

**MINUTES**  
**Iowa County – Health and Human Services Committee**  
**October 5, 2011**

1. **The Health and Human Services Committee met in the Community Room of the Iowa County Health & Human Services Building at 303 West Chapel in the City of Dodgeville on Wednesday, October 5, 2011 at 6:09 p.m. and was called to order by Health & Human Services Committee Chair Ron Benish.**
  
2. **Roll call was taken:**  
  
**Committee members present: Sups. Bill Grover, Daniel Nankee, Steve Deal, Ron Benish, Doug Richter, Robert Pilling, and Jeremy Meek. Sups. Dave Bauer and Philip Mrozinski were excused.**  
  
**Also present: Social Services Director Darin Smith, ADRC Interim Manager Rebecca Wetter, Unified Community Services Director Neal Blackburn, Bloomfield Health Care and Rehabilitation Interim Director Dave Sorbel, Iowa County Health Department Director June Meudt, County Administrator Curt Kephart, and Sup. Jim Griffiths.**
  
3. **Reading of the certification of open meetings notice.**
  
4. **Motion by Sup. Pilling, second by Sup. Nankee to amend the October 5, 2011 agenda by removing item 3 under the Bloomfield Health Care & Rehabilitation. Motion carried.**
  
5. **Motion by Sup. Nankee, second by Sup. Grover to approve the minutes of the September 7, 2011 meeting. Motion carried.**
  
6. **Open Session – Comments from Audience/Committee Members: None.**
  
7. **Department/Agency Reports**

**Veteran Affairs**

Department Update: DSS Director Darin Smith reported that there are plans in place to make an internal change of the VSO offices in the ADRC wing. These offices will be moved to the front two offices in the ADRC in an effort to maintain the location of the ADRC staff together and to better serve the veteran population. This change is occurring at an opportune time as one of these offices is currently vacant by an employee resignation. This change is planned to occur within the next week.

**Health Department**

Department Update: Iowa County Health Director June Meudt updated the board on the planned Drug Collection Day on Oct. 29<sup>th</sup> at the Sheriff's Department. She reported that the Health Dept

does all the advertising and the Sheriff's Department assists with the other responsibilities. The Sheriff's Department is also purchasing a drug collection box to be used at other times.

The Health Department is beginning flu clinics with the main focus on vaccinating children. They have set up school clinics with every school district.

She attended a recent Emergency Response team. They are implementing a reverse 911 program that will also be introduced to department heads for use. They have gotten generators for Bloomfield Manor, the Highway Department and the Airport. Last year, they certified 52 county employees in CPR and provided an in-service to the department heads on the ICS and how to set up an emergency operation center. They also reviewed a table top exercise on a tornado hitting the courthouse and how that would affect people. Agencies are being asked to complete assessments on their actual needs in the case of an emergency should offices be destroyed. They are also being asked to update their emergency plans, especially since many of them are now in the new HHS building. Keith Hurlbert helped with all of the emergency exit signs and developed emergency exit plans for the HHS building.

A grant has been received to work with children on obesity issues; beginning in Dodgeville School Districts with the hope that it will spread to other communities

### **Unified Community Services**

Department Update: Director Neal Blackburn reported that they are still hiring for the following positions: psychotherapist, speech therapist and physical therapist. In January, they expect to have a case manager position open as well.

They have updated their personnel policies to reflect the changes in Act 10.

He also recently met with Secretary Dennis Smith who is recommending a number of changes to the Medicaid program which includes cuts to many programs including nursing homes, pharmacies, providers, and co-pays. This plan is to keep the coverage in place for those currently covered. If this plan is not approved by the federal government within 90 days, many people will lose their Medicaid (an estimated 53,000-54,000 people). Dr. Blackburn expressed concern that this may impact the Agency's revenue.

### **Bloomfield Health Care & Rehabilitation Center**

HDG Report Discussion: Bloomfield Health Care and Rehabilitation Center Interim Director Dave Sorbel shared that the report is available and in the media for anyone who wants to take a look at it. None of the suggestions made in the report have been formally implemented. Sup. Benish inquired as to how the staff has responded to it. Mr. Sorbel indicated that this report has not been formally discussed with the staff at this time. Sup. Grover inquired about the use of the term "benchmark" which was used frequently within the report. Mr. Sorbel explained that this term is generally used in looking at how a facility compares to those in the rest of the industry. Sup. Nankee acknowledged that people are concerned about this report. He is hearing comments from people "not to sell this facility" and "we need this facility". Sup. Griffiths acknowledged that the report is long on recommendations and short on analysis. He summarized by saying that all it really says is that we need to do a lot of work before we decide on anything. He pointed out that this is not the first time that this issue has come up. He read from a letter written in 2009 by Iowa County Administrator, Mark Masters. This letter offered assurance that there was no present plan to change the management of Bloomfield Manor and stated that if there were any changes, then the public would be invited to participate. Sup. Meek stated that this current report echoes a report

