



**Health and Human Services Committee**  
**Wednesday, December 5, 2018 at 5:00 PM**  
**Health and Human Services Center - Community Room**  
**303 W. Chapel Street**  
**Dodgeville, Wisconsin**

**Iowa  
County  
Wisconsin**

For information regarding access for the disabled please call 935-0399.

***Any subject on this agenda may become an action item.***

|   |                                                                                                                                  |
|---|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1 | Call to order.                                                                                                                   |
| 2 | Roll Call.                                                                                                                       |
| 3 | Approve the agenda for this December 5, 2018 meeting                                                                             |
| 4 | Approve the minutes of the November 7, 2018 meeting                                                                              |
| 5 | Reports from committee members and an opportunity for members of the audience to address the Committee. No action will be taken. |
| 6 | BLOOMFIELD HEALTHCARE AND REHABILITATION CENTER:<br>Department Update                                                            |
| 7 | SOCIAL SERVICES:<br>Department Update                                                                                            |
| 8 | Next meeting date January 2, 2019 @ 5:00 PM.                                                                                     |
| 9 | Adjournment.                                                                                                                     |
|   | Posting Verified by: Tom Slaney    Date: 11.28.18    Initials: ts                                                                |

| <p style="text-align: center;"><b>UNAPPROVED MINUTES</b><br/> <b>Health and Human Services Committee</b><br/> <b>Wednesday, November 7, 2018 at 5:00 PM</b><br/> <b>Health and Human Services Community Room</b><br/> <b>303 W. Chapel Street; Dodgeville, Wisconsin</b></p> |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Iowa<br/>County<br/>Wisconsin</b></p> |
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| 1                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | Meeting was called to order by Chair Nankee at 5:00 PM                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |                                                                         |
| 2                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | <u>Roll Call was taken:</u><br>Members present: Nankee; Davis; Paull; Rolfsmeyer; O'Brien.<br>Others present: Bierke; Deal; Masters; Meyers; Hiltbrand; Lindeman; Matye; McManus; Slaney and Oellerich.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |                                                                         |
| 3                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | <u>Approve the amended agenda for this November 7, 2018 meeting:</u><br>Motion by Supervisor Davis to approve the amended agenda for the November 7, 2018 meeting. Seconded by Supervisor Rolfsmeyer. Aye: 5; Nay: 0. Motion carried.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |                                                                         |
| 4                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | <u>Approve the minutes of the October 3, 2018 meeting:</u><br>Motion by Supervisor Paull to approve the minutes of the October 3, 2018 meeting. Seconded by Supervisor Davis. Supervisor Paull amended the minutes to change Child Protective Services to Children's Long-Term Support and the adjournment time to 7:18 p.m. Aye: 5; Nay: 0. Motion carried.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |                                                                         |
| 5                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | <u>Comments or reports from the audience or committee members:</u> Paull and Iowa County continue working with personnel from the hospital, mental health and substance abuse coalition. Tom Slaney, Sue Matye & Jeff Lindeman participate in the substance abuse meetings. At the last meeting, the committee heard a presentation by Dorothy Chaney with the Alliance for Wisconsin Youth. Program membership is free. Paull explained the state prevention program framework and state priorities. Paull believes in early intervention and involvement in the local communities. Slaney added that the individual who presented felt the local Substance Abuse Committee was well placed to get the grant up and running. Paull thanked the staff from HHS for being involved. Mel Masters asked about alcohol strategies and the approach to alcohol. Matye said studies show if the first use of alcohol can be delayed to age 21 that addiction problems are less likely to happen. Discussion continued on strategies. Nankee highlighted a couple of articles in the News and Views including National Caregiver Month and "How to Find a Lawyer in Wisconsin". The latest Wisconsin Counties Association publication included an article on Honoring Wisconsin Veterans. Also, inside the publication was an insert with the Wisconsin Counties Association Legislative Agenda. Davis asked if department heads get the Wisconsin Counties Association magazine and they concurred, they do. Slaney said at next month's meeting there would be a presentation on WCA. |                                                                         |
| 6                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | <u>Review Quarterly Financial Reports:</u> Nankee reviewed the quarterly financial report's revenues and expenditures. Davis felt they are doing a good job of budgeting.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |                                                                         |
| 7                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | <u>Review and Approve 2019-2021 Aging Unit Plan.</u> Hiltbrand presented the final Aging Unit Plan. The draft Aging Unit Plan was reviewed at last month's meeting and only had one change from the draft plan. Nankee commented that page 15 and 16 were very thorough regarding dementia. Nankee liked suggestions on different things SUN can do such as "Dine at 5" and on Page 21, the Drug Pick up with the SUN Delivery. Hiltbrand said that would be in conjunction with the Sheriff's Dept. Motion by Supervisor Rolfsmeyer to approve the 2019-2021 Aging Unit Plan. Second by Supervisor Davis. Aye: 5; Nay: 0. Motion carried.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |                                                                         |

