

TAYLOR COUNTY HUMAN SERVICES BOARD

November 12, 2008

Community Center - Taylor County Fairgrounds

Call Meeting To Order: Chairperson James Seidl called the meeting to order at 1 p.m.

Members Present: George Southworth, Dave Bizer, Rose Madlon, Eugene Roush, Vicki Duffy, David Krug, Mary Bix, and James Seidl. Dennis Fuchs arrived a few minutes late.

Members Absent: None

Other Attendees: For all or portions of the meeting were Dr. Joseph Roe, Laurie Medina, Dave Hemke, Sue Hady, and Kathy Barr.

Approve Agenda and Minutes of the October 8, 2008 meeting: MARY BIX MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE AMENDED AGENDA AND THE OCTOBER 8, 2008 MINUTES. GEORGE SOUTHWORTH SECONDED THE MOTION. THE MOTION CARRIED.

Public Input: Laurie Medina of Black River Industries (BRI) stated that they have received two new buses. She also invited the Board to BRI's 35th anniversary celebration on November 19 at 2 p.m.

Impact of Prolonged Vacancy in Clinical Services – Dr. Joseph Roe: Sue Hady introduced Dr. Joseph Roe, who provides clinical supervision to the mental health and alcohol and other drug abuse (AODA) staff at the Human Services Department. He talked briefly about his work at a local prison, and then spoke about the Clinical Services Coordinator position, which continues to be vacant. Those duties are being carried out by Sue Hady, along with her duties as the director. He indicated that although Director Hady has a master's degree, she is not a mental health therapist. He discussed the low salary for the Clinical Services Coordinator position and the requirement of 3,000 hours of post-graduate, supervised clinical experience in order for the agency to be able to bill insurance companies for revenue. Sue Hady added that the vacation schedule for this position after one year is only a week, which makes it difficult to recruit an experienced person. Dr. Roe strongly encouraged the Board to look at filling this position as soon as possible with an individual qualified to supervise other staff. Chairperson Seidl indicated he had talked to Human Resources Manager Marie Koerner, who indicated the Archer Company has not yet completed the salary study. Sue Hady believed this study has taken far too long and wondered if the county and the Archer Company had agreed upon a completion date for the study. She also stated that once the study is completed, there is no guarantee that it will be approved by the county. Ms. Hady felt that the county was not making it a priority to fill this position on a timely basis and stressed to the Board the county's liability if someone is injured, hurts someone else, and files a law suit. She stated she would like to advertise once again for this position. Ms. Hady also suggested that the Personnel and Finance Committees may want to contact the county's insurance carrier regarding the possible liability in leaving this position vacant for such a length of time. Mary Bix asked if the Clinical Services Coordinator position could be removed from the study group and addressed separately by the Archer Company, since it requires a master's degree and the 3,000 hours of supervision. Dave Bizer suggested that possibly someone recently out of college with less experience could be hired as the mental health therapist in the Clinical Services Coordinator position, and Sue Hady or another staff member could carry out the administrative duties. Ms. Hady does not believe this is advisable. The Clinical Services Coordinator is a management position and the primary duties are administrative and supervisory. Chairperson Seidl indicated he would speak with the Personnel Committee and Ms. Koerner. Sue Hady concluded by stating that it is difficult for her to continue to manage two full-time jobs for such a length of time and that this is an "urgent situation"

and action needs to be taken.

Review Progress Made Concerning Resolution of Administrative Issues (amended item): The Board reviewed a letter they had previously received on November 17, 2007 regarding potential issues that Director Hady felt needed to be addressed by the Board. In the area of accounts receivable, Director Hady reported that the county's audit firm had indicated that a newly-hired full-time employee would be unable to adequately keep up with current claims and simultaneously work on reviewing/verifying client ledgers from old accounts. In November 2007, Ms. Hady had requested that a limited-term employee (LTE) be hired to assist with this process, and the Board did approve the LTE position. Ms. Hady reported that she has spent a great deal of time overseeing the accounts receivable area, reviewing information and working closely with the accounts receivable clerk. She stated that although this situation has significantly improved, it still needs to be closely monitored. She also reiterated that Taylor County Human Services has been without a full-time financial manager since the 1980's and, in fact, the auditor had indicated that among the other human services departments that he conducts audits for, Taylor County is the only one without a full-time financial manager. Ms. Hady was also responsible to complete the state-mandated WIMCR report, which is a state mandate allowing the state to make adjustments to state and federal money for costs that exceed what Medicaid will cover for specific Medicaid services. Ms. Hady reported that the state was going to discontinue WIMCR in 2009, but this has since changed. She added that she had assisted Larry Brandl in completing the WIMCR report this past summer. The remainder of the letter addressed the Clinical Services Coordinator vacancy and the salary study for managerial staff. Ms. Hady also reminded the Board that several experienced management staff at Human Services may retire within a year or two and recommended that the Board look at the salary schedule, particularly the entry-level salaries.

Update on W-2, General Relief, and BadgerCare Programs - Dave Hemke: Information on the W-2, General Relief (GR) and BadgerCare programs was provided by Dave Hemke. As of November there are six participants in the W-2 Program. Five of those individuals are in CMC (12-week maternity benefit) positions, and the remaining individual is in a W-2T position, in which there are several barriers to employment. Mr. Hemke reported that as of November the projected surplus for the W-2 Program is \$37,956. Since this money can only be used for benefit payments, it is possible the State of Wisconsin will ask that Taylor County "de-obligate" any remaining money back to the state, which will more than likely be used by other counties that have shortfalls in their W-2 programs, according to Mr. Hemke. Taylor County has already agreed to "de-obligate" \$10,000. That contract addendum should be received later this month.

Mr. Hemke then reported on the BadgerCare Plus program for childless adults. The state intends to expand BadgerCare Plus next spring for childless adults. He also stated that it is anticipated that there may be a substantial increase in applications for BadgerCare Plus as an area factory has reduced the amount it pays for insurance coverage for its employees.

Mr. Hemke informed the Board that 300 individuals have applied for the Wisconsin Home Energy Assistance Program (WHEAP) from 10/1/08 through 11/5/08, compared to 233 individuals at this time last year.

The unemployment rate for Taylor County in September was 4.3%, compared to 5.6% in August. According to Mr. Hemke, in September, the State of Wisconsin's unemployment rate was 4.4% and the national unemployment rate was at 6.0%. He continued by reporting that the Wisconsin counties with the lowest unemployment rate for September were Buffalo, 3.1%; Lafayette, 3.2% and Dane, 3.3%. Counties with the highest unemployment rate for the same month were Menominee at 8.6%; Rock, 6.4% and Iron, 6.2%.

Mr. Hemke also reported that Governor Doyle will be providing assistance such as job search allowances, relocation allowances, training, and unemployment benefit extensions to several dislocated workers from an area factory.

The General Relief Program shows a projected shortfall of \$6,373 through October, which is almost \$2,000 higher than last month's projected shortfall. This increase is due, in part, to job lay-offs. Additionally, medical costs were higher than non-medical costs for October, per Mr. Hemke. He stated that the Board may choose to suspend the GR Program next year, but he would not recommend it, since this program serves very needy individuals and those not eligible for other economic support programs.

Action on Proposed General Relief Plan for 2009: Dave Hemke reported that in order to apply for the General Relief Block Grant, the Board would need to approve the Taylor County Human Services Department's General Relief Program Policies and Procedures, which was last reviewed on January 16, 2008. No changes have been made to the plan since that time. A MOTION WAS MADE BY DENNIS FUCHS, SECONDED BY EUGENE ROUSH, TO APPROVE THE TAYLOR COUNTY HUMAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT'S GENERAL RELIEF PROGRAM POLICIES AND PROCEDURES AS PRESENTED. THE MOTION CARRIED.

Unfunded Mandates: As requested by members at last month's meeting, Sue Hady distributed a 30-page partial list of unfunded and underfunded mandates which have affected the Human Services Department from 1981 through 2007. Sue Hady indicated that although Taylor County is a small county compared to other counties in the state, it is still required to adhere to the mandates with fewer staff than the larger counties. She added that the state does add/replace mandates, but does not rescind them. Often times, mandates are partially funded or funded for a period of time, but once that funding stops, the county is responsible to provide the funding, according to Ms. Hady.

Action on Proposed 2009 Fee Schedule for Human Services: The Board reviewed the proposed Client Fee Schedule for 2009. Sue Hady explained that the fees reflect a \$10 increase for mental health and alcohol and other drug (AODA) counseling, with the exception of the psychiatric fee which is per quarter hour and which would increase by \$5.00. The Intoxicated Driver Program (IDP) non-compliance reinstatement fee, IDP out-of-county transfer fee, and IDP amendment/extension fee would increase by \$5.00 from last year. Fees for case manager, Specialized Instruction Birth to Three Program, and the No Show Charge, remain the same as in 2008. The Intoxicated Driver Assessments would increase to \$285, while Other Court-Ordered AODA Assessments increase to \$280. AODA Group Counseling would be increased by \$3.00 per hour. Sue Hady reported that these rates were increased due to the tax freeze, the lack of inflationary increase in funding, and the increase in agency costs. A MOTION WAS MADE BY DAVE BIZER, SECONDED BY MARY BIX, TO APPROVE THE PROPOSED CLINICAL SERVICES FEES FOR 2009. THE MOTION CARRIED.

Action on Resolution to Express Appreciation to Taylor County Health Department and Cindy Neumann for Assistance Rendered: James Seidl read a resolution expressing appreciation to the Taylor County Health Department, Director Patty Krug, and Secretary/Bookkeeper Cindy Neumann for assistance provided in the accounts receivable department at Human Services. A MOTION WAS MADE BY MARY BIX, SECONDED BY GEORGE SOUTHWORTH, TO APPROVE THE RESOLUTION. THE MOTION CARRIED. The resolution will be forwarded to the Taylor County Board of Supervisors.

Action on Contracts and Addenda: One contract was presented for approval.

<u>Provider</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>of</u>	<u>Funding Source</u>	<u>Total</u>
	<u>Increase</u>			
<u>Contract</u>				
Aurora Residential Alternatives	N/A		Community Integration Program IA	\$ 14,125.00
SPC 202.02– Adult Family Home (3-4 beds)				
Unit Rate: \$181.08/day (one client)				
Effective: 10/15/08 to 12/31/08				

A MOTION WAS MADE BY MARY BIX, SECONDED BY DAVID KRUG, TO APPROVE THE CONTRACT AS PRESENTED. A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN. THE MOTION CARRIED WITH A VOTE OF NINE AYES.

