

**MINUTES
RICHLAND COUNTY HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
SEPTEMBER 25, 2007**

The Special Budget Meeting of the Richland County Health and Human Services Board was called to order at 9:00 a.m. September 25, 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, Gaylord Deets, Glenn Ferguson, Jeanetta Kirkpatrick, Paul Kinney, and Ray Schmitz.

Members Absent: Ann Greenheck and Jane Greiling.

Others Present: Angie Rizner, Christy Duhr, Linda Symons, Marianne Stanek, Patrick Metz, Randy Jacquet, Teri Buros, and Tracy Thorsen.

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

Citizen Comments: None.

Review and Approve the 2008 Health and Human Services Budget: Randy Jacquet stated that he mentioned at the last Health and Human Services Board meeting that the 2008 was not going to be easy. Randy Jacquet noted that this \$18 M budget is created from scratch every year and is a substantial undertaking. It was noted that of the \$18 M only \$905,080 is county tax levy.

Randy Jacquet distributed a handout that reflected the major budgetary issues Health and Human Services is facing in 2008. Discussion was held regarding how wage increases are calculated every year. It was noted that health insurance rates for a family in 2007 were \$1,009.89 and in 2008 are anticipated to be \$1,026.60. Discussion was held regarding why the loss of the CMO is costing the agency so much. Randy Jacquet stated that the CMO paid a portion of the agency's salary and administrative costs. It was noted that a privatized CMO would be more of an impact to the agency. It was noted that the major budgetary issues listed totaled \$287,823. Randy Jacquet commented that these are not the only issues affecting the budget, but the most costly.

Patrick Metz distributed a county tax levy trend (2002-2008) graph, and noted that since 2005 the agency has had an incline in expenses with tax levy remaining flat. Patrick Metz distributed the 2008 Proposed Budget Report which included a line item breakdown for all units and the proposed Regional Aging & Disability Resource Center. Randy Jacquet stated that the agency needs an additional \$293,756 in county tax levy to maintain our current services to the citizens of Richland County. Therefore, Health and Human Services is asking for \$1,198,836 in county tax levy for 2008. Jeanetta

Kirkpatrick stated that this department has been “treated as a revenue generating department” by the Finance Committee, which is not the case. Discussion was held regarding Health and Human Services decreasing grant funding, and that the agency is unable to raise sufficient funds to cover increases in expenses. Randy Jacquet reported that Health and Human Services has always presented an even budget to the County Board.

Randy Jacquet distributed a handout that listed services that could potentially be cut if Health and Human Services needs to present a whole budget in 2008. The items listed included non-mandated/optional services, such as meal sites, the General Relief Program, and the Summer Program. The list was reviewed in detail and it was noted that cutting these services would seriously affect the elderly, children, and poor of our community during a time when our economy is in trouble. It was noted that the potential budget reductions listed totaled \$291,833.

Discussion was held regarding the General Relief Program, and how this program helps those individuals that absolutely have nothing and do not qualify for other programs offered by Health and Human Services. Christy Duhr noted that this program does usually pay for itself, as we receive grant funds from the State for operating this program that are nearly sufficient to the monies that are distributed to individuals, but it is an optional program that many counties have eliminated.

Discussion was held regarding the mandated Birth to Three Program. Lori Thuli reported that this program’s costs have increased significantly over the last few years due largely to an increase in referrals of children with costly autism and cerebral palsy needs. Lori Thuli stated that a waiting list is not permitted and there is a national shortage of physical therapy providers. It was noted that more infants are being kept alive due to medical advancements which also increases costly referrals to the program.

Patrick Metz reported that the requested increase is an increase of 32% in county tax levy, but only a 4.6% increase to our overall budget (excluding the CMO). Jeanetta Kirkpatrick noted that other County Departments are requesting an increase of more than 4.6% of budgets and the Finance Committee is anticipating that the County will only receive an additional \$186,000 in new money from the State for 2008.

Discussion was held regarding people who are misusing Health and Human Services programs. Christy Duhr reported that in the Economic Support Unit there is a fraud investigator and out of 1700 families receiving benefits, only 2 families were considered potentially fraudulent in 2006. If a family or individual is eligible, we must offer benefits and services to them.

It was recommended that Health and Human Services present their 2008 budget to the Finance Committee requesting an increase in county tax levy of less than 5%; include the graph that depicts the flat county tax levy trend (2002-2008) and the incline in expenses; and be prepared to present the handout that lists services that could potentially be cut if

Health and Human Services needs to present a whole budget in 2008. Motion made by Glenn Ferguson, seconded by Jeanetta Kirkpatrick to approve the 2008 Richland County Health & Human Services Budget with an increase in county tax levy totaling \$1,198,836, and forward onto the Finance Committee and County Board for approval.

Teri Buros reported from the CMO Budget Summary, and noted that the CMO would not receive their 2008 rate announcement until November 6, 2007. Therefore, the budget depicted reflects a rate that is the same as the anticipated expenses. Teri Buros noted that the CMO may be facing the same financial shortfalls in 2008 similar to what Health and Human Services is experiencing. Motion Carried.

Dr. Richard Edwards stated that the Free Clinic plans to request that the County Board allocate \$10,000 to the operations of the Free Clinic and pass the funds through Health and Human Services. Randy Jacquet noted that the existing budget includes a similar pass through of funds from the County Board to Passages in the amount of \$6,000.

The next regular Board meeting is scheduled for Thursday, October 11, 2007 at 9:30 a.m. at the Community Services Building. The Finance Sub-Committee will meet at 9:00 a.m.

Adjourn: Motion by Glenn Ferguson, seconded by Paul Kinney to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted,

Angie Rizner
Office Supervisor