that was completed about two years ago. It was clarified that there was a report completed in 2005 by a company, Wipfli (an accounting firm), that covers some of the same ground, but also different issues. It is believed to be a very different report. However, this report did have several charts that compared statistics statewide. County Administrator Curt Kephart said employees have referenced the elephant in the room and are hopeful that the board will address it. What they want to know is if the county is going to keep the facility or not. Also, no strategic plan is in place and this is an opportunity to develop a vision and a plan. Sup. Benish stated that he would like to see on the agenda next month that the committee takes a stand on the direction that they are going to go with Bloomfield. He feels that this committee needs to take a stand in the matter and take it to the county board. He also suggested a referendum where the tax payers get to make a decision regarding the matter. Sup. Meek suggested a resolution to require a county wide referendum to make such a change for Bloomfield. Mr. Kephart advised that a referendum can be voted to be used and can also be voted to not be used. Sup. Pilling stated that he feels that the county government should take care of their elderly and do so by maintaining that facility. Sup. Grover suggested the possibility maintaining ownership and also separating management from the county to have it function more like a business and less like government. Sup. Benish suggested that Bloomfield be run by the Bloomfield Manor board and the administrator much like other counties do and not have it be accountable to the county's committees. Sup. Griffiths suggested that running Bloomfield like a business is not always a good thing and the problems are not always solved by getting a private business involved. Sup. Benish stated that he feels that the assessment seems all very negative. He also pointed out that 9-10 months ago, Health Dimensions wanted to purchase Bloomfield. This is the same company that completed the assessment and he questions as to whether or not they were fully objective as they have strong desires to purchase this facility. Sup. Deal reminded the committee that the decision was previously made to not allow this company to purchase the facility for one year following the assessment. He also stated that he hopes that something is done with this report and it is not just forgotten. A committee needs to look at it and develop a plan to present to the board and then to begin implementing this plan with the hiring of a new administrator in place. Sup. Richter cautioned that this committee needs to look at all items on the report and make decisions as to whether the county wishes to address the issue. He also cautioned the likelihood of receiving less than market value for the facility. All agreed that a new administrator on board is imperative prior to addressing issues.

Update on Administrator Recruitment: Sup. Deal reported that 2nd interviews will be held this Friday. Three of the six individuals interviewed have been invited back. The interview team consists of Curt Kephart, Sup. Deal, Sup. Meek, Sup. Anderson, Sup. Grover, and Sup. Benish. Mr. Kephart is asking each interviewee to give an informal 5 minute presentation on what they would do to market Bloomfield in an effort to get a feel for how they would deal with externals. The interview panel will hire an individual and make their recommendation to the county board.

Department update: Dave Sorbel reported that the census currently is at 66, with 2 admissions arriving at the end of the week. However, he understands that the census is down for other facilities in the area. He does not yet have financials completed for August. An effort to provide televisions to every resident's room has hit a wall and is still under study. Mr. Sorbel also pointed out that one of the challenges and first tasks for the new administrator is to do an exercise on team building as there are communication issues both within individual departments and within the staff on separate floors. Sup. Benish pointed out that Mr. Sorbel's 90 day contract expires today;

however, he is willing to extend for a week at a time, up to three weeks. The weekly rate of pay that Mr. Sorbel was receiving was inquired about. He is being paid approximately \$2300.00 per week and approximately \$1000 per week for mileage. All present committee members agreed to this decision making process and gave approval for Mr. Kephart and Sup. Benish to make this decision on a week by week basis.

### **ADRC/Commission on Aging**

Staffing Update: ADRC interim Manager, Rebecca Wetter, reported that several qualified internal candidates were interviewed last week for the Department Assistant position. This week, Marylee Oleson, the Agency's LTE in this position was offered the job. Recently, an Information and Assistance Specialist resigned and an Elderly Benefit Specialist will retire in mid-October. Both positions will be replaced.

