

**MINUTES OF THE  
HEALTH & HUMAN NEEDS COMMITTEE  
Tuesday, October 12, 2010**

**HHN Members Present:** Shelia Stubbs, Barbara Vedder, Melissa Sargent, Denise Duranczyk, Mike Willett, Jeremy Levin

**HHN Members Absent:** Ronn Ferrell (excused)

**Staff and Others Present:** Lynn Green, Carl Hampton, Edjuana Ogden, Michael Jackson, Dan Connery, Kevin Keisling, Chuck Stonecipher, Dave Flanagan, Joe Purcell, Tom Sundal, Larry Rodenstein, Kevin Gundlach, Mike Walsh, Mary Koker, Hong Pham, Kristen Barge, Jeannette Spotts, Carrie Pomije, Rhonda Voigt, Hattie Harbort, Melissa Dimpfl, Robert Weatherby, Lisa Hemauer, Kate Burkholder, Kate Gravel, Jodie Rohrer, Melissa Garecht, Shannon Maier, Vicki Goldman, Emily Chybowski, Steve Jones, Nan Cnare, Jim Blanchard

**Call to Order:** Sup Stubbs called Health and Human Needs to order at 5:45 p.m.

**Approval of Minutes:** Motion by Sup Sargent to approve the minutes of September 7 and October 5, 2010, seconded by Sup Duranczyk. Motion carried 5-0.

**Public Comment:**

Chuck Stonecipher spoke in support of reinstating \$21,000 FSAT funding in the 2011 budget. FSAT has coordinated treatment for family sexual abuse cases to an average of 200 families per year and assisted providers for 27 years. They co-sponsor the annual Midwest Conference on Child Sexual Abuse in October for 600 people and presenters from across the country. FSAT is the only program of its kind, and they need County funding to sustain the organization through another year. Sup Sargent asked if they could continue providing service without the \$21,000. Stonecipher answered that they would go out of business in the first several months of 2011. Sup Levin noted that the conference is almost self-sustaining with paid registrations. Stonecipher explained that the conference has been a primary source of funding for FSAT, but registrations have been down the last couple years, which makes County dollars critical for FSAT to survive. Sup Levin asked about other funding sources. Stonecipher said they have been applying for grants but have not received any to date.

Dave Flanagan has been a circuit judge for 11 years and spoke in support of reinstating the juvenile court social worker position. The Disproportionate Minority Contact (DMC) workgroup has produced a thoughtful realistic plan to expand juvenile diversion and reduce the number of young people burdened with juvenile records. This plan cannot be implemented without the help of the court social workers. He works with them every day.

Joe Purcell, representing AFSCME Local 2634, spoke in opposition to eliminating the court social worker position. He distributed three handouts, gave a history of the court social worker position, described the efficiencies and benefits to line staff and how they relieve the workload of social workers in satellite offices. They covered over 1100 hearings in 2009 and save 2 hours of social worker time for each hearing plus mileage expenses. Eliminating the position will have ripple effects. Besides covering hearings, they also file court documents received electronically from outlying offices, so the filings are done in a timely manner. There are numerous other responsibilities included in this position. Sup Vedder asked how many youth would be impacted by the loss of a court social worker. Purcell will forward more detailed information, but they would be able to handle less than half of the cases they do now. Sup Stubbs also requested a breakdown of clients versus caseload.

Tom Sundal, DCDHS Social Worker, spoke in opposition to cuts to Human Services staff. He described the benefits of having court social workers and noted that line staff rely on them for timeliness in filing court documents. There is also a financial savings.

Larry Rodenstein, representing AFSCME Council 40, encouraged HHN to restore cuts and fully fund the County budget. It is critical for the mission of Dane County. Any vacancy being eliminated is equivalent to a layoff. He reminded members how AFSCME partnered with the County and took pay cuts in 2009 and 2010. Now that the crisis is starting to end, it's time to move forward, and we need to look at restoring positions. Sup Duranczyk stated that she is grateful, but we are not out of the woods yet. She requested information on cost to restore all positions and vacancies. Rodenstein feels that the County should have the political will to fully fund the budget.

