

MINUTES
RICHLAND COUNTY HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
JULY 17, 2006

The Public Hearing meeting of the Richland County Health and Human Services Board was called to order at 5:30 p.m. July 17, 2006 by Ann Greenheck in the Main Conference Room of the Community Services Building, 221 West Seminary Street, Richland Center, Wisconsin.

Members Present: Ann Greenheck, Daniel Carroll, Dr. Richard Edwards, Glenn Ferguson, Jane Greiling, Jeanetta Kirkpatrick, and William Seep.

Members Absent: Gaylord Deets and Ray Schmitz.

Others Present: Bob Smith, Patrick Metz, Randy Jacquet, and Angie Rizner.

Approval of Agenda and Posting: Motion by Daniel Carroll, seconded by Dr. Richard Edwards to approve the agenda and proper posting. Motion carried.

Introductions and Review Purpose of the Public Hearing: Ann Greenheck stated that the Public Hearing offers Richland County citizens the opportunity to voice their views on next years budget prior to its creation.

Bob Smith introduced himself to the Board, and noted that he sits on the Commission on Aging Board and Transportation Committee.

Citizen Comments about the 2006 Budget and Services: Bob Smith reported that he attended a Regional Transportation meeting last week and found the transportation services offered to elderly in surrounding counties to be impressive. Mr. Smith reviewed transportation statistics in relation to home delivered meals and volunteer driver services offered in Richland County, and noted that as our elderly population increases the services offered must increase as well. Mr. Smith stated that the Transportation Committee has not met for nearly two years and its time to reconvene to address the barriers that continue to exist. Mr. Smith requested that Richland County develop a van system similar to the other four surrounding counties with a scheduled van system.

Patrick Metz stated that he has spoke with the Mayor of Richland Center and the city plans to move forward on a Shared Ride Taxi Voucher Grant with the city and the county sharing expenses. Patrick Metz reviewed some of the obstacles that were present during the previous grant application process, including the need for more comprehensive services, insurance issues, and securing other competitive providers. It was noted that Linda Symons, Aging & Disability Resource Center Manager, might be available to assist in writing the grant.

Mr. Smith stated that the county should not wait for the city and should pursue and fund the Shared Ride Taxi Voucher Grant on its own. Ann Greenheck noted that Health and Human Services should include solving the transportation issue in its 2007 budget. Patrick Metz stated that the Wisconsin Department of Transportation (WDOT) should increase funding. It was noted that Linda Symons should replace Marianne Stanek on the Transportation Committee and that Fred Clary must call a meeting of that committee in the near future. Ann Greenheck reported that the county is aware that the WDOT considers our vans underutilized. Patrick Metz stated that currently Health and Human Services is retiring two vans and the vans leased to Schmitt Woodland Hills and Pine Valley Healthcare are clearly underutilized, so we are working on re-acquiring those vans.

Daniel Carroll stated that we must move forward on this issue, as we are in the same spot as we were last year at this time, and we really need to determine whether or not we can even solve this issue with the funds and grants available. Jeanetta Kirkpatrick questioned whether or not we have a transportation model to mimic? Mr. Smith stated that one is not available yet, but soon. Dr. Richard Edwards questioned what other counties are charging citizens. Mr. Smith stated that he did not have exact numbers at this time.

Ann Greenheck questioned what Health and Human Services is doing for the Hispanic populations in Richland County. Randy Jacquet stated that we offer all of our services to Hispanic populations, including interpreters, and the Richland County Job Center offers "English as a Second Language" courses through Southwest Technical College. Randy Jacquet stated that he would take this question back to agency management to ensure that all is being done to help this growing population.

Patrick Metz questioned whether or not there would be an increase in county tax levy for Health and Human Services 2007 budget. Jeanetta Kirkpatrick stated that the Finance Committee is uncertain at this time.

The Board thanked Bob Smith for his attendance and comments. Angie Rizner was instructed to mail a copy of the final 2007 Health and Human Services budget to Mr. Smith when it becomes available.

Randy Jacquet invited all those present to participate in a tour of the Community Services Building.

Adjourn: Motion by William Seep, seconded by Dr. Richard Edwards to adjourn the meeting at 6:15 pm. Motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted,

Angie Rizner
Confidential Administrative Assistant