

**Minutes of the August 8th meeting of the Sawyer County
Health and Human Services Committee
Of the Sawyer County Board of Supervisors
Board Room; Sawyer County**



Voting Committee Members Present:

- Chair: Dale Schleeter
- Vice Chair: Kay Wilson
- Marshal Savitski
- Michael Maestri - virtual
- Chris Rusk - virtual
- Lorraine Gouge
- Dawn Petit - Virtual
- Carol Pearson
- Dr. Sabrina Dunlap - virtual

Others Present:

Andy Albarado
Lynn Fitch
Julie McCallum
Patty Dujardin
Julia Lyons
Joyce Knowlton
Alicia Carlson - virtual

Call to Order – Chair Dale Schleeter called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm.

Certification of Compliance with the open meeting law was met. Roll Call was taken; a quorum was met.

Meeting Agenda

Public Comments –

Minutes from the previous meeting dated: July 11, 2023

Motion to approve made by: Ms. Pearson Second by: Mr. Savitski
Motion carried without negative vote.

Committee Reports -

LCO Liaison – Tweed will need to assist in the replacement of this member.

Senior Resource Center – SRC has a raffle event going for a grille package and cash 2nd and 3rd prizes. Tickets available at the Senior Resource Center.

Administration –

A written list of services is attached to the board packet. Ms. Lyons advised that they are preparing for their all staff training session on September 12th, and they have started a newsletter this week for communication. Ms. Wilson made a motion to close the HHS department from 11:30-4:00 on September 12th for this training; second by Mr. Savitski. Motion carried without negative vote.

WIC Merger – Ms. Lyons provided a presentation on the merge of WIC services with three other counties which are Polk, Washburn and Burnett. She reviewed eligibility requirements and services. The benefits for merging include saving time and money in the long-term by reducing/sharing staff and administration costs. It will also provide better phone coverage, more clinic hours, greater staff knowledge and expertise, and better staff retention. An overview of current case loads and staffing was provided, as well as a 2024 and 2025 proposed budget. Increasing outreach efforts are a goal of the merged program.

Adult Long-term Care -

Ms. Lyons advised that the new supervisor is in training at this time. Sawyer County held a Walk-n-Roll event to encourage people to become caregivers.

Behavioral Health -

A written report was provided.

Mental Health Cost by Client – A written report was provided. Ms. Lyons advised that we are staffed sufficiently enough to not need to rely on out-of-county staff assistance.

Child Protective Services -

A written report of expenses for children in care was provided.

Youth Justice -

A written report was provided. Training new staff is going well. Rusk County continues to assist with ongoing cases but we should be able to assume more of these soon.

Economic Support -

A written report was provided. Ms. White advised that the department is very busy but staff are keeping up with activity using some overtime hours. Calls for FoodShare are being waived in some cases, speeding up the process.

Public Health -

Public Health Report – A written report was provided. Ms. McCallum provided a review of the report advising that suspected cases of a new tick bite illness are emerging in northwestern Wisconsin.

Fentanyl Awareness Activities – Ms. Knowlton provided a review of the rise in cases of overdose deaths. In 2021/22 each year we had nine overdose deaths, and 2023 fatalities are continuing to rise. Community education is ongoing in the area and they have created a presentation to share with the public. Almost 90% of the marijuana confiscated last year had fentanyl in it. An online training had to be created because their in-person training was over-loaded with responses. Training in area K-12 schools for teachers is underway, and Hayward has approved training at the student body level.

Opioid Settlement Budget – Ms. Lyons presented a proposed 2023 opioid settlement budget that includes quite a bit of funding for advertising the message that needs to get into the community. Also created is a website that can accept public donations; additional grant money in the HHS department will also be available. Budget areas include *harm reduction, prevention, jail/law enforcement, support, and advertising campaigns*. Ms. Pearson left the meeting at 7:14 pm. A youth and caregiver text messaging check-in system is part of the program features they want to include. Ms. Lyons shared the Lambi Learns unit designed to assist with very young children caught in an addiction situation. A motion was made by Mr. Savitski to approve the budget and forward to Finance Committee and County Board; second by Ms. Wilson. Motion carried without negative vote.

Fiscal -

A written budget performance report and purchased services recap report were provided. At this point in time there are no red flags on the budget but we are seeing a large increase in costs for juvenile justice for out-of-state placements for residential care.

Future Agenda Items

Meeting Date/Time – The next meeting of the Health and Human Services Board will be Tuesday, September 12th, at 6:30 pm in the Board Room.

Meeting adjourned at 7:43 pm

Minutes recorded by Lynn Fitch, County Clerk