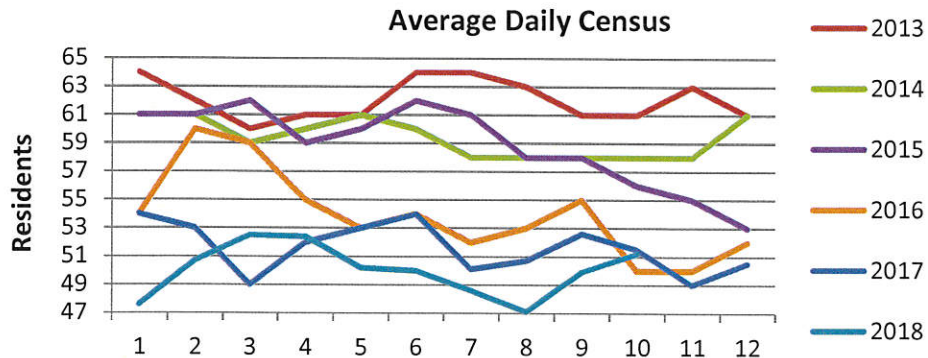
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| 8 | <p><u>VETERANS OFFICE:</u> On October 23, Lindeman attended the Behavioral Health Summit. Through contact at the summit, another veteran was added to the roles. Lindeman, also, met with the Drug Court Local Coordinator and spoke about VA treatment options. Lindeman recently picked up promotional posters for Iowa County communities to help with public awareness and reach out to more Iowa County Vets. Rolfsmeyer will put a couple up in Hollandale. Bierke would like electronic copies. The next issue of the Veterans Newsletter went to the printer today. The fall issue distributed 936 copies. With the change in the Federal VA Secretary, there is legislation pending regarding Blue Water Navy Veterans. The VA has maintained that those veterans were not exposed to Agent Orange. HR299 is a legislation pending and has passed the House unanimously in June. There are severe concerns about this legislation. Lindeman will continue to monitor. Davis asked if it would affect the VA benefits. Lindeman explained how issues with a heart condition associated with Agent Orange would be different VA benefits for the Blue Water Navy Veterans as the VA states they were not exposed to Agent Orange. Recently, Lindeman received state benefit information from the most recent state roles, for Veterans Property Tax credit. Thirty-three Iowa County Veterans are eligible for the Veterans Property Tax credit for 100% service related veterans.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| 9 | <p><u>HEALTH DEPARTMENT:</u> Matye updated the committee on immunizations. Influenza clinics were held at all Iowa County schools. In addition, a small number of shots are available to Iowa County employees. The HeART coalition survey results were sent to committee members. On October 17, the three HeART coalitions in the state met as a group. At that meeting, ideas were shared and next week, November 15, the local coalition will meet and interpret survey results. The initial grant was for the assessment part and they were notified the implementation phase proposal will fund a coordinator for 2 ½ years. Matye expanded on the job description for the coordinator. The school of nursing or the coalition could possibly hire the coordinator. The Health Department is the fiscal agent for the program. The Office of Rural Health and the UW School of Nursing have been great partners and provided good guidance. Survey results showed the caregivers could use some help. Nankee said 82 caregivers completed the survey and 252 adults responded. Paull said an interesting thing was in Waupun, 97% of survey response was done electronically and in Iowa County half were electronic and half were paper. The communicable disease activity report has been updated and distributed. Of significance, influenza hospitalization at thirty-nine incidents was a large increase in numbers. In Dane County, there is a case of St. Louis Encephalitis. Radon test kits are available at the Health Department. The Substance Abuse Coalition has applied for an opioid grant to cover time and activities. The grant will focus on children and start on assessments. Studies have shown with prevention of that first drink, it is less likely a child will be to have problems with addition or abuse. The grant will, also, focus on adults with chronic pain and addiction, "Staying Healthy with Chronic Pain." Dorothy Chaney with the Alliance for Wisconsin Youth mentioned that it is key to know your communities. Davis asked if prescription-sleeping aids were under the opioid umbrella. Matye said it depends on the drug. Alternative prescriptions were discussed.</p> |