Director's Report: Sue Hady distributed information regarding an upcoming Northwest District Regional Legislative meeting sponsored by the Wisconsin Counties Association. She encouraged the members to attend.

Next Committee Meeting: The next Human Services Board meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, December 10, 2008 at 1 p.m. in the Community Center at the Taylor County Fairgrounds.

Adjournment: A MOTION WAS MADE BY MARY BIX, SECONDED BY DAVE BIZER TO ADJOURN. The meeting adjourned at 2:52 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Kathy Barr
for
Rose Madlon, Secretary

TAYLOR COUNTY HUMAN SERVICES BOARD

October 8, 2008

Community Center - Taylor County Fairgrounds

Call Meeting To Order: Chairperson James Seidl called the meeting to order at 1 p.m.

Members Present: Vicki Duffy, Eugene Roush, Mary Bix, James Seidl, Rose Madlon, Dennis Fuchs and George Southworth.

Members Absent: Excused absences: David Krug, Dave Bizer.

Other Attendees: Paul Thornton, Sally Toepfer, Russ Blennert, Dave Hemke, Sue Hady, and Kathy Barr.

Approve Minutes of the September 10, 2008 Meeting and Current Agenda: MARY BIX MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE SEPTEMBER 10, 2008 MINUTES AND AMENDED AGENDA, AS ITEM #8 – ACTION ON RESOLUTION TO EXPRESS APPRECIATION TO TAYLOR COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT AND CINDY NEUMANN FOR ASSISTANCE RENDERED WAS POSTPONED. VICKI DUFFY SECONDED THE MOTION. THE MOTION CARRIED.

Public Input: Black River Industries (BRI) Director Paul Thornton reported that due to a grant they had received, BRI has been able to streamline their work production area. He also reported that the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR) has placed restrictions on job placements (except for the most severely disabled) for disabled individuals, which will affect BRI's ability to place these clients into jobs. Mr. Thornton indicated that BRI will be working with a consortium and some discussion took place on this topic. He also informed the Board that Catholic Charities will be celebrating their 35th anniversary on November 19, and that Beth Carlson, Associate Director of Catholic Charities resigned her position and has accepted employment elsewhere.

Update on General Relief and W-2 Programs: Dave Hemke updated the Board on the Wisconsin Works (W-2) program. As of October, four individuals are in paid positions in the W-2 program, with one of those individuals placed in a W-2T position (numerous employment barriers) with a monthly benefit payment of \$628. The remaining three participants are in CMC (12-week maternity benefit) positions, receiving \$954 per month between all three participants. He added that the projected surplus as of October is \$39,851. Mr. Hemke indicated that through September, the GR program shows a projected shortfall of approximately \$4,499. He reported that there has been an increase of individuals being discharged from mental health or alcohol and other drug abuse placements requesting payment of prescription medications. Although some of these medications are very expensive, they are essential to maintaining an individual's stability.

Mr. Hemke reported that next month, as part of the application for the Block Grant for 2009, he will be asking the Board for approval of the General Relief Program Policies and Procedures. He also discussed the Food Stamp Employment and Training (FSET) program, which now the state has made voluntary for enrollees. At the time the budget was compiled, the state had not given the counties their annual allocation for the FSET program, and they decided to reduce the allocation from \$20,000 to \$13,921. Mr. Hemke also told the Board that the Wisconsin Home Energy Assistance Program (WHEAP), which began on October 1, 2008 will be receiving additional funds. This is due to Congress passing a continuing budget resolution rather than passing President Bush's budget which had a lower allocation for WHEAP. Once this additional money is received by Department of Administration, the heating assistance benefit payments will be reformulated and distributed to applicants.

Mr. Hemke also distributed information on the FoodShare and Medicaid programs. He reported that for the month of July 2008, payments for FoodShare benefits were \$100,619.

In the month of August 2008, there were 690 cases, which consisted of 1462 individuals, and of those, 898 were adults, and 564 were children. Payments for August totaled \$105,857. This handout showed the number of Medicaid cases certified by the Taylor County Human Services Department and the number of recipients and payments made to all Taylor County residents who receive Medicaid from any source, such as foster care children, SSI recipients, and the Katie Beckett Program. For the month of August 2008, the Medicaid caseload is at 3580 recipients, with 3045 of them using the card. The total payment for that month was 1.4 million dollars. Capitation payments to HMO's, at a cost of \$345,000, was the largest of the Medicaid payments, followed by skilled nursing services (mostly paid to nursing homes) at \$241,000, and \$134,000 for payment for legend drugs.

Mr. Hemke added that he had received information from the state regarding data they had collected on the amount of income earned by the "working poor". He indicated that out of 238 FoodShare cases with earned income the total income (earned only) was \$241,960, or approximately \$1,000 per month. This averaged out to a wage of about \$5.91 per hour.

Mr. Hemke reported that the poor economy is having a significant effect on the number of individuals applying for economic support programs. He reported that Taylor County's unemployment rate was 5.3% in July and 5.6% in August, compared to the state's unemployment rate of 4.8% in July and 4.7% in August. The 5.6% rate for August places Taylor County at the 12th highest unemployment rate among the rest of the counties in the state. One year ago, in August 2007, Taylor County's unemployment rate was at 4.4%.

State Plan for County Operated Adult Protective Services System in Post-Family Care Counties:

Russ Blennert and Sally Toepfer were present to discuss the state's plan with regard to adult protective services for counties who have implemented Family Care. Currently, part of the funding for adult protective services in Taylor County comes from state co-mingled funds, with some county funding. Once a county implements Family Care, managed care organizations (MCOs) will most likely be providing long-term care services. However, counties would still be responsible to provide county residents with adult protective services, which include emergency detention responsibilities under Chapter 51, adults-at-risk investigations, service and placement responsibilities under Chapter 55, elder abuse investigations under Chapter 46, and guardianship responsibilities under Chapter 54. The state plans to allocate money to counties in order to assist them with the cost of providing adult protective services. Taylor County would receive \$24,780 per year, or \$2,065 per month, to provide its residents with adult protective services. According to Ms. Toepfer and Mr. Blennert, this does not even pay for a full-time person, and averages out to only about 14.4 hours per week of staff time. Sue Hady expressed her concern with the shifting of costs from state to local government. A handout was also provided summarizing how the adult protective services funds were used in 2007 and 2008 and the number of long-term support and developmental disabilities clients who utilized that service.

Action on Request to Hire a Limited-Term Employee in the Children and Family Services Unit: The next agenda item was a request to a hire a limited-term employee (LTE) in the Children and Family Services (CFS) unit, as one of the social workers will be on medical leave for several weeks. A MOTION WAS MADE BY MARY BIX, SECONDED BY GEORGE SOUTHWORTH, TO APPROVE HIRING A LIMITED-TERM EMPLOYEE IN THE CHILDREN AND FAMILY SERVICES UNIT. THE MOTION CARRIED.

Action on Contracts and Addenda: Sue Hady presented one contract.

<u>Provider</u>	<u>Amount of Increase</u>	<u>Funding Source</u>	<u>Total</u>
<u>Contract</u> Brad and Ruth Eidsen Foster Home SPC 103.22 – Respite Care Residential Unit Rate: \$130.00/24-hour day (two clients) Effective: 9/26/08 to 12/31/08	N/A	Children’s Long-Term Support Funding - Children’s Waiver	\$ 2,500.00

A MOTION WAS MADE BY MARY BIX, SECONDED BY VICKI DUFFY, TO APPROVE THE CONTRACT AS PRESENTED. A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN. THE MOTION CARRIED WITH A VOTE OF SEVEN AYES, TWO ABSENT (KRUG, BIZER).

Director’s Report: Sue Hady reported on the status of the 2008 budget. She indicated that at the end of September, mental health inpatient costs have already exceeded our budgeted revenue by approximately \$51,500. Ms. Hady continued by stating that these costs are for individuals who are detained by law enforcement and committed to mental health inpatient facilities. Twenty-five individuals were placed in mental health inpatient facilities in 2006, somewhat less than in 2007 when 33 individuals were hospitalized, and as of 9/25/08, 27 individuals have been hospitalized related to mental health disorders. According to Ms. Hady, if this trend continues, by the end of 2008, 39 individuals will have entered inpatient mental health facilities. Another area of concern in the mental health budget is transitional living, where costs have exceeded the budgeted amount and have resulted in a \$13,000 shortfall since the end of September. According to Ms. Hady, in the Youth Aids portion of the budget, \$24,600 has been overspent in juvenile corrections, as a Taylor County juvenile has been court-ordered into a juvenile correctional facility at a cost of \$6,000 to \$7,000 per month. There is no revenue in the Youth Aids budget to cover these costs.

Sue Hady brought in a list of mandates from 1981 to 1990 that she had compiled some time ago. She indicated that this list will be updated through 2007 and a copy will be provided to each Board member per their request.

Next Committee Meeting: The next Human Services Board meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, November 12, 2008 at 1 p.m. in the Community Center at the Taylor County Fairgrounds.

Adjournment: A MOTION WAS MADE BY MARY BIX, SECONDED BY GEORGE SOUTHWORTH, TO ADJOURN. The meeting adjourned at 2:36 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Kathy Barr
for
Rose Madlon, Secretary

TAYLOR COUNTY HUMAN SERVICES BOARD

September 10, 2008

Community Center - Taylor County Fairgrounds

Call Meeting To Order: Chairperson James Seidl called the meeting to order at 1 p.m.

Members Present: Dennis Fuchs, George Southworth, Rose Madlon, James Seidl, Mary Bix, David Krug, Eugene Roush, Vicki Duffy, and Dave Bizer.

Members Absent: None

Other Attendees: Larry Brandl, Dave Hemke, Sue Hady, and Kathy Barr.

Review and Approve Minutes of the August 19, 2008 Meeting, August 19, 2008 Public Hearing, and Approve Agenda: MARY BIX MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE AUGUST 19, 2008 MEETING MINUTES AND AUGUST 19, 2008 PUBLIC HEARING MINUTES, AND THE CURRENT AGENDA. GEORGE SOUTHWORTH SECONDED THE MOTION. THE MOTION CARRIED.

Public Input: There was no Public Input.

