

IRON COUNTY HUMAN SERVICES BOARD Meeting

#4

October 21, 2024

5:00 p.m. – County Board Room

1. **Meeting called to order:** @ 5:00 p.m. by Lauer.
Members present: Karen Lauer, Kurt Wolff, Tom Innes, Roy Haeger, Doug Swartz, Jennifer Rye and Larry Youngs, County Board Chair.
Members absent: Mario Loreti, Vic Ouimette.
Staff members present: Cally Bucknell, Diane Schmidtke, Krystal Ferrell, Trista Olson
Student members present: Natalie Cane, Kiera Koski
Also present: Iron County Board Supervisor Roxanne Lutgen
2. Bucknell acknowledged the meeting was properly called and posted.
3. **Public Comment** – None.
4. **Approval of minutes from previous meetings:** Motion by Innes to approve minutes from September 16, 2024, Human Services Board meeting, seconded by Swartz. All in favor.
5. **Budget Update 2024.** Bucknell referenced handout #5. No questions were asked.
6. **Adult and Children Placements 2024** – Handout #6 was discussed. Bucknell informed that we have a recent high-cost adult placement that is expected to be lengthy.
7. **Discussion/Action 2024 Contracts** – Bucknell explained the purpose of each of these contracts and answered questions.
 - a. Northwest Connection Family Resources for 2025
 - b. Bessemer Small Engine
 - c. Hurley Senior Center (Amended)
 - d. Cornerstone Caregiving
 - e. Northland Counseling Services Emergency Stabilization Program (Amended)
 - f. Trempealeau County Health Care Center (Amended)
 - g. Avanti Health Systems (Amended)Motion by Swartz, seconded by Rye to approve the above-named contracts. All in favor.
8. **Discussion/Action on 2025-2027 Aging Plan** – Olson referenced handout # 8 and explained the Aging Plan and reported that she did not attach the appendices but if anyone would like them she will email them. Motion by Innes, seconded by Haeger to approve the 2025-2027 Iron County Aging Plan. All in favor.
9. **Discussion/Action to Designate Reporting Department for Opioid Settlement Funds** – Bucknell explained that the opioid reports were always done by Human Services in the past when no funds were being expended. These funds are county funds and expenditures are paid by the Clerk's Office. Human Services does not have the information needed to complete these reports. It was determined that the reports should be completed by the Clerk's Office because they have the information needed to do so. Youngs will notify the Clerk's Office.
10. **Discussion/Action on Proposed 2025 Budget** – Bucknell reviewed handouts 10a – 10f and explained each spreadsheet and answered questions. Motion by Swartz, seconded by Innes to approve the 2025 Human Services and Aging budgets and forward to Finance. All in favor.
11. **Discussion/Action of Proposed 2025 RFP** - Bucknell referenced handout #11 and explained what positions are covered under the Request for Proposal and her concern regarding whether anyone will apply. County Board member Roxanne Lutgen offered suggestions for where to post the RFP and asked questions regarding whether any of these services could be offered remotely. Several questions were answered. Bucknell is going to add language to the RFP to clarify work site identification. Tabled until November's meeting. We will find out from the auditor if we are required to have competitive bids for these services if utilizing block grant funding. No other action.

12. **Discussion/Action on Work from Home** – Bucknell reported that Human Services has had remote work agreements and policies in place for many years – even pre-COVID. All workers do 100% time reporting. Any issues are addressed immediately. Lauer expressed support for remote work in some positions and stated that she feels “Cally is doing a good job managing her department.”
13. **Agency Updates and Information**
 1. **Director Update** - Cally informed that there is a childcare center that closed last week in Ironwood with a 1-week notice. Camp Jorn in the Manitowish area will now close with a 1-week notice. This is a very scary issue. This will affect economic development, families with young children’s ability to work, safety of children, lots of issues. Lauer expressed an interest in starting a task force to address this issue.
 - a. **Case load updates** – Bucknell reviewed handout # 13-1a. No questions were asked.
 2. **Children & Families Update** – Ferrell provided updates for the Children & Families unit as highlighted in handout # 13-2:
 - Ferrell continues to provide support to social workers preparing to take their national exam. Mercedes Anderson and Brittany Massoglia both took their exams and passed. Rye made a motion to give Olson 6 months to get her social worker license, seconded by Haeger. All in favor. Not on the agenda – will be added to December agenda.
 - Ferrell referenced the Youth Justice brochures and explained YJ.
 - Ferrell advised that there are currently four children in out-of-home care – no change since the last Board meeting.
 - We currently have two licensed foster care homes in Iron County and received another foster care application today.
 - Case updates and worker caseloads were provided.
 3. **Aging and Disability Resource Center (ADRC) and Aging** – Olson referred to handout #13-3a & b
 - a. **Aging Advisory Committee** –
 - The next Aging Advisory meeting is scheduled for December 10th, 2024
 - The next Nutrition Advisory Meeting is December 5th, 2024
 - The next Hurley Senior Center Board Meeting is scheduled for October 30th @ 10 a.m.
 - b. **ADRC & Aging Services Updates**
 - Caseloads: Miranda = 27 Gerard = 18 Jerri = 8
 - Gerard and Miranda - ADRC regional line – August Regional calls taken: Miranda = 75, Gerard = 138. Jerri had eight unduplicated cases and a monetary impact of \$36,019 savings to seniors.
14. **Review/Approve credit card bill and vouchers for September 2024.**– Motion by Wolff, seconded by Rye to approve the September credit card bill and vouchers and forward to Finance.
15. **Future Agenda Items** – RFP, Director performance evaluation and Mercer School update
16. **Next Board Meeting** – December 2nd at 5 p.m.
17. **Adjourn** – Lauer adjourned the meeting at 6:37