Department Update: Ms. Wetter reported the following updates: Caregiver Renewal Day is being planned for November 15<sup>th</sup>. This is an event coordinated by the Southern Region and will take place at the HHS Building in Dodgeville. The invited participants will be individuals who are caretakers for their family members. Also, a Volunteer Appreciation Banquet is being planned for November 9<sup>th</sup>, to be hosted at Bloomfield Healthcare & Rehabilitation Center. Volunteers from the Department of Social Services will be invited to this event as well as volunteers from the ADRC. Members of this committee will also be invited. The ADRC has an intern from Southwest Technical College through December. This intern has been assisting with the Medicare presentations and Part D applications. Ms. Wetter also noted that the ADRC has continued to receive one attrition opening per month from the regional waitlist, so individuals from Iowa County continue to be placed on Family Care and IRIS. However, the ADRC continues to place new individuals at the bottom of the waitlist. Also, the agency is in the beginning stages of implementing a Stepping-On program in collaboration with Lafayette County. This is an exercise program that focuses on fall prevention and safety for the aging.

### **Social Services Department**

Income Maintenance Update: Director Darin Smith reported that he hopes to know by October 31<sup>st</sup> if the proposed combined agencies are an accepted consortium. However the state/county contracts have been changed by the state adding new performance standards. These standards are not realistic: answer calls by the third ring, no one on hold for longer than 30 minutes. These standards were not being met by the state when the state held the contract, as it was reported that they would keep people on hold for two hours or longer. The state is proposing a monetary impact to the county if they fail to meet them. Most counties are opposed to this change. The plan at the present time is for Rock County to sign the contract for the consortium and Iowa County will have an MOU with Rock County. Also, the state is now looking at reducing the allocations that they had previously planned to pass on. This is a concern for counties who were not in a good situation financially to begin with and may no longer be able to be sustainable as a result. This may present problems for their consortia as planned. At this time, Iowa County has the ability to hire a new Economic Support position, but will hold off on this until things are set in place. The deadline to have this change in place is January 1, 2012.

Coordinated Services Team Update: Mr. Smith reported that last week, a meeting was facilitated by White Pines Consulting firm and many community partners attended, including

several board members. This service will be a mechanism for multiple people and agencies to work together as a team to assist families in developing informal support systems. The purpose of last week's meeting was to introduce the program and to develop a coordinating committee to begin this process. This will be a community based process to help people, so they do not have to rely on the system and to support them in developing their own support system. This will be a voluntary plan for the involved families. While these families can be involved in the court system; this service cannot be part of their court order. The uniqueness of this program is that it is parent driven and the goal is to empower the parent to act as a parent and to make positive decisions for their child.

ADRC/DSS Transition Plans: Mr. Smith provided copies of the previous organizational structure for the Department of Social Services and the proposed new organizational structure. These charts demonstrated that the number of management was maintained; however, the number of staff increased. He also shared the financial impact of this plan. This plan recommends not replacing the former ADRC Director; the plan reflects the savings of her wages. The plan also reflects an increase in the wages to the Director, ADRC Manager, Youth and Family Manager, and Business Manager. Specifically, it is recommended to move those positions up one level on the classification study, due to increased job responsibilities. The plan also recommends that all ADRC staff are made county employees; three of those positions are currently contract employees. The plan reflects a savings in the administrative fees that are currently being paid to the contract agency. Also, there is a proposed increase of the ADRC staff from 35 hours a week to 40 hours. Mr. Smith expressed the need for consistency amongst the two agencies and also to compensate for the additional tasks assigned to staff. Another proposal in the plan is to increase the wages for the Disability Benefit Specialist. This decision was made after reviewing the other counties in the southern region. Also, there was a difference in the wages for the Disability Benefit Specialist and Elderly Benefit Specialist positions. This change would be an increase from \$15.90/hour to \$17.03/ hour. Mr. Smith noted that these positions are similar in nature, but serve different populations. He also proposed the need to create classifications and pay scales for the I&A staff, which would be comparable to their current wages. The plan proposes to add a lead worker position, which will require a new classification. This position would include an increase in wages by \$0.76/hour. Overall, this plan is a cost savings for the county.

Mr. Kephart reported that he supports the fact that when you are asking people to take on more responsibilities and functions, that those individuals should be compensated out of fairness and equity. He also noted past conversations with the former ADRC Director regarding the need to increase the wages of some of the ADRC staff.

Motion by Sup. Grover, second by Sup. Deal to approve this plan, to be recommended to the ASC committee; motion carried.

Department Update: Mr. Smith reported that the Agency presently has an intern from UW-Madison, for the following year. She is in the process of obtaining her graduate degree and will be utilized to help with driving, supervised visits, as well as a variety of other things.

8. **The next meeting date will be Wednesday, November 2, 2011 at 6:00 p.m. in the Community Room in the HHS Building.**

**9. Motion by Sup. Deal, second by Sup. Meek to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried.**

**Meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.**

Minutes by Rebecca Wetter, ADRC Interim Manager