Update on General Relief and W-2 Programs – Dave Hemke: Dave Hemke reported on the General Relief (GR) and Wisconsin Works (W-2) Programs. He stated that as of September, the W-2 Program has five participants in paid positions totaling \$2,059 in benefit payments. Of these five individuals, four are in the CMC (12 week maternity benefit) position, and the remaining participant is in a W-2T position, having several barriers to employment. The W-2 Program, through September, shows a projected benefit surplus of \$38,731, according to Mr. Hemke.

Mr. Hemke also updated the Board on the GR Program. Through September, the GR Program shows a projected shortfall of \$3,290. He added that costs are "creeping up", as there continues to be a substantial increase in requests for prescription drug coverage. There was some discussion on prescription drug costs and pharmacies.

Mr. Hemke reported that Taylor County's unemployment rate in July was 5.3 %, which was the 19th highest in the state, somewhat better than May's figure of 6.4% (third highest in the state) and June's figure of 6.5% (fourth highest in the state). July 2007 the Taylor County unemployment rate was 4.5%.

Next, Mr. Hemke reported that the Economic Support (ES) Specialists have accumulated approximately 90 hours of compensatory time as of the last payroll date of 9/4/08.

Dave Hemke indicated that in July, Taylor County surpassed \$100,000 in Foodshare benefit payments made to county residents. He added that this shows that many individuals are earning less money than in previous months.

Mr. Hemke reported that he recently received information from the Governor's Low-Income Energy Forum regarding the Wisconsin Home Energy Assistance Program (WHEAP) for the October 1, 2008 to September 30, 2009 heating season. He reported that, according to the Energy Information Administration (US Department of Energy), the cost of fuel oil is up 34%, the cost of gas is up 22.4%, the cost of propane is up 12.4%, and the cost of electricity is up 7.6% since last year. Mr. Hemke informed the Board that for the upcoming heating season the state is projecting a caseload of 162,000 households, 7,000 more than last year, but less funding for the program. He indicated that the state is projecting that a heating benefit will pay anywhere from 7% to 30% of annual heating costs. For public benefits, the projected payment will pay anywhere from 9% to 35% of annual non-heating electric costs. Applicants will need to come up with the rest of the cost. The **average** benefit payment for a Taylor County resident was \$423 in FFY 2008 when 752 households in

Taylor County received payments from the heating assistance program. This year's payment will likely be less. Mr. Hemke explained this is a one-time only benefit payment. He also informed the Board that Indianhead Community Action Agency will be handling all of the furnace repairs and replacements for individuals receiving fuel assistance in the county.

Lastly, Mr. Hemke distributed a draft proposal of the BadgerCare Plus Program, a program the State of Wisconsin is proposing which offers health insurance to low-income childless adults. He reported that this program will be piloted in one of the larger southeastern counties and will have centralized processing of applications. Mr. Hemke added that the state will charge an administration fee to individuals who apply for BadgerCare Plus, and the program will be provided through an HMO.

Action on 2009 Budget Proposal for Human Services: Sue Hady reported that Department Heads were instructed by county officials to present an operating budget with a zero percent increase and to not include any salary and fringe benefit increases for the non-represented management staff and the employees who are in the courthouse union (AFSCME Local 3679), as their contract has not yet been ratified. She distributed several handouts to members and explained how she had compiled the budget. One of the major concerns continues to be the lack of inflationary increase in Community Aids (CA) funding for well over a decade. Community Aids funding is the only source of non-earmarked revenue that can be used for a myriad of services, some of which include child protection, inpatient psychiatric hospitalizations (including state mental health institute placements), supportive home care for elderly clients, and detoxification for alcohol and drug-addicted clients. Additionally, Community Aids funding can be utilized for local match to collect federal dollars for services for long-term support and developmentally disabled clients. Ms. Hady continued by stating that the state has provided no inflationary increase for Youth Aids (YA) for 2009. This, coupled with the fact that in 2008 the State of Wisconsin increased the annual cost of court-ordered placements at state-juvenile correctional facilities by 26%, has left no revenue to pay for even one child at a state-juvenile correctional facility, now costing as much as \$100,000 per year. Another area of concern is the Income Maintenance Administrative Allocation, which also has no inflationary increase for 2009, yet the economic support caseload has increased by 759 unduplicated cases from 1/1/02 to 7/1/08. This reflects a 73% increase. The Income Maintenance (IM) Administrative Allocation also has decreased by 12.5% during this timeframe. Ms. Hady reported that the proposed 2009 budget does include a \$3100 allocation to Stepping Stones. She reported that any increases negotiated/approved for the non-represented management staff and courthouse union (AFSCME Local 3679) would need to come from county levy that is set aside from the county general fund to cover these costs. However, the proposed 2009 budget does include salary and fringe benefits for staff in the professional union, as they have a ratified contract. Ms. Hady indicated that in order to pay for the salary increases for the professional union employees for 2009 and to cover other costs, she is requesting that \$157,219 be transferred from the Human Services fund balance. This represents an increase of \$67,419 over last year, or a 75% increase. Ms. Hady reported another serious concern is the reduction by the federal government of IV-E Incentive funding. For 2009, this allocation has been reduced by \$27,910, a 28% decrease. Of even greater concern is the fact that IV-E Incentive funding will be entirely eliminated in 2010, which will mean that Taylor County will lose \$98,897. This funding is critical to child welfare services and will affect the Big Brothers/Big Sisters Program, the Before and After School Program, and respite foster care in 2009. The IV-E Incentive funding reduction/elimination will also have a major impact on the funding that the Parent Resource Center receives from Human Services for parent education, family visitation, and the family visitor program.

The 2009 proposed budget also has no revenue for mental health institute placements, child caring institutions, and inadequate funding for foster care placements. Sue Hady expressed her frustration over the continued lack of funding from the state and federal governments to provide services for county residents, and the mandates placed upon counties with little or no funding to implement them.

Sue Hady informed the Board that the Financial Manager position was not included in the 2009 Proposed Budget. She asked Mr. Brandl his opinion on assuming the duties of the Financial Manager, as discussed in the August 13, 2008 Human Services Board meeting minutes. Mr. Brandl expressed caution and stated that he would first like to receive Taylor County's audit report, which should be arriving shortly, before any decisions are made regarding the Financial Manager position.

As stated above, Director Hady requested that \$157,219 be transferred from the Human Services fund balance to cover costs in the proposed 2009 budget. County Accountant Larry Brandl had concerns about transferring the entire \$157,219 from the fund balance and suggested that \$100,000 be transferred from the fund balance to the proposed 2009 budget and the remaining \$57,219 be taken from county levy. A motion was made by Mary Bix, seconded by George Southworth, to move/transfer \$100,000 from the Human Services fund balance to the proposed 2009 Human Services budget. A request will be made to the Budget Review Committee/Finance Committee that the remaining \$57,219 come from county levy. A roll call vote was taken. The motion carried with a vote of eight ayes, one nay (Fuchs).

Action to Express Appreciation to Cindy Neumann and Health Department for Assistance Rendered: Sue Hady explained that Human Services had lost its Medicare provider status, and thus was unable to bill Medicare. This had occurred during the difficulties in the accounts receivable department last year, as Medicare claims were not being filed electronically as required by Medicare. She stated that reinstatement of Medicare provider status is quite an extensive process. Ms. Hady reported that Patty Krug of the Health Department had offered the services of secretary/bookkeeper, Cindy Neumann in her department to assist the accounts receivable clerk at Human Services. Ms. Neumann greatly assisted the agency during this time and the Human Services Department was able to be reinstated as a provider by Medicare. James Seidl volunteered to create a certificate of appreciation for Ms. Neumann, and a resolution will be prepared for the Health Department. A MOTION WAS MADE BY MARY BIX, SECONDED BY DENNIS FUCHS, TO PRESENT A CERTIFICATE OF APPRECIATION TO CINDY NEUMANN AND A RESOLUTION OF APPRECIATION TO THE HEALTH DEPARTMENT AT A COUNTY BOARD MEETING.

Action on Contracts and Addenda: There were no contracts or addenda.

Director's Report: There was no Director's Report.

Next Committee Meeting: The next Human Services Board meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, October 8, 2008 in the Community Center at the Taylor County Fairgrounds.

Adjournment: A MOTION WAS MADE BY GEORGE SOUTHWORTH, SECONDED BY MARY BIX, TO ADJOURN. The meeting adjourned at 2:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Kathy Barr
for
Rose Madlon, Secretary

TAYLOR COUNTY HUMAN SERVICES BOARD

August 13, 2008

Community Center - Taylor County Fairgrounds

Call Meeting To Order: Chairperson James Seidl called the meeting to order at 2:20 p.m.

Members Present: George Southworth, Dave Bizer, Vicki Duffy, James Seidl, Mary Bix, Dennis Fuchs, David Krug, and Rose Madlon.

Members Absent: Excused absences: Eugene Roush.

Other Attendees: Paul Thornton, Dave Hemke, Sue Hady, and Kathy Barr.

Review and Approve Minutes of the July 9, 2008 Meeting and Current Agenda: MARY BIX MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE JULY 9, 2008 MINUTES AND CURRENT AGENDA CONTAINING 11 ITEMS. DAVID KRUG SECONDED THE MOTION. THE MOTION CARRIED.

Public Input: Black River Industries (BRI) Director Paul Thornton reported that it has been approximately a month since the four-day work week began at BRI and that both clients and their families have expressed satisfaction with the four-day work week. Mr. Thornton added that the reduction in hours has saved on costs. He also briefly discussed the work that BRI has received from local factories.

Update on General Relief and W-2 Programs: Dave Hemke reported on the General Relief (GR) and Wisconsin Works (W-2) Programs and provided a handout to members. He stated that as of August, the W-2 Program has four participants in paid positions, totaling \$2,647 in benefit payments. Of these four, three are in CMC (12 week maternity benefit) positions, and the remaining individual is in a W-2T position, having numerous barriers to employment. Mr. Hemke added that the W-2 Program has a projected benefit surplus through August of \$38,774. He reported that through July, the GR program shows a projected shortfall of \$620. He told the Board that the GR Program has seen a substantial increase in prescription medication requests.

Dave Hemke then updated the Board on the unemployment rate in Taylor County for June, which was at 6.5%, as compared to a rate of 5.1% in June 2007. The 6.5% rate for June 2008 is the fourth highest among the counties in Wisconsin. He added that the unemployment rate for the previous month (May) was at 6.4%.

Dave Hemke also reported that he will be meeting later today with an archivist from the Wisconsin State Historical Society regarding historical records in possession of the Human Services Department.

