

Price County Health & Human Services Board Meeting Minutes

Date: September 13, 2023

Time: 9:00 a.m.

Place: Courthouse County Board Room 101; 126 Cherry St; Phillips, WI 54555

Meeting called to order at 9:00 a.m. by Paula Houdek, Committee Chairperson.

Roll Call: Present: Peter Dahlie, Paula Houdek, Sally Huml, Robert Kopisch, Mark Kyle, Suzanne Ocker (remote), Patricia Stephan, Dennis Wartgow. Excused: Gerald Swenson. Also present: Sarah Reese-Socha, Michelle Edwards, Krisan Bastil, Keri Nelson, Deb Kronberger-Oswald, Kayla Borgen, Amy Nussberger, Jenny Schuh, Chana Rymarkiewicz

Items for discussion and possible action:

1. Public Comment and Communications: None
2. Health & Human Services Department – 2023 County Fair Booth: Reviewed information and photos from displays at the fair.
3. Vouchers – Krisan Bastil: Motion Kopisch/Stephan to approve the vouchers in the amount of \$91,815.20. Motion carried.
4. Minutes from August 9, 2023 meeting: Motion Kyle/Wartgow to approve the minutes from the August 9, 2023 meeting as presented. Motion carried.
5. 2022 Annual Report Review: Reviewed Department operations.
6. 2020-2022 Annual Snapshot Report: Reviewed comparative data for units in the department.
7. Appointment - Health & Human Services Board (remainder of term to expire May 31, 2025): Robert Kopisch: The County Board approved his appointment at their September 12th meeting.
8. Public Health Division – Michelle Edwards
 - a. Resolution – Using Public Health American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Funds for Community ADA Compliant Playground Equipment: \$325,000 of funds remaining. Groups in three communities are planning and fundraising for ADA compliant playground equipment. Proposal to use \$300,000 of the remaining ARPA funds to assist in the three projects. Motion Kopisch/Stephan to approve the resolution and forward to the County Board for their consideration. Motion carried.
 - b. Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS) Research: The State is developing a two-year grant for testing. A private well in Price County tested positive for PFAS. They are requesting a letter of support for the research project. Motion Wartgow/Dahlie to support the State research project and grant application for the PFAS. Motion carried.
 - c. Community Needs Assessment: Current plan goes through 2024. Working with Marshfield Clinic Health System. Community survey open to gather information. September 21st meeting on the Wisconsin Alcohol Policy Project. Looking for input from rural counties.
9. Aging & Disability / Senior Services Division – Deb Kronberger-Oswald / Kris Mabie
 - a. Dementia Care Specialist Program – Shea O'Rourke: Covers Price, Sawyer, Bayfield and Ashland Counties. Provides initial memory screening for potential referral. Facilitate support groups. Certified Dementia training for businesses. Dementia Live provides a dementia simulation. Virtual programming. Living Well newsletter goes out to 270 individuals.
 - b. Disability Benefit Specialist Position: Shared position with Sawyer County. Serves age 59 and under. The ADRC position is housed in Sawyer County. They asked if Price County would take the position. Motion Wartgow/Kopisch to support the position as presented and develop a resolution for the next meeting. Motion carried.
 - c. Council on Aging Advisory Committee Meeting Report: Phillips meal site is moving to the First Presbyterian Church. Meal site MOUs will be up for review.
 - d. Woodland Enhanced Health Services Commission Report – Paula Houdek: Budget review. Set 2024 daily rate at \$95. Remodeling update.
10. Economic Support – Amy Nussberger
 - a. Wisconsin Home Energy Assistance Program (WHEAP)
 - i. Proactive/Crisis Home Energy (HE) for 2023-2024 (Fuel Assistance): Emergency and no-heat crisis payment. May qualify for furnace replacement or repair. Weatherization analysis. 1,092 applications, 989 approved.
 - ii. Presentation: Discussed qualification,
 - iii. Policy: Motion Wartgow/Kyle to approve the 2023-2024 Pro-Active/Crisis HE+ Application 2023-2024 policy as presented. Motion carried.

Peter Dahlie excused from meeting at 10:30 a.m.

11. Fiscal and Administrative Division – Keri Nelson
 - a. High-Cost Placements Reports: Reviewed.
 12. Director Report – Sarah Reese-Socha
 - a. Agency Updates: Public Health had state review. Recommending Level 2 recertification.
 - b. Personnel Updates: Emily Rehak, Elder Benefit Specialist resigned. Recruiting for Behavioral Health Social Worker, two Children and Youth Social Workers and ADRC position.
 13. Next meeting – October 11
 14. Meeting adjourned at 10:38 a.m.
- Respectfully submitted: Jean Gottwald, County Clerk