

MINUTES
RICHLAND COUNTY HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
JULY 19, 2007

The Public Hearing meeting of the Richland County Health and Human Services Board was called to order at 5:30 p.m. July 19, 2007 by Dr. Richard Edwards in the Main Conference Room of the Community Services Building, 221 West Seminary Street, Richland Center, Wisconsin.

Members Present: Betty Havlik, Daniel Carroll, Dr. Richard Edwards, Glenn Ferguson, Paul Kinney, and Ray Schmitz.

Members Absent: Ann Greenheck, Jane Greiling, and Jeanetta Kirkpatrick.

Others Present: Linda Overbeek, Linda Symons, Lori Thuli, Patrick Metz, and Randy Jacquet.

Approval of Agenda and Posting: Motion by Paul Kinney, seconded by Glenn Ferguson to approve the agenda and proper posting. Motion carried.

Introductions and Review Purpose of the Public Hearing: Randy Jacquet stated that the State requires a Public Hearing take place to offer Richland County citizens the opportunity to voice their priorities and views on next years budget prior to its creation. The Public Hearing was advertised for several weeks with an ad in the Richland Observer.

Citizen Comments about the 2008 Budget and Services: No citizens appeared at the Public Hearing. Randy Jacquet reported that the agency received one written response via voice mail, which was transcribed by Angie Rizner. Copies of the transcribed message were distributed and reviewed. Daniel Carroll commented that the increased number of births to single mothers should not be the County's responsibility. Randy Jacquet noted that the W-2 Program did away with the financial incentives of the old welfare program, but single mothers may still be eligible for Medical Assistance. Betty Havlik commented that W-2 Program recipients do not make enough to live on after the W-2 Program benefits expire.

Dr. Richard Edwards stated that Randy Jacquet also received a letter this week from someone in Viroqua who is concerned with factory farming taking up residency in Wisconsin. The letter noted that there are some Public Health concerns and Richland County might want to consider a resolution against this type of farming. Ray Schmitz stated that he would not want to see Richland County prohibit this type of farming, as it would be detrimental and industry is already well regulated.

Glenn Ferguson questioned how we handle suspicion of elder/child abuse related to mandatory reporting. Glenn Ferguson stated that he reported an elder abuse concern to

the Richland County Sheriff's Department and he was told that it was not their responsibility. Glenn Ferguson does not know if the concern has been resolved at this time. Randy Jacquet stated that any elder abuse concern reported to Richland County Health & Human Services is screened and investigated appropriately. The protocol may require that law enforcement accompany our staff person to visit the elder or child possibly being abused. Randy Jacquet noted that new this year is an extended protection to "vulnerable adults" who do not have to be elderly. Counties are alert as to whether or not this will increase staff workload. Lori Thuli noted that for a report of child abuse, the Children's Services Unit reports back only to mandated reporters regarding the status of the possible abuse. Randy Jacquet stated that confidentiality regulations limit what Richland County Health & Human Services staff can say to the reporter regarding the possible abuse.

Adjourn: Motion by Daniel Carroll, seconded by Betty Havlik to adjourn the meeting at 6:01 pm with no citizens present at the Public Hearing. Motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted,

Angie Rizner
Office Supervisor