Review and Accept 2007 Annual Report: A corrected list of board members for the 2007 Annual Report was distributed. A MOTION WAS MADE BY MARY BIX, SECONDED BY GEORGE SOUTHWORTH, TO APPROVE THE 2007 TAYLOR COUNTY HUMAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT ANNUAL REPORT. THE MOTION CARRIED.

Discussion on Board Priorities Relative to Budget Process for 2009: Sue Hady reported that the State of Wisconsin has a levy cap freeze, which only allows counties to increase their overall budgets by two percent. She also reported that the audit report has not yet been received from the county's auditing firm and she is uncertain at this point in time if the audit firm will recommend hiring a financial manager for Human Services. Chairperson Seidl reported that he had spoken to County Clerk Bruce Strama who felt strongly that the accounting staff in his office could take on the additional duties of a financial manager. Sue Hady asked who would be responsible for supervising the position, would there be a job description change, and would the accounting staff spend time on site at the Human Services Department to complete the financial manager duties. Chairperson

Seidl indicated that he would follow-up with this issue. Sue Hady also reported that hiring of a Clinical Services Coordinator has been delayed because the salary study is not yet completed or even started.

Action on Request to Hire a Limited-Term Employee (LTE) for LTS staff on Family Medical Leave: Sue Hady reported that a social worker in the Long-Term Support (LTS) unit will be on Family Medical Leave and she is requesting that a social worker who had previously worked as a student intern at Human Services be hired for a couple of days per week as an LTE until the permanent worker returns. A MOTION WAS MADE BY DAVE BIZER, SECONDED BY MARY BIX, TO APPROVE THE LIMITED-TERM EMPLOYEE POSITION. THE MOTION CARRIED. Sue Hady will follow-up on this issue with Human Resource Manager Marie Koerner and the Personnel Committee.

Action on Contracts and Addenda: Sue Hady presented one addendum.

<u>Provider</u>	<u>Amount of Increase</u>	<u>Funding Source</u>	<u>Total</u>
<u>Addendum</u>			
Cooperative Educational Service Agency (CESA) #10 SPC 706.13 – Specialized Instruction – Hearing Impaired Unit Rate: \$45.38 (15-minute unit of service) (one client) Effective: 7/30/08	\$ 2,500.00	Birth To Three	\$ 31,500

A MOTION WAS MADE BY MARY BIX, SECONDED BY GEORGE SOUTHWORTH, TO APPROVE THE ADDENDUM AS PRESENTED. THE MOTION CARRIED.

Director's Report: Sue Hady distributed information from Bill Breneman, Emergency Management regarding weather/alert monitors for weather warnings/forecasts. According to Mr. Breneman, a new Alert Monitor could cost \$450, and a NOAA weather radio would cost anywhere from \$50 to \$120, depending on the model. After some discussion, it was the consensus of the Board that Director Hady check out the model costing \$50 to \$120.

Next Committee Meeting: The next Human Services Board meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, September 10, 2008 at 1 p.m. in the Community Center at the Taylor County Fairgrounds.

Adjournment: A MOTION WAS MADE BY GEORGE SOUTHWORTH, SECONDED BY DAVE BIZER, TO ADJOURN. The meeting adjourned at 3:04 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Kathy Barr
for
Rose Madlon, Secretary

**TAYLOR COUNTY HUMAN SERVICES BOARD
PUBLIC HEARING
August 13, 2008
Community Center – Taylor County Fairgrounds**

Call Meeting to Order: The Public Hearing on the 2009 Plan and Budget for the Taylor County Human Services Department was held on Wednesday, August 13, 2008 in the Community Center at the Taylor County Fairgrounds. Chairperson James Seidl called the public hearing to order at 1:05 p.m.

Members Present: Members in attendance were David Krug, Rose Madlon, Dennis Fuchs, Vicki Duffy, Mary Bix, James Seidl, George Southworth, David Bizer.

Members Absent: Eugene Roush had an excused absence.

Human Services staff: Sally Toepfer, Dave Hemke, Sue Hady and Kathy Barr.

Introduction to Public Hearing – Sue Hady, Human Services Director and James Seidl, Human Services Board Chair: Chairperson Seidl welcomed those in attendance and thanked them for taking the time to express their opinions and concerns regarding services. Sue Hady also welcomed those in attendance and indicated that the public's opinion is extremely important to assist Board members in making decisions for funding services. She introduced the Human Services staff who was in attendance, and Board members then introduced themselves and indicated whether they were a county board member and what district they represented, or if they were a lay member. Ms. Hady reported that although the majority of the Human Services Department's funding is from state and federal sources, the county also provides funding for the Human Services Department. In 2008, Human Services received an allocation of \$777,500 from the county.

Human Services Conducts Public Hearing for Year 2009 Plan and Budget: Next, Chairperson Seidl read the names of the individuals who indicated they wished to give oral testimony. They are as follows: Linda Heinkel, Paula Arndt, Paul Thornton, Kevin Gallistel, Doreen Fierke, Molly Tomczak, Tanya Brandl, Barbara Krizan, Elsie Mesner, and Tina Clark.

The oral testimony provided support for funding for programs such as supportive home care and personal care to assist residents to remain living in their own home, programs for the developmentally disabled, including services provided by Black River Industries, respite care, day services, family support program services, and parental education and support.

Patrick Cork, Area Administrator with the Wisconsin Department of Health Services (DHS) was also in attendance and reported that DHS is expected to provide counties with budget allocations by the end of August. He added that the state had budgeted for a three percent increase in sales revenue, which did not occur, adding to the budget deficit at the state level. Mr. Cork continued by indicating that due to modifications in federal law there will be a reduction in Title IV-E funding for 2009. Taylor County receives approximately \$90,000 in Title IV-E monies, which is used for prevention and ongoing services for abused/neglected children and their families. He concluded by discussing the state authorized audit report completed regarding the Family Care Program versus the current model of service delivery. Mr. Cork added that according to this report, the state anticipates a savings of Medicaid dollars by implementing the Family Care Program. Mr. Cork stated that the Governor intends to implement the Family Care Program statewide by the end of 2011, and Taylor County should look at its options.

Chairperson Seidl read the written testimony received from Joseph Greget of the Medford School District, Theresa Valenti from Stepping Stones, and Gary Mertig, Regional Administrator of the Department of Children and Families. The written testimony was in support of funding for prevention/education to stop family violence, programs for children

and families, and the promotion of the economic and social well-being of Wisconsin children and families.

Other individuals who were present, but who did not give oral or written testimony included Beverly Hamm, Audrey Homer, Nancy Gosse, Gail Obscherning, Sherrie Vaughn, Mark Schiltz, Trena Mauer, Otto Bechlem, Clyde Schaefer, Diane Niggemann, Julie Singleton, Don Tomczak, Kasey Clark, Emily Eck, and Shanna Birkholz.

Closing Comments – James Seidl: Chairperson Seidl thanked those in attendance for their input, which will be taken into consideration by the Human Services Board during the 2009 budget process.

CHAIRPERSON SEIDL ADJOURNED THE PUBLIC HEARING AT 2:10 P.M.

Respectfully submitted:

Kathy Barr
for
Rose Madlon, Secretary

TAYLOR COUNTY HUMAN SERVICES BOARD

July 9, 2008

Community Center - Taylor County Fairgrounds

Call Meeting To Order: Chairperson James Seidl called the meeting to order at 1 p.m.

Members Present: Eugene Roush, Vicki Duffy, Dave Bizer, Mary Bix, James Seidl, George Southworth, David Krug, Rose Madlon, and Dennis Fuchs.

Members Absent: None

Other Attendees: Paul Thornton, Dave Hemke, Sue Hady, and Kathy Barr.

Review and Approve Minutes of the June 11, 2008 Meeting and Approve Agenda: MARY BIX MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE JUNE 11, 2008 MINUTES AND CURRENT AGENDA. VICKI DUFFY SECONDED THE MOTION. THE MOTION CARRIED.

Public Input: Paul Thornton, Director of Black River Industries (BRI) informed the Board that due to the increased costs for transportation and utilities, BRI has gone to a four day work week. He reported that 32% of the revenue that BRI receives from the Human Services Department is directed to getting people to work. Mr. Thornton continued by stating that he had met with Human Services Director Sue Hady and Developmental Disabilities Coordinator Sally Toepfer regarding what could be done to assist BRI due to the increased utilities and transportation costs, yet still maintain services, and it was decided to go to a four day work week. He added that the work that BRI receives from local factories is growing and the lawn care service provided by BRI continues to thrive. Sue Hady indicated the other option would have been to increase the rates to cover transportation costs.

Emergency Management Safety Planning – Bill Breneman Invited: Sue Hady reported that Bill Breneman was unable to attend this meeting. At last month's Human Services Board meeting it was decided to invite Mr. Breneman to this meeting to discuss a request by Director Hady regarding construction of a safe area for Human Services occupants during a tornado/other high velocity winds. Chairperson Seidl stated that he will contact Mr. Breneman.

Update on General Relief and W-2 Programs – Dave Hemke: Information on the General Relief (GR) and Wisconsin Works (W-2) Programs was provided by Dave Hemke. He reported that as of July, the W-2 Program has five participants in paid positions. Two of these individuals are in W-2T positions, totaling \$1256 in July benefit payments, and the remaining three people are in CMC positions, which is the 12-week maternity benefit. The total benefit payment for these three participants for the month of July is \$1106. The projected benefit surplus for the W-2 Program through July is \$40,822, according to Mr. Hemke. On the other hand, the GR Program, through June 2008, shows a projected shortfall of \$602. He stated that in the GR Program there have been several inquires for prescription drug coverage.

Mr. Hemke reported that Wisconsin's unemployment rate last month was 4.2%, significantly lower than the unemployment rate for Taylor County, which is 7.4%. This number gives Taylor County the third highest unemployment rate among counties in Wisconsin, just behind Menomonie and Iron.

Next, Mr. Hemke reported on the payout for compensatory time to the Economic Support (ES) Specialists. He indicated that three ES specialists were paid out for 208.13 hours, totaling \$3,492.42.

Action on Contracts and Addenda: Sue Hady presented one contract and one addendum.

