



DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES BOARD

MINUTES

July 14, 2010

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Jensen called the meeting to order at 6:05 P.M.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Chairperson Marilynn Jensen; Vice Chairperson, Cheryl Drozdowicz; Jennifer Bishop, Harriet Kubiak, Nancy Lannert, Lynda Olson, Louis Peer, Becky Heimerl

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Bridget Rolek

STAFF PRESENT

LuAnn Kane, Director; John Hanewall, Deputy Director; Tahirih Carr, DD Financial Worker; Jamie Austin, Clerk-Typist II

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

**Judy Schroeder, Jen Patridge, Mary Haberman and Beth Noble Supervisors, Catholic Charities Randy Terronez, Assistant County Administrator
Mr. Kubiak**

CITIZENS SUGGESTIONS TO THE BOARD

Mary Haberman, Supervisor for Catholic Charities gave a statement citing experience and expertise that Catholic Charities has in working with individuals with Developmental Disabilities and Catholic Charities concern for not having a representative on a proposed Aging & Disability Resource Center (ADRC) Steering Committee.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

**The agenda was approved on a MOTION BY Harriet Kubiak, SECONDED BY Lynda Olson
MOTION CARRIED.**

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes from June 23, 2010 were approved on a MOTION BY Louis Peer, SECONDED BY Jennifer Bishop. MOTION CARRIED.

APPROVAL OF BILLS

Bills in the amount of \$223,517.91 were approved on a MOTION BY Nancy Lannert, SECONDED BY Cheryl Drozdowicz. MOTION CARRIED.

APPROVAL OF CONTRACTS/ADDENDUMS,

NONE

ENCUMBRANCES AND/OR LINE ITEM TRANSFERS

NONE

RESOLUTION:

The Resolution Authorizing An Aging & Disability Resource Center (ADRC) Steering Committee was brought to the table on a Motion By Jennifer Bishop and Seconded By Nancy Lannert.

Motion Carried.

To Pass The Resolution Authorizing An Aging & Disability Resource Center Steering Committee with the recommendation for the full County Board to Amend the Resolution to appoint a 15th member, a representative from Catholic Charities to the Aging & Disability Resource Center Steering Committee was made on a Motion By Jennifer Bishop, Seconded By Louis Peer. Motion Carried.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT ON PROGRAM ACTIVITIES

- Per Resolution 06-9A-087, no member of the Rock County Developmental Disabilities Board Staff attended in-state or out-of-state training, conventions or conferences that exceeded \$1,000; total cost(s) per event. This information is based on the above described activity date January 01,2010 through June 30, 2010.
- Provider Budget meetings were held July 6-9, 2010 and will continue through July 19, 2010.
- Mr. Hanewall and Ms. Anselmi are completing functional screenings and a list of said screens for the state.
- Ms. Anselmi is DD Board Dept. lead person for ADRC planning.

BOARD MEMBERS SUGGESTIONS TO THE BOARD

NONE

ADDITIONAL CITIZENS SUGGESTIONS TO THE BOARD

None

CORRESPONDENCE

NEW BUSINESS

The next meeting will be on Wednesday, August 11, 2010 at the Rock County Health Care Center Classroom at 6:30 P.M.

NOTE:

Board Members are reminded to call John Hanewall 757-5052 or Ms. Kane at 757-5048 If unable to attend the meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned on a motion by Lynda Olson, seconded by Louis Peer at 6:40 P.M.

The Public Hearing to immediately follow.

Respectfully submitted,

Tahirih Carr, DD Financial Worker

NOT OFFICIAL UNTIL APPROVED BY THE BOARD

The Rock County Developmental Disabilities Board's Public Hearing was called to order at 6:42 P.M. by Chair Jensen.

Board Members introduced themselves to attendants of the Public Hearing.

The following were speaker's comments:

Jeanne Lee, Epilepsy Foundation:

Ms. Lee thanked the Board for support of the Epilepsy Foundation. She also explained how the current unemployment rates and economy reflect an increase in services while funds decreased. Ms. Lee was happy to announce how Attorney Donald Becker stepped forward to offer financial assistance to Epilepsy clients in what is called the Becker Loan Program. This program allows clients to enter into an interest free low payment loan contract with Atty. Becker so that they might still be able to receive services that they might otherwise have to discontinue due to lack of funds. Ms. Lee also said that an anonymous donor had provided funds for Kids Pop Night. Which provides a night of respite for kids and their siblings with activities to include movies and snacks. She also reported that volunteers for the Epilepsy Foundation worked a food tent at the Airfest and were able to raise \$1500.

Steve Karges:

Mr. Karges expressed his fear for the future of Rock County's Developmental Disabilities Population and in particular his daughter. Yes, he acknowledges that Developmental Disabilities Programs are expensive but is worried about past and current problems with Family Care in other Wisconsin Counties. He worries that Rock County might experience some of those same problems and as a result his daughter, who just came out of an institution 15 months ago, would end up back into an institution. Mr. Karges relayed how his daughter has made tremendous progress in all aspects of her life since coming out of the institution and moving into a REM home. Her quality of life today is good. He is very concerned about the implementation of Family Care in Rock County and the possibility that his daughter might end up back in an institution.

Gary Bersell, Kandu Industries:

Mr. Bersell stated that he had just received an e-mail while waiting to speak. The e-mail was from RFW, confirming the approval for a full and complete audit of Family Care. Mr. Bersell acknowledged that we all are suffering with the downturn in the economy. He said the Day Service Program has expanded to include VA, commercial insurance and private pay financing. He also reported that they currently have 5 clients working in the community funded through DVR. Mr. Bersell explained that with the end of transportation on May 1, 2010 \$98,000 less was billed to the Developmental Disabilities Board for 2010 that's a 2% decrease. Mr. Bersell also reported that they had no violations on their last state survey.