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|----|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 10 | <p><u>SENIOR UNITED NUTRITION:</u> McManus submitted a printed update. She is currently working on contracts for 2019 to SUN caterers and providers. Bloomfield Healthcare is holding their costs. Viking Café had a slight increase of .35/meal. McManus is projecting contracted food will see a 21% increase. McManus is thankful that the tax levy increase was included in the budget, which helped balance the budget. Extra funding came from GWAR for \$9000. SUN will be asking for a suggested donation increase of 50 cents per meal. As well, the suggestion donation for meal costs would be \$5.00 for congregate meals and \$5.50 for delivered meals, which would begin on January 1, if approved. There was a 2% increase for staff in wages. This time of year, SUN is working on the annual appeal and a new logo, which O'Brien has been working on. Approximately, 400 people are on the SUN mailing list and the appeal will go out on December 1. Online fundraising is in the works. Rolfsmeyer asked if SUN has a PayPal account, as it is free, works well for donors. Matye suggested a marketing event around Thanksgiving. Davis shared information on the Schwan's Cares program where a percentage of sales goes to the non-profit. SUN is a non-profit 501(c)(3) for tax deductions. McManus is looking at fundraising event such as a golf outing. McManus likes to partner with other organizations. Meals served in September were 3,643 – Iowa 55% to Lafayette 45%. Approximately, 41,300 meals were served through October and SUN is on track for 50,000 meals in 2018. Highland deliveries are going well with the ownership change. The SUN program is working on emergency meals for the winter season, two meals in a bag, non-perishable if SUN meal delivery could not get there due to weather. The emergency meals will deliver around Thanksgiving. SUN surveys are currently being distributed and it is a standard survey with three additional questions. McManus added survey questions as to age, how many times they eat a month and what do they think of the suggested donation. All data will be input by the end of the year.</p> |
| 11 | Next meeting December 5, 2018 @ 5:00 p.m.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| 12 | Adjournment. Motion by Supervisor Paull to adjourn the meeting. Supervisor Davis seconded the motion. Aye: 5. Nay: 0. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 6:30 pm.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
|    | Minutes by: Karen Oellerich Reviewed by Bruce Paull, Secretary                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |

**Bloomfield Healthcare and Rehabilitation Center**  
**Administrator's Report**  
**11/26/18**

**1. Census**

- a. Average Daily Census for October 2018 was 51.2. Average Daily Census for 2018 is approximately 50.0.



| Payer Source Mix Percentage |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |       |      |      |      |       |
|-----------------------------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|-------|------|------|------|-------|
| 2018                        |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |       |      |      |      |       |
| Payer Source                | Jan. | Feb. | Mar. | Apr. | May  | June | July | Aug. | Sept. | Oct. | Nov. | Dec. | Avg.  |
| Medicaid                    | 49.1 | 45.7 | 47.2 | 45.7 | 50.5 | 50.9 | 52.2 | 56.6 | 53.9  | 52.7 |      |      | 50.5% |
| Medicare A                  | 2.5  | 8.4  | 12.4 | 9.9  | 4.8  | 8.1  | 8.8  | 4.5  | 8.1   | 8.7  |      |      | 7.6%  |
| Self-Pay                    | 31.4 | 27.6 | 27.1 | 28.7 | 27.6 | 25.9 | 24.8 | 25.4 | 22.3  | 24.1 |      |      | 26.5% |
| Med. Repl.                  | 0.0  | 1.1  | 0.0  | 0.0  | 0.0  | 0.0  | 0.0  | 0.00 | 0.0   | 0.0  |      |      | 0.1%  |
| Insurance                   | 2.3  | 4.3  | 1.9  | 1.9  | 2.0  | 2.0  | 2.0  | 2.1  | 2.7   | 3.9  |      |      | 2.5%  |
| VA                          | 2.1  | 2.5  | 1.9  | 2.9  | 2.3  | 1.3  | 0.0  | 0.1  | 5.1   | 4.7  |      |      | 2.3%  |
| Family Care                 | 12.6 | 10.4 | 9.5  | 10.9 | 12.8 | 11.8 | 12.2 | 11.3 | 7.9   | 5.9  |      |      | 10.5% |