<u>Provider</u>	<u>Amount of Increase</u>	<u>Funding Source</u>	<u>Total</u>
<u>Contract</u>			
Miller Alternative Care, LLC SPC 506 - CBRF Unit Rate: Level I: \$2,884/month (no clients at this time) Level II: \$3,395/month (one client) Level I is the "regular" CBRF rate; Level II indicates an increased level of supervision Effective: 6/27/08 to 12/31/08	N/A	Community Options Program; Community Options Program – Waiver; Community Integration Program II Waiver	\$ 20,816.40
<u>Addendum</u>			
Peter & Darla Holm Adult Family Home Exhibit added – No change in dollar amount Effective: 6/15/08	N/A	Community Integration Program IA	\$ 54,900.00

A MOTION WAS MADE BY MARY BIX, SECONDED BY DAVID KRUG, TO APPROVE THE CONTRACT AND ADDENDUM AS PRESENTED. A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN. THE MOTION CARRIED WITH A VOTE OF NINE AYES.

Review and Approve Public Participation Process for 2009 Plan and Budget: Sue Hady reported that the Human Services Department is mandated by the State of Wisconsin to involve the public in the planning process of their annual budget. As has been done in past years, Ms. Hady proposed that the Human Services Board conduct a public hearing. A MOTION WAS MADE BY MARY BIX TO APPROVE THE PUBLIC PARTICIPATION AND PLANNING PROCESS FOR THE 2009 BUDGET BY CONDUCTING A PUBLIC HEARING. GEORGE SOUTHWORTH SECONDED THE MOTION. THE MOTION CARRIED. THE PUBLIC HEARING IS SCHEDULED FOR WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 13, 2008 AT 1 P.M. AT THE COMMUNITY CENTER AT THE TAYLOR COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS.

Director's Report: None. Director Hady asked Chairperson Seidl about the radiation levels at the cell phone tower next to the Human Services building that was discussed at last month's meeting. Mr. Seidl stated he will continue to follow-up on this issue.

Next Committee Meeting: The next Human Services Board meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, August 13, 2008 following the Public Hearing in the Community Center at the Taylor County Fairgrounds.

Adjournment: A MOTION WAS MADE BY MARY BIX, SECONDED BY GEORGE SOUTHWORTH, TO ADJOURN. The meeting adjourned at 1:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Kathy Barr
for
Rose Madlon, Secretary

TAYLOR COUNTY HUMAN SERVICES BOARD

June 11, 2008

Community Center - Taylor County Fairgrounds

Call Meeting To Order: Chairperson James Seidl called the meeting to order at 1 p.m.

Members Present: Rose Madlon, Mary Bix, Dennis Fuchs, Dave Bizer, James Seidl, Vicki Duffy, David Krug, and Eugene Roush

Members Absent: George Southworth

Other Attendees: Paul Thornton, Larry Brandl, Dave Hemke, Sue Hady, and Kathy Barr.

Approve Minutes of the May 14, 2008 Meeting and Current Agenda: MARY BIX MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE MAY 14, 2008 MINUTES AND CURRENT AGENDA. VICKI DUFFY SECONDED THE MOTION. THE MOTION CARRIED.

Public Input: Black River Industries (BRI) Director Paul Thornton updated the Board on activities at BRI. At last month's meeting, Mr. Thornton had reported that BRI had received a grant to assist them in streamlining their work production area, and this project has now been completed. He also discussed the work they are receiving from local factories and the large order they have received from a State Use contract for sewing buttons and emblems on uniform shirts and jackets for the Department of Corrections. Mr. Thornton added that BRI's fourth annual golf outing will take place on June 23. He also distributed copies of BRI's 2007 annual report.

Fund Balance Transfer Issues – Larry Brandl: County Accountant Larry Brandl was present to discuss the Human Services Fund Balance. He distributed information showing that in 1991 the County Board had passed a resolution to have the Human Services Department retain 10% of its annual budget in its emergency reserve fund upon completion of end-of-year reconciliation. This had been recommended by the auditor. Sue Hady presented information showing how much money was transferred from the Human Services Fund balance for the years 1992 through 2007 in excess of 10% of the department's next annual budget to the County's General Fund. The total amounted to \$795,649 over the 15-year period. Mr. Brandl explained that during this time period there were some years when no money was transferred from the Fund Balance to the County General Fund, as revenues were low and expenses were high, most likely due to costly placements at state institutions. Sue Hady added that with the continued lack of an inflationary increase in Community Aids funding, there is less money for services, and it becomes more difficult to handle emergencies that arise. Mr. Brandl explained that for 2007, \$10,797.30 will be transferred to the County General Fund from the Human Services Fund Balance. Ms. Hady had recommended that this money be used to payout the comp. time to the Economic Support Specialists as discussed at last month's meeting. Mr. Brandl recommended that the Human Services Department should pay the comp. time out of the 2008 budget allocation. If there is not enough revenue at the end of the year, a transfer of funds from the fund balance could be considered at that time.

Update on General Relief and W-2 Programs: Dave Hemke provided the Board with information on the General Relief (GR) and Wisconsin Works (W-2) Programs. The GR Program through the month of May shows a projected shortfall of approximately \$1,306. Mr. Hemke reported that as of June, there are a total of five participants in paid positions in the W-2 Program. Three individuals are in W-2T positions, having the most barriers to employment, while the other two participants are in CMC (12-week maternity benefit) positions. The total benefit payments for the month of June for these five individuals totaled \$2,333. Mr. Hemke added that the projected benefit surplus for the W-2 Program as of June is \$42,245. He also gave the Board a handout reflecting the number of cases and payments made in the W-2 Program from June 2007 to June 2008. The highest number of cases during this timeframe was eight for the month of December 2007. Mr. Hemke

continued by updating Board members on the Wisconsin Heating Energy Assistance Program. Through June 4, 2008, 752 cases have received payments totaling \$318,368. According to Mr. Hemke, this is the highest number of cases served in recent history, as 696 cases were served in 2006. In the public benefits program, payments totaling \$93,360 have been paid to eligible individuals, while emergency/crisis benefits totaled \$74,169 in payments. Payments to vendors for public benefits crisis benefits was \$5,317, the same number that was reported last month.

Mr. Hemke also reported that although the unemployment rate continues to be high in Taylor County, it is down somewhat this month from 9.3% to 7.4%. Taylor County's unemployment rate, however, currently ranks as the fifth highest in the state of Wisconsin.

Mr. Hemke also distributed information on the FoodShare and Medicaid programs. Looking at a 13-month time period from April 2007 to April 2008, there was an annual increase of about 100, or 16%, in FoodShare cases. The Medicaid program has also increased about 7% from April 2007 to January 2008. This handout also showed the number of Medicaid cases certified by the Taylor County Human Services Department and the number of recipients and payments made to all Taylor County residents who receive Medicaid from any source, such as SSI or the Katie Beckett Program.

Action on Contracts and Addenda: Sue Hady presented two contracts and one addendum.

<u>Provider</u>	<u>Amount of Increase</u>	<u>Funding Source</u>	<u>Total</u>
<u>Contract</u>			
Opportunity of North Central Wisconsin, Inc. SPC 103.99 – Respite Care Unit Rate: \$130.00/24-hr. day (four clients) (\$8,000) SPC 103.99 – Respite Care Unit Rate: \$13.00/hour (four clients) (\$1,000) Effective: 6/1/08 to 12/31/08	N/A	Children's Long-Term Support Waiver and Family Support Program	\$ 9,000.00
Anthony & Kathleen Schumacher Foster Home SPC 103.22 – Respite Care Unit Rate: \$130.00/24-hr. day (one client) Effective: 6/1/08 to 12/31/08	N/A	Children's Long-Term Support Waiver	\$ 5,000.00
<u>Addendum</u>			
Parent Resource Center of Taylor County SPC 110 – Independent	\$ 3,420.00	Chafee	\$ 68,715.00

Living Training
Unit Rate: \$570 (seven
week program) (six clients)
Effective: 6/11/08

Independent Living
Funds

A MOTION WAS MADE BY MARY BIX, SECONDED BY DAVID KRUG, TO APPROVE THE CONTRACTS AND ADDENDUM AS PRESENTED. A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN. THE MOTION CARRIED WITH A VOTE OF EIGHT AYES, ONE ABSENT.

Director's Report: Director Hady brought three concerns to the Board as follows:

She asked about the status of the salary study for county department heads and supervisors. Ms. Hady stressed the importance of this study, as the Clinical Services Coordinator position is once again vacant, and it has been extremely difficult to recruit qualified individuals for this position due to the low salary. She added that she has continued to assume the responsibilities of the Clinical Services Coordinator, along with her director duties but is concerned that if something is missed there could be significant liability for the county, as this position deals with individuals who may be at high risk.

Secondly, Ms. Hady also has concerns about the cell phone tower by the Human Services building and the exposure of radiation to Human Services employees. She asked if the tower had ever been assessed to determine if radiation levels are safe for people working in or near the Human Services building. Chairperson Seidl said he would look into this.

Lastly, Ms. Hady asked that the county consider building a small underground area that occupants of the Human Services building could go to in the event of a tornado or other high velocity winds, as there is no basement or crawl space. Currently, the plan from the Building, Grounds and Parks Department is for Human Services staff to go to the bathrooms in the center of the building for safety. Ms. Hady believes this is a liability issue for the county. Several Board members felt that this was an Emergency Management issue, not a Building, Grounds and Parks issue. Ms. Hady stated she believed the County Board should look into this issue. After some discussion, Mary Bix suggested that Emergency Management Director Bill Breneman be invited to the next Human Services Board meeting.

Next Committee Meeting: The next Human Services Board meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, July 9, 2008 at 1 p.m. in the Community Center at the Taylor County Fairgrounds.

Adjournment: A MOTION WAS MADE BY MARY BIX, SECONDED BY ROSE MADLON, TO ADJOURN. The meeting adjourned at 2:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Kathy Barr
for
Rose Madlon, Secretary

TAYLOR COUNTY HUMAN SERVICES BOARD

May 14, 2008

Community Center - Taylor County Fairgrounds

Call Meeting To Order: Chairperson James Seidl called the meeting to order at 1 p.m.

Members Present: George Southworth, Vicki Duffy, James Seidl, Mary Bix, and Rose Madlon.

Members Absent: Excused absences: David Krug, Dennis Fuchs, Dave Bizer, Eugene Roush.

Other Attendees: Paul Thornton, Dave Hemke, Sue Hady, and Kathy Barr.

Approve Minutes of the April 9, 2008 Meeting and Current Agenda: MARY BIX MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE APRIL 9, 2008 MINUTES AND CURRENT AGENDA CONTAINING 10 ITEMS. GEORGE SOUTHWORTH SECONDED THE MOTION. THE MOTION CARRIED.

