ouimette shared that he may be moving and may not be an Iron County resident by September. Vic will keep us updated on his status. Lauer reported she has an individual from Mercer who is interested in serving on the Committee. Lauer will ask her to attend the next meeting.
- 15. Next Board Meeting** – September 16 @ 5 p.m.
- 16. Adjourn** – Lauer adjourned the meeting at 7:45 p.m.