| Average Number of Residents Payer Source Mix |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |       |      |      |      |      |
|----------------------------------------------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|-------|------|------|------|------|
| 2018                                         |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |       |      |      |      |      |
| Payer Source                                 | Jan. | Feb. | Mar. | Apr. | May  | June | July | Aug. | Sept. | Oct. | Nov. | Dec. | Avg. |
| Medicaid                                     | 23.4 | 23.2 | 24.8 | 24.0 | 25.3 | 25.5 | 25.4 | 26.6 | 27.0  | 27.0 |      |      | 25.2 |
| Medicare A                                   | 1.2  | 4.3  | 6.5  | 5.2  | 2.4  | 4.1  | 4.3  | 2.1  | 4.0   | 4.5  |      |      | 3.9  |
| Self-Pay                                     | 14.9 | 14.0 | 14.2 | 15.0 | 13.8 | 12.9 | 12.0 | 12.0 | 11.1  | 12.3 |      |      | 13.2 |
| Med. Repl.                                   | 0.0  | 0.5  | 0.00 | 0.0  | 0.0  | 0.0  | 0.00 | 0.0  | 0.0   | 0.0  |      |      | 0.0  |
| Insurance                                    | 1.1  | 2.2  | 1.0  | 1.0  | 1.0  | 1.0  | 1.0  | 1.0  | 1.3   | 2.0  |      |      | 1.3  |
| VA                                           | 1.0  | 1.2  | 1.0  | 1.5  | 1.2  | .6   | 0.0  | 0.1  | 2.5   | 2.4  |      |      | 1.1  |
| Family Care                                  | 6.0  | 5.3  | 5.0  | 5.7  | 6.5  | 5.9  | 5.9  | 5.3  | 4.0   | 3.0  |      |      | 5.3  |
| Totals                                       | 47.6 | 50.7 | 52.5 | 52.4 | 50.2 | 50.0 | 48.6 | 47.1 | 49.9  | 51.3 |      |      | 50.0 |

| Payer Source Mix Percentage |      |      |      |      |     |      |      |      |       |      |      |      |      |
|-----------------------------|------|------|------|------|-----|------|------|------|-------|------|------|------|------|
| 2016                        |      |      |      |      |     |      |      |      |       |      |      |      |      |
| Payer Source                | Jan. | Feb. | Mar. | Apr. | May | June | July | Aug. | Sept. | Oct. | Nov. | Dec. | Avg. |
| Medicaid                    | 58%  | 53%  | 55%  | 57%  | 51% | 54%  | 51%  | 48%  | 47%   | 53%  | 51%  | 49%  | 52%  |
| Medicare A                  | 11%  | 20%  | 15%  | 10%  | 11% | 9%   | 8%   | 13%  | 9%    | 7%   | 9%   | 16%  | 12%  |
| Self-Pay                    | 14%  | 10%  | 11%  | 17%  | 20% | 20%  | 24%  | 23%  | 24%   | 23%  | 23%  | 21%  | 19%  |
| Med. Repl.                  | 2%   | 2%   | 2%   | 0%   | 2%  | 3%   | 1%   | 0%   | 0%    | 0%   | 0%   | 0%   | 1%   |
| Insurance                   | 2%   | 3%   | 2%   | 2%   | 3%  | 2%   | 2%   | 2%   | 2%    | 2%   | 2%   | 2%   | 2%   |
| VA                          | 2%   | 2%   | 2%   | 2%   | 2%  | 2%   | 1%   | 3%   | 4%    | 4%   | 5%   | 2%   | 3%   |
| Family Care                 | 11%  | 10%  | 13%  | 12%  | 11% | 10%  | 13%  | 11%  | 14%   | 11%  | 10%  | 10%  | 11%  |