Public Input: Black River Industries (BRI) Director Paul Thornton briefly discussed BRI's corporate catering and lawn care service and some of the work they are receiving from local factories. Additionally, Mr. Thornton reported that BRI is one of four facilities in the state that has received a special grant to assist them in making their work production area more efficient.

Update on General Relief and W-2 Programs: Dave Hemke reported on the General Relief (GR) and Wisconsin Works (W-2) Programs. He stated that as of the beginning of May, the W-2 Program has four participants in paid positions, totaling \$1,867 in benefit payments. Of these four, one person is in the CMC (12 week maternity benefit) position, and the three remaining individuals are in the W-2T positions, with numerous barriers to employment. Mr. Hemke also informed the Board that the W-2 Program is in the process of adding two more individuals to the program. Looking at the GR Program, Mr. Hemke stated that through April, the GR program shows a projected shortfall of approximately \$4,000. He also reported on the Wisconsin Heating Energy Assistance Program. As of May 7, 2008, 741 cases have received payments totaling \$314,670. Mr. Hemke added that this is the highest total in, at least, the last five program years. To date, \$92,083 has been paid for the public benefits program, crisis benefits totaled \$73,595 in payments, payments to vendors for public benefits crisis benefits totaled \$5,317 and \$4,648 has been paid out for furnace repairs or replacements. Mr. Hemke indicated that there is \$106 remaining in crisis benefit for the balance of the heating season. He also discussed with the Board that in March the unemployment rate for Taylor County was 9.2%, the seventh highest in the state of Wisconsin. Taylor County is only one of eight counties in the state that saw an increase in their unemployment rate from March to April, according to Mr. Hemke. He also discussed the state's projections regarding BadgerCare Plus. The state estimated that approximately 26,000 to 27,000 individuals state-wide would apply for the new BadgerCare Plus program, when in reality more than 71,000 people have enrolled in the BadgerCare Plus program. Mr. Hemke added that the state did not provide counties with any additional funding to process these applications.

Action on Economic Support Comp. Time: Dave Hemke reported that he had discussed the comp. time issue with his staff as he was directed to by the Board at their April meeting. He indicated that two workers would like the comp. time to be paid out, one worker would like to continue to accumulate the comp. time, one worker currently has no comp. time, and one worker did not indicate a preference. Mr. Hemke reported that he is requesting that 238.64 hours of comp. time (through May 15, 2008) be paid out to the Economic Support Specialists. This would amount to \$6,567.27. Sue Hady reported she had spoken with the county's accountant, Larry Brandl regarding using money from the Human Services Fund Balance to pay out the comp. time. Mr. Brandl reported that \$10,797.30 will be or already has been transferred from the Human Services Fund Balance to the County General Fund.

Ms. Hady requested that Chairperson Seidl discuss the fund balance issue with Mr. Brandl. Ms. Hady indicated if the Board chose to, this money could be used to pay for this comp. time. Mr. Hemke stated that comp. time costs charged to Economic Support funding, versus W-2 funding, could be matched through the federal addendum up to half the cost, reducing the county's liability by 50%. Mr. Hemke informed the Board that he had done some projections on what the comp. time costs would be for the remainder of 2008 with an additional five hours added each week per worker. This calculated to approximately \$25,000; however, Mr. Hemke believes this amount would be closer to around \$14,000. He will update the Board on a quarterly basis on the issue of the ES worker comp. time. A MOTION WAS MADE BY GEORGE SOUTHWORTH, SECONDED BY MARY BIX, TO APPROVE PAYING OUT THE COMPENSATORY TIME TO THE ECONOMIC SUPPORT SPECIALISTS WHO WANT TO BE PAID OUT. THE MOTION CARRIED.

Review and Approve Filling the Clinical Services Coordinator Position: Sue Hady reported that the Clinical Services Coordinator did not pass his probation period, and she asked for Board approval to fill this position. A MOTION WAS MADE BY MARY BIX, SECONDED BY ROSE MADLON, TO APPROVE FILLING THE CLINICAL SERVICES COORDINATOR POSITION. THE MOTION CARRIED. The Personnel Committee has already approved this position. In the interim, Sue Hady will assume the duties and responsibilities of the position.

Action on Contracts and Addenda: Sue Hady presented two contracts.

<u>Provider</u>	<u>Amount of Increase</u>	<u>Funding Source</u>	<u>Total</u>
<u>Contract</u>			
Withers Adult Family Home SPC 202 – Adult Family Home Unit Rate: \$1800/month (1 client) Effective: 4/29/08 to 12/31/08	N/A	Community Integration Program II/Community Options Program	\$ 14,518.00
Lucia Bertram-Albrecht SPC 112 or 706.18 – Interpreter Services Unit Rate: \$35.00/hour (6 clients) Portal to Portal Effective: 5/14/08 to 12/31/08	N/A	Birth To Three/Income Maintenance Allocation	\$ 3,000.00

A MOTION WAS MADE BY MARY BIX, SECONDED BY GEORGE SOUTHWORTH, TO APPROVE THE CONTRACTS AS PRESENTED. A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN. THE MOTION CARRIED WITH A VOTE OF FIVE AYES, FOUR ABSENT.

Director's Report: Sue Hady reported that as of the end of April, the Human Services Department is seven percent ahead of its goal in the collection of outpatient client fees and collections.

Next Committee Meeting: The next Human Services Board meeting is scheduled for

Wednesday, June 11, 2008 at 1 p.m. in the Community Center at the Taylor County Fairgrounds.

Adjournment: A MOTION WAS MADE BY GEORGE SOUTHWORTH, SECONDED BY MARY BIX, TO ADJOURN. The meeting adjourned at 1:47 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Kathy Barr
for
Rose Madlon, Secretary

TAYLOR COUNTY HUMAN SERVICES BOARD

April 9, 2008

Community Center - Taylor County Fairgrounds

Call Meeting To Order: Chairperson James Seidl called the meeting to order at 1 p.m.

Members Present: Dennis Fuchs, Mary Bix, Eugene Roush, George Southworth, Vicki Duffy, James Seidl, Dave Bizer, Rose Madlon, and David Krug.

Members Absent: None

Other Attendees: Larry Brandl, Carol Roush, Dave Hemke, Sue Hady, and Kathy Barr.

Approve Minutes of the March 12, 2008 Meeting and Current Agenda: MARY BIX MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE MARCH 12, 2008 MINUTES AND CURRENT AGENDA CONTAINING 12 ITEMS. DAVID KRUG SECONDED THE MOTION. THE MOTION CARRIED.

Public Input: There was no Public Input.

2007 End-of-Year Financial Report: Larry Brandl distributed Revenue and Expenditure Guidelines and a summary sheet and discussed the end-of-year status of the Human Services budget for 2007. Mr. Brandl explained that in 2007 agency revenues were slightly higher than expenditures, resulting in a surplus of \$195,411.65. He indicated that this surplus has allowed money to be transferred to the Fund Balance in an amount not to exceed ten percent of the Human Services Department's operating budget. Mr. Brandl attributed one of the reasons for the surplus was that although the Mental Health budget was slightly over budget in 2007, the agency received more state client collections in 2007 as compared to 2006, when there had been several detentions and court-ordered placements at the state's mental health institutes. He continued by stating that the Developmental Disabilities unit costs were slightly overbudget, but the Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse (AODA) unit was underspent by about \$35,000, due primarily to the Clinical Services Coordinator position being vacant for part of the year. The Children and Family Services (CFS) unit budget was okay. However, there was a deficit in the Youth Aids budget caused by the continuing lack of funding from the state, as well as costly placements for treatment foster care, foster care, corrections, and group homes. The Economic Support budget was all right for 2007, and the W-2 Program received funding from the state in the amount of \$41,000 to create a benefit surplus. The Long-Term Support unit was overbudget, as the Community Options – Waiver and the Community Integration II programs served several clients; however, there was enough Community Options Program money to allow the agency to claim federal match monies. As discussed at last month's meeting, revenue from client fees and collections were less for 2007. Mr. Brandl concluded by stating that the 2007 budget surplus reflects on the good decisions made by the Board and Director Hady. Chairperson Seidl thanked Mr. Brandl on behalf of the Human Services Board for his part in the budget process as the county's accountant.

Update on W-2, General Relief, and National Association of Community Health Centers Policy and Issues Forum: Dave Hemke provided the Board with information on the General Relief and Wisconsin Works (W-2) Programs. The W-2 Program shows a projected benefit surplus of \$44,903 through the month of April. As of April 1, 2008 there are three participants in paid positions in the program. Two of these individuals are in the CMC (12 week maternity benefit) positions, and the other person is in a W-2T slot, having several barriers to employment. Mr. Hemke reported that two more individuals were just recently added to the W-2 Program, and it is likely that they will become long-term payment positions. He also reported on the General Relief Program, which through March shows a projected shortfall of \$324. He also discussed the unemployment rate for Taylor County, which was 9.1% in the month of February, the seventh highest in the state of Wisconsin for that timeframe. Mr. Hemke also shared with the Board information illustrating the number of FoodShare cases and payments made for a 13-month period.

There were 636 FoodShare cases in January 2008, with payments for that month totaling \$90,715. The handout also showed the number of Medicaid cases certified by the Taylor County Human Services Department (1503 cases in January 2008), and the number of recipients and payments made to all Taylor County residents who receive Medicaid from any source, which included 3211 recipients in January 2008, and payments made in the amount of \$1,154,105. According to Mr. Hemke, skilled nursing care is the single largest category for Medicaid payments, followed by HMO capitation payments. He also reported that enrollment for the Supplemental Security Income (SSI) managed care program is going on in Taylor County at this time. Mr. Hemke informed the Board that since the Wisconsin Heating Energy Assistance Program began on October 1, 2007, there have been 699 cases served, with payments totaling \$297,105 as of April 2, 2008. To date, \$88,000 has been paid for the public benefits program, and the crisis program has paid \$5,321 for electricity bills and \$2300 for furnace repairs or replacements. Mr. Hemke indicated that only \$4600 is available for the balance of the heating season and to address summer disconnects.

Lastly, Mr. Hemke reported on his attendance at the National Association of Community Health Centers' (NACHC) Policy and Issues Forum in Washington D.C. He serves on the Board of Directors of Family Health Center of Marshfield, Inc. and is its current president. He takes a few vacation days in order to attend this very interesting conference. He discussed NACHC's legislative agenda and shared information concerning the day he spent speaking to much of Wisconsin congressional delegation on Capitol Hill. He also provided summaries on a number of the general sessions and workshops he attended while he was there.

