

POLK COUNTY HUMAN SERVICES BOARD MEETING AGENDA

Public Welcome to Attend

Tuesday March 25, 2014

*8:30 a.m., Lower Level Conference Room
Polk County Government Center
100 Polk County Plaza
Balsam Lake, WI 54810*

Department Mission Statement:

Our mission is to assist, empower, and build upon the strengths of the children, youth, and adults in Polk County to achieve positive outcomes.

1. Call to Order/Note Attendance
2. Consideration of Agenda (Agenda not necessarily presented in this order)
3. Consideration of January 28, 2014 Meeting Minutes
4. Public Comment
5. Organizational items
 - A. Establish Date/Time/Refreshments of Next Meeting
 - B. Review Committee Calendar
6. Report and Discussion Items
 - A. AODA Annual Report
 - B. CSP Annual Report
 - C. Standard Monthly Reports
7. Human Services Board Member Observations
8. Adjourn

George Stroebel, Chair
Gene Phillips, Director

***Polk County Human Services Department
Board Meeting Minutes
Date: March 25, 2014***

Present:

Tim Strohbusch
Marvin Caspersen
Kris Hartung
Brian Masters
David Markert
William Alleva
Russ Arcand

Absent:

George Stroebel
John Gyllen

Also:

Gene Phillips
Pat Kirkwood
Felecia Kallevang

Press: Gregg Westigard

Chairperson Alleva called the meeting to order at 8:33 a.m.

Consideration of Agenda

Motion to approve the March 25, 2014 agenda was made by Mr. Caspersen, seconded by Mrs. Hartung. All in favor. Motion carried.

Approval of Minutes

Motion to approve the January 28, 2013 meeting minutes was made by Mr. Masters, seconded by Mr. Strohbusch. All in favor. Motion carried.

Public Comments

No comments offered.

Organizational Items

Establish Date & Time of Next Meeting

Mr. Phillips stated that the April meeting is up in the air as of now, so we will wait to see what happens with the elections. For now, we will keep April scheduled as normal since the reorganization hasn't happened yet. Our next HSD Board Meeting will be held on Tuesday, April 22nd at 8:30 a.m. in the lower level conference room. Mr. Alleva will bring refreshments.

Report and Discussion Items

Human Services-AODA Annual Report

Mr. Phillips introduced Gary Ehrich to the board. Mr. Ehrich has been with Polk County for about 10 years. He informed the board that there are 3 full time counselors in the AODA unit. Each counselor has 40-50 clients on their caseloads. Drug Court is the most intense outpatient service within the AODA unit and has an 18 month minimum course to complete it. As of today, there are 10 participants in the drug court group. Other groups that are offered through our AODA outpatient clinic are adolescent AODA, relapse prevention, and continued care group. These groups help our clients gain the skills they need to succeed in sobriety. There are also individual services offered. Currently we have 30 active clients receiving individual services, with each counselor having 10 clients each. There are a total of 114 current clients receiving services through our AODA clinic. Each week there are 5-6 AODA assessments being performed, and also 5-6 OWI assessments.

Mr. Ehrich went over the survey results for 2013. This year the survey was conducted on current clients and services. In the past, we have surveyed our clients after they are done with services, so we felt that it was possible we were only getting successful finishes included in our statistics. There were 148 clients surveyed. 99% are somewhat or very satisfied with the services they are receiving. Mr. Strobusch asked if there is a waiting list for AODA services. Mr. Ehrich replied no. In 2005 when Mr. Ehrich started, there were 85 clients on the waiting list. The staff works hard and adjusts appropriately when there is need so that clients are not waiting for services. Polk County is the only professional AODA counseling services in the area.