| Payer Source Mix Percentage |      |      |      |       |     |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |
|-----------------------------|------|------|------|-------|-----|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| 2017                        |      |      |      |       |     |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |       |
| Payer Source                | Jan. | Feb. | Mar. | Apr.  | May | June  | July  | Aug.  | Sept. | Oct.  | Nov.  | Dec.  | Avg.  |
| Medicaid                    | 44%  | 46%  | 50%  | 46%   | 49% | 50%   | 49.6% | 46.6% | 46.0% | 46.0% | 48.6% | 47%   | 47.3% |
| Medicare A                  | 17%  | 12%  | 11%  | 6%    | 5%  | 6.7%  | 5.7%  | 8.2%  | 16.3% | 12.3% | 4.6%  | 7.3%  | 10.1% |
| Self-Pay                    | 24%  | 26%  | 25%  | 28.5% | 29% | 28.2% | 27.8% | 26.8% | 23.4% | 27.8% | 28.2% | 28.9% | 26.7% |
| Med. Repl.                  | 0%   | 0%   | 0%   | 0%    | 0%  | 0%    | 0     | 0%    | 0%    | .1%   | 1.6%  | 0%    | 0%    |
| Insurance                   | 2%   | 2%   | 1.6% | 2%    | 2%  | 1.8%  | 2%    | 3.9%  | 2.1%  | 2.0%  | 2.1%  | 3.7%  | 2.2%  |
| VA                          | 4%   | 5%   | 2%   | 2%    | 2%  | 1.8%  | 2%    | .7%   | .4%   | 0%    | 1.2%  | 2%    | 2.0%  |
| Family Care                 | 9%   | 9%   | 12%  | 13%   | 13% | 11.1% | 12.9% | 13.8% | 11.8% | 11.8% | 13.7% | 11.1% | 11.7% |

#### General Updates:

- Karen Oellerich retired on 11/29/2018
- Angela McLean was hired on 11/19/18 as our new MDS Coordinator
- As of 11/26/2018 our census is 53
- I am working on a Marketing Plan
- We are preparing for and awaiting our annual survey
- Researching grants
- Open Positions:
  - 1- .2 LPN DAY SHIFT
  - 1- .2 RN DAY SHIFT
  - 1- .6 RN PM SHIFT
  - 1- .6 RN/LPN PM SHIFT
  - 1- .4 CNA DAY SHIFT
  - 1 -1.0 CNA DAY SHIFT

## December 2018 HHS Committee Meeting

### Social Services Department Update

1. The State will be conducting a review of the Energy Assistance Program on December 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup>.
2. Update on Act 185 (Lincoln Hills/Copper Lake closure). Clarity is needed for Counties considering becoming a Secure Residential Care Center for Children and Youth (SRCCCY). Counties need to have the programs and services better defined before than can commit to submitting a proposal to become a regional SRCCCY. Proposals are due the spring of 2019 with facilities to open 1/1/2020.
3. Possible updates from WCHSA Conference attended by Tom Slaney on 11/29&30/18
4. A presentation on the Crisis in Wisconsin's Child Welfare System will be given

WPR NEWS

## Drug-Related Costs Prompt Ashland County To Seek Referendum To Raise Tax Levy

County Seeks Voter Approval To Raise Tax Levy By About \$1M To Pay For Public Safety, Health And Human Services

Tuesday, July 10, 2018, 6:05am

By Danielle Kaeding

<https://www.wpr.org/drug-related-costs-prompt-ashland-county-seek-referendum-raise-tax-levy>

One northern Wisconsin county plans to ask voters this August whether they would support raising property taxes to pay for services. Ashland County is putting a referendum before residents because of rising costs due mostly to methamphetamine use.

The number of felonies related to drug abuse in Ashland County has more than doubled in recent years from 122 in 2011 to 303 last year. Ashland County Administrator Jeff Beirl said they'd like to increase the tax levy by about \$1 million to pay for law enforcement and health and human services.

"It's just not sustainable to keep covering these continued shortfalls out of the general fund because at some point in life the general fund won't have any more money in it," said Beirl.