In a general discussion on access to health care as well as dental care, Mr. Hemke shared that there are no dentists in Taylor County that are accepting new patients on Medicaid. He went on to say that Family Health Center of Marshfield, Inc. has been instrumental in establishing dental clinics in Ladysmith, Owen, Chippewa Falls, and Park Falls. These clinics see Medicaid patients and also see lower-income individuals on a sliding-fee basis as well as serving individuals with commercial insurance.

Economic Support Comp. Time: Dave Hemke discussed the ongoing Economic Support (ES) Unit compensatory time issue. He explained that the economic support specialists work a 35-hour work week and have accumulated significant amounts of comp. time due to increased economic support workload activities. Flat funding from the Department of Health and Family Services and decreasing funding from the Department of Workforce Development have not allowed Taylor County to reimburse staff for their time and staff is finding it difficult to find time to use the time. As a result, staff has accumulated a balance of 275.39 hours, ranging from 17.5 hours to 102.01 hours per worker. The cost to pay out this comp. time would be approximately \$4,723.05 for salaries and an additional \$3,022.75 for fringe benefits totaling \$7,745.80. The cost would rise later in the year as one staff member will be receiving a salary increase due to her longevity with the county. Mr. Hemke also calculated the cost of continuing to pay all ES staff for an additional five hours each week (if necessary) and anticipated the cost to be approximately \$29,530 for salary and fringe benefits. Mr. Hemke added that ES funding is eligible for a match through the federal addendum (50/50 match) so it might be possible for up to half of the cost to be matched reducing the county's liability by 50%. After a lengthy discussion, the Board decided to direct Mr. Hemke to check with the economic support staff to see if they would rather be paid out for the compensatory time or continue to accumulate it.

Paper-Shredding Project: Dave Hemke reported that he had contacted the Wisconsin Historical Society to find out if they were interested in retaining Economic Support (ES) records prior to 1998. State statute requires that the Wisconsin Historical Society be contacted prior to a county's destruction of records. The Historical Society responded by stating that they were interested in selected records from the Economic Support files. He added that the Human Services storage area at Northcentral Technical College is filled to

capacity and shortly there will be no room to place any more records there. Mr. Hemke stated he recently met with Paul Thornton of Black River Industries to obtain an estimate for shredding about a third of these stored records. The estimate given was \$3,600. A MOTION WAS MADE BY DAVID KRUG, SECONDED BY GEORGE SOUTHWORTH, TO APPROVE DESTRUCTION OF HUMAN SERVICES RECORDS IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE COUNTY'S RECORDS RETENTION POLICY. AN AMENDMENT WAS MADE TO THIS MOTION AS FOLLOWS: DAVE BIZER MADE A MOTION, SECONDED BY MARY BIX, TO NOT EXCEED \$3600 FOR THE COST OF THE RECORDS DESTRUCTION. A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN. THE MOTION CARRIED WITH A VOTE OF NINE AYES.

Action on Contracts and Addenda: Sue Hady presented a contract with Sullivan Homes, LLC, a community-based residential facility (CBRF) in the Wausau area. The unit rate is \$77.41 per day for a client who was transferred to Sullivan Homes from another group home in Wausau that is closing. The funding source is Community Aids, and the total amount of the contract for the remainder of the year is \$38,705. A MOTION WAS MADE BY MARY BIX, SECONDED BY DAVE BIZER, TO APPROVE THE CONTRACT AS PRESENTED. THE MOTION CARRIED.

Approve Filling the Accounts Receivable Position: At last month's meeting Sue Hady had told the Board that the Accounts Receivable person had resigned after three months of employment. A MOTION WAS MADE BY MARY BIX, SECONDED BY DAVID KRUG, TO APPROVE FILLING THE ACCOUNTS RECEIVABLE POSITION AND FORWARD IT TO THE PERSONNEL COMMITTEE. THE MOTION CARRIED.

Director's Report: Sue Hady pointed out an article in the Board packet regarding Community Aids funding. Several years ago the State of Wisconsin reduced the amount of Community Aids funding that it gives to counties. In addition to this, the state has not provided an inflationary increase to Community Aids funding for a number of years. Ms. Hady indicated her concern regarding this issue, especially since Community Aids funding is non-earmarked funding that can be used for various programs and services. She added that although counties receive less funding from the state, the costs to provide services continues to increase.

Next Committee Meeting: The next Human Services Board meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, May 14, 2008 at 1 p.m. in the Community Center at the Taylor County Fairgrounds.

Adjournment: A MOTION WAS MADE BY GEORGE SOUTHWORTH, SECONDED BY DAVE BIZER, TO ADJOURN. The meeting adjourned at 3 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Kathy Barr
for
Rose Madlon, Secretary

TAYLOR COUNTY HUMAN SERVICES BOARD

March 12, 2008

Community Center - Taylor County Fairgrounds

Call Meeting To Order: Chairperson James Seidl called the meeting to order at 1 p.m.

Members Present: David Krug, Rose Madlon, Dave Bizer, James Seidl, Vicki Duffy, Eugene Roush, Mary Bix, and Dennis Fuchs.

Members Absent: George Southworth had an excused absence.

Other Attendees: Beth Carlson, Paul Thornton, Sue Hady, and Kathy Barr.

Approve Minutes of the February 13, 2008 Meeting and Current Agenda: MARY BIX MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE FEBRUARY 13, 2008 MINUTES AND CURRENT AGENDA. DAVID KRUG SECONDED THE MOTION. THE MOTION CARRIED.

Public Input: Beth Carlson of Black River Industries (BRI) told the Board that BRI has a state use contract with the State of Wisconsin whereby BRI clients sew on buttons and emblems on prison guard uniforms. She brought in a sample of a shirt worn by the prison guards to show the Board members. Ms. Carlson explained that after the buttons and emblems are sewn on, the shirts are re-checked, packaged, and sent to a state prison warehouse where they are distributed. Ms. Carlson added that sewing production is new to BRI, and it is hoped that this will create more work opportunities. Paul Thornton reported that BRI has subcontracts with the county's school districts and two students are currently working in the production department. Mr. Thornton added that five students from the alternative school are also working at BRI.

Dave Hemke was unable to attend the meeting. A handout was provided to the Board updating them on the General Relief and Wisconsin Works (W-2) programs.

Action on Contracts and Addenda: There were no contracts or addenda presented.

Action on Request to Write Off Bad Debts: Sue Hady informed the Board that she just recently received the resignation of the Accounts Receivable Clerk, who has been employed with the department for the past three months. Ms. Hady indicated that this will be a "setback" for the department. However, on a positive note, the limited term employee that had been hired to help in Accounts Receivable may be interested in the position. However, filling of the position would need to be approved by the Human Services Board (oversight committee) and the Personnel Committee. The Board discussed that this slows down the hiring process, and Chairperson Seidl stated he would contact Marie Koerner to see if the Accounts Receivable Clerk position could be posted prior to seeking approval from the Human Services Board and Personnel Committee. Sue Hady also added that the starting salary for the Accounts Receivable Clerk and other clerical positions have not been increased for ten years, which makes it difficult to retain qualified individuals.

The Board reviewed a list of bad debts to be written off. These debts include inpatient charges due primarily to several Chapter 51 detentions over the past few years. Ms. Hady explained that when these detentions occur, Human Services initially pays for the cost of the placement. If the client who is detained has insurance, the insurance company is billed, but oftentimes these clients do not have insurance and are unable to pay these costs themselves, and Human Services ends up paying the bill for these detention placements and court-ordered commitments. In the area of outpatient costs, Ms. Hady stated that many clients are on Medical Assistance and the agency is unable to collect the full cost of the outpatient charges, as Medical Assistance reimburses at a lower rate.

She continued by stating that due to contracts with private insurance companies, oftentimes the agency must accept the rate the insurance company pays and cannot bill clients beyond that amount. Ms. Hady explained that it is also difficult to collect revenue from some clients for no show fees, Medical Assistance co-pays and ability-to-pay fees. She added that revenue was lost due to a number of claims not submitted on an accurate and timely basis to Medical Assistance and private insurance companies. Ms. Hady concluded by stating that the Human Services Department anticipates collecting \$619,000 in client fees and collections for 2008, as nine to ten percent of the agency's revenue usually comes from client fees and collections. AFTER A SIGNIFICANT AMOUNT OF DISCUSSION, A MOTION WAS MADE BY DENNIS FUCHS, SECONDED BY MARY BIX, TO APPROVE WRITING OFF THE BAD DEBTS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$261,398.49. A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN. THE MOTION CARRIED WITH A VOTE OF EIGHT AYES, ONE ABSENT (SOUTHWORTH)

Director's Report: Sue Hady reported that one of the receptionists/secretaries at the front desk will be on Family Medical Leave in a couple of months. Ms. Hady would like to have the energy assistance worker fill in temporarily for the receptionist/secretary until she returns to work. The energy assistance program ends in May, which would allow the energy assistance worker to be available. The Board felt this was a good idea and asked Ms. Hady to contact Human Resource Manager Marie Koerner about this issue.

Sue Hady asked if the County Board was going to recognize the late Ray Lange for his many years of service on the Taylor County Board and Human Services Board. Chairperson Seidl indicated that he thought the County Board had planned to recognize Mr. Lange for his service. Ms. Hady added that Mr. Lange also served on the Administrative Review Panel for the Human Services Department for a number of years.

Next Committee Meeting: The next Human Services Board meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, April 9, 2008 at 1 p.m. in the Community Center at the Taylor County Fairgrounds.

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 2 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Kathy Barr
for
Rose Madlon, Secretary

TAYLOR COUNTY HUMAN SERVICES BOARD

February 13, 2008

Community Center - Taylor County Fairgrounds

Call Meeting To Order: Chairperson James Seidl called the meeting to order at 1 p.m.

Members Present: George Southworth, Dennis Fuchs, Mary Bix, Eugene Roush, Vicki Duffy, Dave Bizer, James Seidl, Rose Madlon, and David Krug.

Members Absent: None

Other Attendees: Beth Carlson, Paul Thornton, Dave Hemke, Sue Hady, and Kathy Barr.

Approve Minutes of the January 16, 2008 Meeting and Current Agenda: MARY BIX MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE JANUARY 16, 2008 MINUTES AND CURRENT AGENDA. VICKI DUFFY SECONDED THE MOTION. THE MOTION CARRIED.

