

**MINUTES**  
**RICHLAND COUNTY HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES**  
**JULY 17, 2008**

The Public Hearing meeting of the Richland County Health and Human Services Board was called to order at 5:30 p.m. July 17, 2008 by Jeanetta Kirkpatrick in the Main Conference Room of the Community Services Building, 221 West Seminary Street, Richland Center, Wisconsin.

Members Present: Betty Havlik, Daniel Carroll, Jeanetta Kirkpatrick, Robert Holets, Walter Gust, and Paul Kinney.

Members Absent: Dr. Jenny Myszkowski, Marilyn Rinehart, and Ray Schmitz.

Citizens Present: Sally Larson and Sheila Kitsembel.

Others Present: Angie Rizner, Christy Duhr, Lois Martin, Patrick Metz, and Randy Jacquet.

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

Introductions and Review Purpose of the Public Hearing: Jeanetta Kirkpatrick reviewed the instructions of the Public Hearing noting that the purpose is to solicit comments by the public regarding the services and programs of Richland County Health & Human Services to assist in the development of the 2009 budget and plan.

Citizen Comments about the 2009 Budget and Services: Jeanetta Kirkpatrick reported that Health and Human Services' challenge for 2009 will be continuing operations with no increase in tax levy and the loss of CMO Administration. Randy Jacquet stated that Health and Human Services hasn't received an increase in county tax levy for many years now, and we always seem to come up with a way to locate new revenue sources. However, establishing a balanced budget for 2009 will be tough, as we have not been able to locate new revenue sources and costs continue to increase. It was noted that health insurance costs alone are anticipated to increase by 5% in 2009.

Budget reduction options were discussed including a potential reduction of hours for staff. Randy Jacquet noted that it would be more of a savings to the county if they would require all staff work 40 hours per week and then eliminate a position, versus reducing hours for the entire workforce, as you would get more for your money. Daniel Carroll noted that he realizes that reducing staff hours or eliminating staff means an elimination of programs.

Randy Jacquet introduced Sally Larson and Sheila Kitsembel, noting that they are Richland County Health & Human Services staff and members of the Local Union 2085.

Jeanetta Kirkpatrick reported that Richland County is healthy financially now, but the next two years might not be as favorable and we need to be proactive and visionary. In response to a question, Jeanetta Kirkpatrick noted that there are two separate pots of money, one is for salaries, operations, etc. and the other is for improvement projects including the expansion of the Community Services Building. These two pots of money cannot be commingled. The expansion of the Community Services Building and bringing all Health and Human Services staff under one roof will increase efficiencies and decrease duplicative expenses. Discussion was held regarding the West Office and the future of the building, such as selling the facility and the improvements that would need to be made to the structure.

Jeanetta Kirkpatrick stated that Richland County is solid financially. Discussion was held regarding the fund balance of the county being 19% of the total revenue, which is good business practice. It is anticipated that by 2010 all employees would be required to pay a percentage of their health insurance. However, this change in benefits would need to be negotiated with the union. Sally Larson questioned if there could be a third level of insurance; single plan, family plan and the addition of a single plus spouse plan. It was noted that the State determines the make-up of the plans offered. Discussion was held regarding the status of the voluntary early retirement option that was being considered by the Personnel Committee.

Adjourn: Motion by Betty Havlik, seconded by Paul Kinney to adjourn the meeting at 6:30pm. Motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted,

Angie Rizner  
Office Supervisor