

IRON COUNTY HUMAN SERVICES BOARD Meeting

#

February 24, 2025
5:00 p.m. – County Board Room

1. **Meeting called to order:** @ 5:00 p.m. by Lauer.
Members present: Karen Lauer, Tom Innes, Roy Haeger, Mario Loreti, Doug Swartz, Jennifer Rye, Kurt Wolff and Larry Youngs, County Board Chair.
Members absent: Vic Ouimette.
Staff members present: Cally Bucknell, Diane Schmidtke, Krystal Ferrell, Trista Olson
Student members present: Natalie Cane, Kiera Koski
2. Bucknell acknowledged the meeting was properly posted and advertised.
3. **Public Comment** – None.
4. **Approval of minutes from previous meetings:** Motion by Innes to approve minutes from the December 2, 2024 Human Services Board meeting, seconded by Swartz. All in favor.

Bucknell requested that agenda items agenda items 9, 10 and 13 be discussed prior to #5 because Olson needs to leave for another commitment. Motion by Wolff to approve this move, seconded by Loreti. All in favor.
5. **Budget Update 2024 and 2025.** Bucknell referenced handout #5 and explained that 2024 reports are not final numbers. Questions were answered.
6. **Adult and Children Placements 2024 and 2025** – Bucknell referred to handout #6 which summarizes 2024 and 2025 placements. Schmidtke reported that 2024 placement costs are final and will ensure all are court-ordered before reporting those numbers to Wolff for the placement loan. Ferrell advised that the trial for the TPR petition for two youth in foster care was postponed until August 2025 because the attorney representing the father indicated she was not adequately prepared for the trial. Questions were answered.
7. **Discussion/Action 2024 Amended Contracts and 2025 Contracts** – Bucknell advised that handout #7 summarizes the contracts listed below.
 - a. Anu Family Services
 - b. Avanti Health Systems
 - c. Bessemer Small Engine
 - d. Dr. Stephanie Burrows
 - e. Cornerstone Caregiving
 - f. Trempealeau County Health Care Center
 - g. Jason Saari Construction
 - h. Koinonia Residential Health Care CenterMotion by Haeger, seconded by Swartz to approve the above-named contracts. All in favor.
8. **Discussion/Action on Revised Human Services Fiscal Policies** – Bucknell explained that handout 8 was added so that Human Services Fiscal Policies align with the voucher cover changes implemented by the Clerk's Office in February. A discussion was held and questions were answered. Motion by Innes, seconded by Loreti to approve the revised fiscal policies. All in favor.
9. **Discussion/Action on Transportation Rate Changes** – Olson explained that Iron County's transportation fares haven't been adjusted in many years and program costs have increased. The proposed changes are summarized in handout #9 in addition to increasing Mercer/Springstead trips to \$7.00-\$9.00 which was inadvertently omitted from the "Proposal for 2025" section of the document. Loreti asked when the rate changes would take effect & Olson responded that if it is approved, they would take effect on March 1st. A discussion was held and other questions were answered. Motion by Loreti, seconded by Rye to approve the proposed rate changes and expedite exploring other transportation options including contracting with BART. All in favor.

10. **Discussion/Action on Building Use Policy (Aging)** – Olson explained that a private individual was utilizing senior center offices for private business use. Olson contacted GWAAR, and they shared existing policies that we are proposing to use in Iron County. A rental agreement was included for the Hurley Senior Center. Questions were answered. Motion by Rye, seconded by Innes to approve the proposed building use policy and rental agreement. All in favor.

11. **Agency Updates and Information**

1. **Director Update -**

Bucknell informed that one contracted Northland worker is no longer with Northland Counseling which has resulted in four Human Services staff temporarily picking up a significant number of cases in addition to Bucknell and Ferrell absorbing some of that workload. Northland has indicated they would be willing to rehire for that position. The position is in the Human Services 2025 budget, so this is for informational purposes only and does not require action. A discussion was held and questions were answered.

- a. **Ewisacwis interface** – Bucknell advised that counties have been notified that they must have a functioning bi-directional interface from our data system to Ewisacwis. We are not to the point where we are able to incorporate this into the new fiscal system, nor do we have the IT expertise needed to understand what needs to be done. Bucknell asked if we can contact Computer Doctors to assist with this project since Danny has a large list of projects he's working on. Haeger volunteered to look at the document summarizing the requirements to see what is needed. Bucknell will forward the document to Haeger.

12. **Children & Families Update** – Ferrell provided updates for the Children & Families unit as highlighted in handout #12:

- Ferrell continues to provide support to staff preparing to take their national exam and hold mini trainings for CPS staff.
- Ferrell continues to provide case management for a Bayfield County CPS case.
- Ferrell informed that there are currently four children in out-of-home care – no change since the last Board meeting.
- Iron County currently has three licensed foster care homes.
- Case updates and worker caseloads were provided.
- Ferrell and Bucknell will be meeting with Mercer School personnel in March.
- Tammy Moore is working with Public Health and the schools to provide a vaping education program and utilize the Botvin LifeSkills curriculum with students.

13. **Aging and Disability Resource Center (ADRC) and Aging** – Olson referred to handout #13a-c

a. **Aging Advisory Committee –**

- The next Aging Advisory meeting is scheduled for March 13th.
- The next Nutrition Advisory Meeting is scheduled for March 6th.
- The next Hurley Senior Center Board Meeting is February 26th.

b. **ADRC & Aging Services Updates**

- Caseloads: Miranda = 58 Gerard = 15 (was out of office for a family emergency) Jerri = 8
- Gerard and Miranda - ADRC regional line – January Regional calls taken: Miranda = 95 Gerard = 114
- Jerri has also been assisting with home delivery and meals due to staffing issues. Jerri is busy assisting clients with Homestead Tax Credit.

Olson provided the following updates:

- The security system has been installed, and IT continues to work on set-up of the system and door fobs at the ADRC and Hurley Senior Center.
- The Mercer cook position is still vacant. There have been two recent inquiries and Olson is waiting return of those applications.
- Rick's Appliance Repair replaced a thermocouple on the oven at the Hurley Senior Center.
- The Midweek Mingle at Mercer has been well attended.
- ADRC of the North received a \$65,000 Marketing and Outreach grant from the State. Each office had to determine marketing needs. Iron County will be getting logos for the bus and large ADRC signage for the hill by the ADRC building. ADRC of the North is working on a commercial. Clients from each ADRC location were interviewed for the commercial which will be coming out soon.

c. Transportation End of Year 2024 – Olson reviewed and answered questions regarding handout 13c which summarized 2024 transportation numbers.

- 14. Review/Approve credit card bill and vouchers for December 2024 & January 2025.**– Motion by Loreti, seconded by Haeger to approve the December 2024 & January 2025 credit card bills and vouchers and forward to Finance. AIF.
- 15. Future Agneda Items** – BART, eWiscacwis interface, Float Social Worker job description
- 16. Next Board Meeting** – Monday, April 7th @ 5 p.m.
- 17. Adjourn** – Lauer adjourned the meeting at 6:22 p.m.