Nancy Jones, Lutheran Social Services-Enrichment Center:

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Ms. Jones expressed her appreciation to the Board for their support and advocacy for that last 20 years. She invited the Developmental Disabilities Board and Staff and interested Public to Open House celebrating the 20th anniversary of The Enrichment Center on Wednesday, September 8, 2010 from 1:00–3:00 P.M. with a presentation from 1:00–1:20 P.M. at The Enrichment Center, 1400 Excalibur Drive, Janesville WI.

Jennifer Pelz and Tami Griffin, CESA 2 VOA:

Ms. Griffin spoke briefly of the programs provided by CESA 2 VOA and the importance of funding for these programs. Ms. Griffin and Ms. Pelz thanked the Board for their support.

Sue Lethlean, Rehab Resources:

Ms. Lethlean explained that Rehab Resources is the Therapeutic arm of the Birth to Three Program. She also expressed her thanks to the DD Board for funding. Ms. Lethlean further explained that Rehab resources gets 60% of their financing from Medical Assistance, 28% from Commercial Insurance and 12% from Rock County. Funds are currently in dire straits. Travel expenses among others are up, they should be getting a Medical Assistance enhancement rate but there hasn't been an increase in that since 2003 and there is talk that under Obama-Care that may even decrease. The State has proposed changes, requesting a Primary Care system in place, which would result in a reduction of staff. They are still waiting for specifics from the State. Regardless, of what the future might hold Rehab Resources will continue to provide services and hope that Rock County will continue to support them.

Whitney Walraven, Concerned Citizen who receives Services from Family Respite Care Services of Rock County:

Ms. Walraven spoke of difficulties of raising an Autistic child especially since she has no family in the area. Ms. Walraven receives respite services and spoke of the importance of this service and how she looks forward to her respite night to recharge and regroup so that she is better able to cope with the unique stresses in her life. She spoke of being fortunate enough to have been able to take advantage of the Respitality Weekend program.

Currently, Family Respite Care Services is no longer able to offer due to budget cuts. Ms. Walraven described the Sibs Day Camp program that her daughters have been able to participate in and how beneficial it has been for them. She on went to say how important these programs are for our community and how they need to exist. She fears that without Family Respite Care and programs like it there will be families/children falling victim to tragedies created by the stress of not having a support system to turn to.

Denise Janssen, Family Respite Care Services Board-Treasurer:

Ms. Janssen explained how Family Respite care Services is in real jeopardy of closing due to funding being cut. Ms Janssen referred to services like Ms. Walraven described being able to use are being reduced or cut altogether. Such as Sibs Day Camp, which they were able to offer up to 4 times a year in the past is down to just one time in 2010. But the need for services continues to rise the number of kids/families served on Respite night has doubled in the past year. The Respitality Weekend program and father's day luncheon have not been offered this year due to funding shortages. The future of Family Respite Care services is unknown but what is known is that the need for these services continue to increase.

Anna Fuller, CESA 2 TLC, Birth to Three Program:

Ms. Fuller gave an introduction statement in Spanish to emphasize the importance of having a staff person with bi-lingual abilities. Recently they were able to add a bi-lingual person on staff though this is not a new position it is the first time they have had a bi-lingual person on staff and under current funding this position will end June, 2011. Ms. Fuller explained how other positions in an already understaffed program were set to end in 2011 under current funding forecasts. Through the funding shortfalls the need for services continue to rise. Evaluations/Screenings rose from 279 in 2005 to 229 so far this year with a projection of 366 a 31% increase. Ms. Fuller requested consideration in funding for the cost to continue in the upcoming budget. Ms. Fuller reiterated the strains of being underfunded and understaffed in a State mandated Program. She then thanked and expressed appreciation to the DD Board for the past 30 years of support.

Ludi Beckenbaugh, Concerned Parent of a Child with Developmental Disabilities:

Ms. Beckenbaugh expressed her appreciation for the programs her son has attended. Such as The Enrichment Center in Beloit for the Respite services she receives. She briefly described the challenges of taking care of her adult child with developmental disabilities and the importance of maintaining these programs for the DD population.

Dale Thompson, Concerned Citizen:

Mr. Thompson spoke in support of a tax levy increase for the Developmental Disabilities and Elderly Services. He explained that he is very aware of the current economy but that an increase in his property taxes won't break his budget. What breaks his budget is paying \$1200 a month for health care coverage and the utilities companies continually raising their rates. Mr. Thompson then wished the board Good Luck with the upcoming budget.

Several others attended but wished not to speak.

Chair Jensen thanked everyone for coming and reminded everyone the County Board Public Hearing is Wednesday, November 3, 2010 at 6:00 P.M. at the courthouse.

Mrs. LaVaon Saunders, concerned parent wrote a letter describing her disappointment in the termination of Kandu transportation services and the low wages clients are paid.

Karen Harden, Director of Program Services from REM Wisconsin sent a letter prior to the DD Board Public Hearing stating that she would be unable to attend. In the letter she reminds the Board that REM has not requested an increase for 2011 acknowledging the crisis Rock County has been facing the past few years and that REM wants to be part of the solution. She went on to explain how REM continues to explore ways to reign in costs to maintain and or increase efficiency and quality of care while still being competitive enough with other markets to recruit and retain quality employees.

Ms. Harden thanked the Board for supporting people with disabilities in Rock County.

The Public Hearing was adjourned at 7:53 P.M. on Motion By Lynda Olson, Seconded By Nancy Lannert. Motion Carried.

**Respectfully Submitted,
Tahirih Carr
DD Financial Worker**

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