Kevin Gundlach, representing AFSCME local 705, spoke in opposition of cuts to BPHCC staff. He described duties of the .5 security position and doesn't feel that putting up cameras will keep staff and residents safe. Many duties will have to be covered by other staff. He also spoke about the 1.0 Certified Occupational Therapy Assistant and feels that a County employee is the best person to provide these services. The .2 CNA's and all other positions at BPHCC should be reinstated. Sup Stubbs requested that he submit a list of duties he feels should only be done by security.

Mike Walsh has been a Deputy DA in the Juvenile Division for 15 years and spoke in support of reinstating the Dane County court social worker position. He talked about Disproportionate Minority Contact (DMC) and noted that Dane County arrests, charges and imprisons more youth of color than any other county in the State. There has been a lot of work toward making substantial changes to intake and deciding which cases go to court and which don't. The DA's Office relies on the court social worker to facilitate communication between the DA's Office and Human Services, collecting information from schools, families, collateral sources, etc. Sup Vedder asked how many would be impacted by the position being cut. Walsh responded that judging by his own experience, it could have significant impact in 30-40% of cases reviewed, because we look at not only the offense committed but also service needs. They may be more inclined to charge rather than redirect. Part of the plan is to utilize a wider array of services in the pre-charging stage rather than at the charging stage. There are two different data systems and bureaucratic organizations that the court social workers help to facilitate, gathering information from the WiSACWIS database, finding out who the referral is assigned to, etc. It is especially critical if the juvenile is held in a secure facility, as we have to decide whether to charge within 24 hrs. Sup Vedder asked how many youth are involved each year. Intake levels are 1200-1300/year, and we try to utilize deferred effort with about 30%. It will affect youth of color more substantially than Caucasian, because more youth of color display factors that tend to bring them into court.

Mary Koker is on the Veterans Service Commission and a retired Navy veteran. She asked that the Veterans Services conference and training budget line item be restored by \$3000. Conference and training is critical to service provided to Dane County veterans, as Veterans Service staff have to be nationally accredited. Sup Duranczyk asked for clarification on Veterans Service Office staff. There are 6 staff and 4 must be certified.

The following registered in opposition to eliminating positions in the budget: Hong Pham, Kristen Barge, Jeanette Spotts, Carrie Pomije, Rhonda Voigt, Hattie Harbort, Melissa Dimpfl, Robert Weatherby, Lisa Hemauer, Kate Gravel, Jodie Rohrer, Melissa Garecht, Shannon Maier, Vicki Goldman, Emily Chybowski (also in support of FSAT funding), Kate Burkholder

**Chair's Report/Announcements:** Sup Stubbs reminded members to stay within the guidelines of the budget process. Final budget amendments will be acted on at next week's meeting on October 19th.

Dan Connery and Michael Jackson spoke about the Veterans Service Office conference and training budget and the need for \$3000 to be reinstated. Written information will be forwarded to members.

**Committee Reports:** None

**Dane County Resolutions:** None

**Fund Transfer Request:**

- **100930-2010-25 ACS:** Motion by Sup Levin, seconded by Sup Sargent to approve the FTR. Green explained. Motion carried 6-0.

**Housing First Presentation:** Nan Cnare and Jim Blanchard from United Way distributed handouts and presented information on the housing in action mobilization plan to reduce homelessness of families with children.

**Budget Amendments Discussion and Action:**

- HHN1 - Sup Miles introduced this budget amendment to eliminate the Assistant Director in Human Services (\$112,976) and use the funds to create an Economic Development Associate in the Department of Planning and Development (\$62,968) and restore the BUILD fund (\$50,000). He described economic development needs. Sup Willett asked what percent of projects are actually finished through BUILD. Sup Miles answered that he would get specific numbers to members. Motion by Sup Willett to approve page 1, seconded by Sup Sargent. Sup Willett asked if he had talked to Human Services staff about what the Assistant Director position entailed. Sup Miles did not discuss it with the Department. Sup Levin clarified that Human Services staff did not request the Assistant Director position; the County Executive added it. Sup Miles feels that the Economic Development Associate would

benefit the county as a whole since it is a direct service. Sup Levin stated that he is not in favor of taking money from Human Services. Motion by Sup Willett to postpone HHN1 until October 19, seconded by Sup Sargent. Motion to postpone carried 6-0.