Public Input: Beth Carlson from Black River Industries reported that the Adult Day Respite Program offered by Black River Industries provides respite for caregivers attending the Alzheimer's Support Group. She indicated that respite through this program can also be provided by appointment. Ms. Carlson continued by stating that Black River Industries began providing representative payee services on January 1, 2008. Currently, 29 people are receiving these services through Black River Industries. Of those 29 individuals, one-third are clients at Black River Industries, and the remainder are new cases. She added that Black River Industries received approval on February 1, 2008 from the Social Security Administration to begin charging clients a fee of \$35 per month for providing representative payee services. Ms. Carlson also informed the Board that Paul Thornton, who has been with Black River Industries for 30 years, will assume the position of director on April 1, 2008.

Action on Contracts and Addenda:

The following addendum was presented for approval.

<u>Provider</u>	<u>Amount of Increase</u>	<u>Funding Source</u>	<u>Total</u>
<u>Addendum</u>			
Milwaukee Center for Independence SPC 604 – Support and Service Coordination Unit Rate: \$45/hour (one client) (2007 Addendum)	\$ 463.50	Community Integration Program IB/Community Options Program	\$ 1,138.50

A MOTION WAS MADE BY MARY BIX, SECONDED BY DAVID KRUG, TO APPROVE THE ADDENDUM AS PRESENTED. A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN. THE MOTION CARRIED WITH A VOTE OF NINE AYES.

Update on W-2 and General Relief Programs - Dave Hemke: Mr. Hemke distributed information on the Wisconsin Works (W-2) and General Relief (GR) Programs. He reported that through February 2008, the W-2 Program has a projected benefit surplus of \$27,577, with three people in paid positions. Mr. Hemke pointed out, however, that there are still 22 months of the W-2 contract remaining. The General Relief Program, through January 2008, shows a projected shortfall of \$14,036, based on a 12- month projection of January's expenditures. He also noted that the December figures had been updated to reflect 2007

vouchers payable.

Mr. Hemke reported on the new BadgerCare Plus program, which is an expansion of Wisconsin's current BadgerCare program that provides medical coverage to low income families. This new program has substantially increased the number of referrals to the Economic Support unit. Mr. Hemke reported that in all of 2007, 996 referrals, or 83 per month, came through the Intake office for BadgerCare. So far in 2008, 72 BadgerCare intake referrals were received in the month of January.

Forty-eight BadgerCare intake referrals have already been received for the first 12 days of February. This number of referrals has nearly doubled since the BadgerCare Plus program began. Mr. Hemke also reported that the five eligibility workers in the Economic Support unit currently have 216 hours of compensatory time accumulated and continue to put in extra time to complete their duties. Mr. Hemke stated that he does not see the workload decreasing at any time in the future. There was discussion on paying out for all or some of this accumulated time. Sue Hady reported there is no money in the Human Services budget to pay for this overtime. Mr. Hemke added that possibly if the county would use other funds to pay out for all or part of this compensatory time, it could cost the county less if they could obtain a 50/50 match through the federal addendum. The Board directed that Mr. Hemke and Director Hady research this issue and bring information back to the Board at a future meeting.

Dave Hemke also told the Board that the heating assistance program continues to be extremely busy. Taylor County has received 607 heating assistance applications since the program started on 10/1/07, an increase of 7.4% over last year, when 688 applications were taken during the entire heating season. He added that as of last week, payments to vendors for fuel have totaled \$200,117 for the heating season. Additionally, \$63,261 has been spent for heat and/or electricity for crisis benefits, leaving only about \$3,000 in the crisis program, not nearly enough of what is needed. The public benefit program for payment of electric bills for the heating season totaled \$78,582. Mr. Hemke concluded by stating that to date, total benefit payments for the heating season is \$341,960.

Financial Manager Position and Management Salary Study: James Seidl reported that these issues arose as a result of the difficulty in recruiting a Clinical Services Coordinator due to the low salary, and the anticipated report from the auditor recommending that the Human Services Department hire a financial manager. Sue Hady added that the Human Services Department has been without a financial manager since Larry Brandl left to go to the courthouse, some 20 years ago. She stated that she has been completing reports which should be done by a financial manager who has the expertise accounting. On the issue of the management salary study, Ms. Hady stated that she had spoken with Human Resource Manager Marie Koerner who had been in contact with a firm who works on salary configurations. Apparently, Ms. Koerner was told that the non-represented employees' salaries have not been updated for 13 years, and they recommended reviewing the entire salary structure. The cost for such a salary structure study was estimated to be \$9500. Dennis Fuchs stated he believed that this fee was too high and wondered if it could be put out on bids, or if someone within the county could complete it. Mary Bix and James Seidl expressed concern that such a study should be completed by someone not involved with county operations or an unbiased individual/organization. A MOTION WAS MADE BY MARY BIX, SECONDED EUGENE ROUSH, TO RECOMMEND TO THE PERSONNEL COMMITTEE TO PURSUE HIRING A FINANCIAL MANAGER AT HUMAN SERVICES AND TO LOOK AT A SALARY MATRIX FOR THE NON-REPRESENTED TAYLOR COUNTY EMPLOYEES. THE MOTION CARRIED.

Request to Carry Over Vacation Days: DAVE BIZER MADE A MOTION, SECONDED BY DENNIS FUCHS, TO APPROVE ALLOWING DIRECTOR HADY TO CARRY OVER VACATION DAYS. THE MOTION CARRIED. Ms. Hady told the Board she believed she would have

approximately 10 days of vacation to carry over.

Director's Report: Sue Hady reported they continue to work on the Accounts Receivable issues, including software updates. She reported that last month the agency received \$14,785 in client fees and collections.

Next Committee Meeting: The next Human Services Board meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, March 12, 2008 at 1 p.m. in the Community Center at the Taylor County Fairgrounds.

Adjournment: MARY BIX MADE A MOTION TO ADJOURN. ROSE MADLON SECONDED THE MOTION. The meeting adjourned at 2:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Kathy Barr
for
Rose Madlon, Secretary

TAYLOR COUNTY HUMAN SERVICES BOARD

January 16, 2008

Community Center - Taylor County Fairgrounds

Call Meeting To Order: Chairperson James Seidl called the meeting to order at 1 p.m.

Members Present: Eugene Roush, Rose Madlon, David Krug, Vicki Duffy, Mary Bix, James Seidl. Dennis Fuchs arrived a few minutes late, and Dave Bizer arrived at 1:15 p.m.

Members Absent: George Southworth (Excused)

Other Attendees: Dave Hemke, Sue Hady, and Kathy Barr.

Approve Minutes of the December 12, 2007 Meeting and Current Agenda: MARY BIX MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE DECEMBER 12, 2007 MINUTES AND CURRENT AGENDA. DAVID KRUG SECONDED THE MOTION. THE MOTION CARRIED.

Public Input: None

Update on W-2 and General Relief Programs - Dave Hemke: Mr. Hemke presented a handout on the Wisconsin Works (W-2) and General Relief (GR) Programs. He indicated that through January 2008, the W-2 Program has a projected surplus of \$12,577. The General Relief Program, through December 2007, shows a projected shortfall of \$922. This shortfall is expected to increase somewhat as there are still some outstanding bills. According to Mr. Hemke, at the time the GR Program budget was compiled, \$500 had been budgeted for repayments, but the program actually received over \$11,000.

Review and Approve Taylor County's General Relief Program Policies and Procedures for 2008:

Dave Hemke explained to the Board that the Taylor County GR Program Policies and Procedures is required to be reviewed/approved yearly by the Board in order to receive General Relief Block Grant funding. Mr. Hemke added that there have not been any changes made to the policy since it was last approved by the Board. He explained some of the changes that had been made over the past few years include the six-month residency requirement, a three-month limit on GR non-medical payments, increased funeral reimbursement rate, and the discontinuation of Board approval for GR medical prior authorizations. A MOTION WAS MADE BY DAVID KRUG, SECONDED BY VICKI DUFFY, TO APPROVE TAYLOR COUNTY'S GENERAL RELIEF PROGRAM POLICIES AND PROCEDURES. THE MOTION CARRIED.

Action on Contracts and Addenda: The Board reviewed a list of the Purchase of Services contracts for 2007 and 2008, along with 2007 contract addenda. Sue Hady explained that the unit rate for supervised living at Crossroads Mental Health Services was listed as \$19.58/day on the 2007 contract; however, the correct unit rate should have been \$22.25/day. The contract was signed by Crossroads management with the \$19.58/day unit rate; however, Human Services has been paying the rate of \$22.25/day. Ms. Hady told the Board that Human Services has overpaid Crossroads by \$974.55 for 2007, if the rate had been \$19.58/day. The Board agreed that since the correct unit rate should have been \$22.25/day, there should be no repayment. A MOTION WAS MADE BY MARY BIX, SECONDED BY DAVE BIZER, TO APPROVE THE 2008 CONTRACTS AND THE 2007 CONTRACT ADDENDA, INCLUDING THE UNIT RATE OF \$22.25/DAY FOR THE 2007 CROSSROADS ADDENDUM. A ROLL CALL VOTE WAS TAKEN. THE MOTION CARRIED WITH A VOTE OF EIGHT AYES, ONE ABSENT (SOUTHWORTH).

Sue Hady informed the Board that the number of on-calls received after hours had increased from 96 in 2006, to 153 in 2007.

Review and Approve Director's Expense Summary for 2007: The Board reviewed Director Hady's Expense Summary from January to December 2007 in the amount of \$359.22. A MOTION WAS MADE BY MARY BIX, SECONDED BY DAVID KRUG, TO APPROVE DIRECTOR HADY'S EXPENSE SUMMARY OF \$359.22. THE MOTION CARRIED.

Director's Report: Sue Hady reported that the problems in Accounts Receivable continue to be "a challenge," but things are moving forward. Ms. Hady also asked the Board for an extension of her vacation, as she has been unable to use vacation time due to vacancies at the department. The Board felt this should be okay, and this request will be placed on the next Human Services Board meeting agenda.

Next Committee Meeting: The next Human Services Board meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, February 13, 2008 at 1 p.m. in the Community Center at the Taylor County Fairgrounds.

Adjournment: MARY BIX MADE A MOTION TO ADJOURN. DAVE BIZER SECONDED THE MOTION. The meeting adjourned at 1:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Kathy Barr
for
Rose Madlon, Secretary