Mr. Ehrich spoke about the AODA program and how it has changed. It used to be a 12 step program in the 90's but now is more about skill development and evidence based practice. Dr. Markert asked how inpatient and detox services are handled. Mr. Ehrich again said things have changed from the past. In the 70's people went to detox and then to an inpatient facility for months of aftercare. Now with the HMO's, etc the funding isn't available. If there is a need for detox the county will fund it upfront, but the client will be billed for the service at a contracted rate. LE Phillips is the only detox facility available in NW Wisconsin. Wausau and LaCrosse are our next options. The need for inpatient services usually occurs about 4-5 times a year. One of the AODA counselors will refer the client to LE Phillips and then the follow up care is done here. Arbor Place is a residential facility we use when needed. If we have a client placed there, we authorize that care on a weekly basis. Dr. Markert stated that he thinks that Polk County

and others are spending less money than in the past. Mr. Ehrich agreed and said that the Department of Corrections funds the drug court program. He stated that he now has his 3rd pregnant woman in services for drug court, which is priceless to have a healthy baby born. Mr. Alleva asked for more information on adolescent services and how they become part of the programs. Mr. Ehrich explained that we have one counselor who specializes in adolescents. Usually they are referred to the program from a juvenile justice social worker, parents, and/or the schools. For about 80% of the kids enrolled the parents are not supportive, so there is difficulty with transportation and getting them to the clinic. The other 20% are supportive and the parents are involved. Mr. Alleva commented that he has heard very good things regarding drug court.

CSP Annual Report-

Mr. Phillips introduced Linda Mills-Kresbach to the board. Mrs. Mills-Kresbach passed out a handout and explained that the CSP program was designed to keep clients in the community with a successful quality of life. The clients that the CSP unit works with are chronically mentally ill. The caseloads are low so that they can spend their time working closely with these clients. The stats from the survey are in the report for review. Our CSP program has kept 90% of their clients in the community. They meet with the clients just about anywhere, including home, work, neighbors, or at a family members home. They are mainly the group home with out the group home setting. There have been some changes in staff including the psychiatric doctor and also a replacement of a case manager. The CSP program provided services to 26 individuals in 2013. A client who was in Trempeleau County for 8-10 years has now transitioned to Amery and is currently working at Endeavors. The program is looking at adding adolescent services in the future. There is a process to getting those services started as this program is involving the whole family system and in today's society it is even multiple family systems. We are seeing more adolescents come through, so we are learning as we go along. Mr. Strohmus asked if there is a waiting list in CSP. Mrs. Mills-Kresbach answered no. It takes 30 days to complete the intake process in CSP. Supported employment is a big piece of stability within the program and we are just starting to pursue contracting for these services directly. Mr. Casperson asked if they are all lifelong clients. Mrs. Mills-Kresbach replied some are but they do try to discharge them if possible. It is tough on the clients as the CSP case managers are the clients primary support. Dr. Markert commented that we are saving a lot of money by not having the CSP clients in placements.

Monthly Statistics- Mr. Masters stated that we had a drug court graduate last month.

Human Services Board Member Observations

Mr. Alleva thanked everyone for being on the board. Mr. Masters thanked the committee also and stated it is a pleasure working with everyone. He has gained a lot of knowledge. Mrs. Hartung shared she was on the HSD Board for 2 terms, it was enjoyable, thank you. Mr. Casperson said it was interesting and he was overwhelmed by the complexity of the department. He also stated that the employees are very creative. Mr. Arcand stated that

it was a good talk but there was not much business conducted. He thinks that the presentations are good but the employees are busy so it takes time away from their work to come and present to the board. The county is a business and need to run like a business. He said he is excited about the upcoming changes. The administrator is in control now. Mr. Arcand is advocating for committee of the whole. Mr. Casperson stated he thinks the committee needs to understand how the department operates. Mr. Alleva likes to meet in person and likes the interaction of the board. Mr. Phillips stated he appreciates everyone on this board, and thank you for your participation.

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn the meeting at 10:03 a.m. was made by Mr. Masters, seconded by Mr. Strobusch. All in favor. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Bill Alleva,
Secretary