- HHN2 – Motion by Sup Duranczyk to discuss HHN2, seconded by Sup Levin. This would eliminate the Assistant Director position (\$112,976) and add a Grants Coordinator position (\$62,429) to apply for all appropriate grants and maximize funding. The remaining \$52,547 would be put into the reserve fund. Sup Levin commented that the cost is only for 10 months so savings is less than shown; he asked how much a full time grant writer could bring in. Green responded that there are grants out there and staff tries to get them but they do not necessarily have expertise in grant writing or time to complete applications. Some independent consultants have been hired to help polish grant applications. There is speculation that under the Obama administration, there would be substantial home visitation money, which could support ECI. Green is optimistic that a grant writing position could pay for itself. Sup Duranczyk clarified that the budget amendment is written for 10 months, because the Assistant Director position in the budget was only 10 months. The actual cost for 12 months for the Assistant Director is \$135,571 and the Grants Coordinator is \$72,514. Sup Sargent asked if a grant writer could support himself or herself. Green responded that the goal is to surpass what we're paying them. Sup Willett expressed concern with establishing a 10-month position with 1-year probation and asked about subcontracting grant writing. Green said that there are a lot of grant writers for hire, but they are expensive. If we have a person on staff, they could also help with some public relations work and lobbying and do grant research which is time consuming. Sup Stubbs asked for details on how much is spent on subcontracting grant writing and what line items are used. Green explained that only a limited amount of funds are used to support grant writing efforts now and these funds are taken from wherever money can be appropriately found in the Department budget. It was \$2,000 to get the FUP grant and the money was found in the CYF budget. Motion to postpone until October 19 by Sup Willett, seconded by Sup Sargent. Motion to postpone carried 6-0.
- HHN3 – Motion by Sup Vedder to discuss HHN 3, seconded by Sup Willett. Sup Vedder explained that this would eliminate the Assistant Director position (\$112,976) and designate funds to purchase consulting services for planning and implementation of Family Care. If the County Board decides to go forward on Family Care in 2011, we will have money to hire an additional person or services to assist County staff in developing whatever Family Care model is chosen. Sup Willett doesn't feel the budget amendment is specific enough. Sup Stubbs questioned whether Sup Vedder spoke with Jean Kuehn before drafting this budget amendment. She had spoken with Lynn and Edjuana, but not Jean. Green disagrees with buying any more consulting services to talk about Family Care and feels that Jean Kuehn and other Department staff can get policymakers through the decision making process. When policymakers decide on a model, we will need funding if the decision is District or County MCO. No money would be needed for the privatization model. Sup Vedder withdrew HHN 3.

**Director's Report:** Green reported:

- Green distributed the current vacancy list that was requested by the Committee at the last meeting. The list does not include positions eliminated in the County Executive's 2011 budget proposal. She cautioned that many are funded by waiver money or other sources, so eliminating them doesn't achieve GPR savings. Sup Stubbs asked for a breakdown of GPR, waiver money, etc. in each position. Staff will e-mail this information to members. Sup Willett asked about some of the positions at BPHCC. Sup Stubbs asked about the CYF social worker positions listed as vacant. Green responded that we are in the hiring process and are frequently filling vacant social worker positions. The Program Leader position is also in the process of being filled.
- Human Services Board is active and meeting. They will finish the POS merger report and present to HHN with a summary of recommendations in the next month or so.

**Adjournment:** Meeting adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

**Next Meeting:** Tuesday, October 19, 2010, 5:45 p.m., CCB 354

Recorded by Dawn MacFarlane

*Note: These minutes are the notes of the recorder and are subject to change at a subsequent meeting of the committee.*