The cost to the county for placing children in out-of-home care rose from \$405,420 in 2016 to \$720,909 last year. In addition, the county has also seen public safety spending increase by about \$750,000 in the last three years. Beirl said they've tried to fill the gap through sales tax and timber sale revenues, but those sources of income have either hit a plateau or been maxed out.

"We used to budget \$300,000 a year for stumpage revenue. We're at \$760,000 a year in stumpage revenue that we're budgeting," said Beirl. "Our county forester had said he's comfortable predicting \$750,000 on an average for maximum timber sales in a year."

It's uncommon for counties to seek a referendum to exceed state restrictions on levy limits, said Kyle Christianson, director of government affairs with the Wisconsin Counties Association.

"To this point, we haven't seen a lot of counties go down this road, but those discussions are ongoing," said Christianson.

He said a couple of counties are considering a referendum as they're looking for ways to fund treatment.

"I'd think you'd be hard-pressed to find a county that's not dealing with this epidemic in some way," said Christianson. "Everyone's caseloads across the state — whether it's in their human services department or their children in need of protective services departments — are seeing rising caseloads as a result of this epidemic."

A \$5 million annual increase in state aid allocations to counties was included in the current two-year budget. The Wisconsin Department of Children and Families has said those funds are targeted to help counties address growing caseloads and out-of-home care placements.

Ashland County has examined the possibility of raising fees or cutting services if voters don't approve a tax increase.

"When you look at the county budget, the two biggest areas are public safety and health and human services," said Beirl. "Where do you cut those services when the cry and demand is for more services, not less?"

Ashland County will put the question before voters during on the Aug. 14 primary ballot.

# More social workers needed in Chippewa County

Posted: Aug 20, 2018 4:30 PM CDT

Monday, August 20, 2018 5:30 PM EDT

<http://www.wqow.com/story/38922953/2018/08/Monday/more-social-workers-needed-in-chippewa-county>

**Chippewa County (WQOW)-** The meth epidemic in Chippewa County continues to be an issue, prompting calls for more social workers.

The interim director for the Chippewa County Department of Human Services, Tim Easker, said with 180 children in foster care because of meth-related issues, there's not enough social workers to handle all of these cases.

He said they want one additional child protective services social worker and three comprehensive community service social workers.

Easker said the three comprehensive community service social workers won't cost the county any money because it's fully funded by the medicaid program, and the child protective services social worker position is already budgeted for.

Easker said they want more social workers to help even out the case load.

"Standard should be roughly no more than 16 depending on if you're doing an initial assessment or ongoing, but our folks are averaging about 24 cases at the present time and that does not allow for good case work. What happens then is that we often see kids end up in foster care much longer than they should be than if our social workers had manageable case loads," Easker said.

Easker said they are \$500,000 over budget on placement costs.

He said an investment in workers will save them money on placement costs in the end, and kids will find a permanent home sooner.

A decision on the additional social workers should be reached at the next county board meeting on September 11.

Local News

## Child Protective Services Experiences Lack of Case Workers, 39 Percent Turnover Rate

By:

- Robyn Oguinye
- 

**Posted:** Aug 23, 2018 10:15 PM CDT

**Updated:** Aug 23, 2018 10:15 PM CDT

<https://www.wearegreenbay.com/news/local-news/child-protective-services-experiences-lack-of-case-workers-39-percent-turnover-rate/1392046251>

GREEN BAY, Wis. - The Brown County Human Services Department is struggling to keep case workers for Child Protective Services.

The rate of turnover is the highest it's ever been at 39 percent.

Longer hours and more cases has the department looking for ways to alleviate workloads.

CPS supervisor Amy Knutson says their job is to protect children.

But that becomes increasingly difficult when your team of case workers is getting smaller.

"When you are going from having 12 cases and all of a sudden you're at 25 and you're trying to manage those, people are putting in more hours," says Knutson. "Their home lives are sometimes put second."

Knutson says more cases means more paperwork, more face-to-face time with family and demands that are much higher.

And it isn't just the number of cases that create more stress for workers.

"It's the complexity that's changed, that's what we're seeing more of," says department director Erik Pritzl. "Initial assessments around emotional damage, sexual abuse, those are more complicated situations- more drug related cases where there is going to require involvement from multiple stakeholders and partner agencies."

Director Pritzl says the department has thought about moving resources around to make up for missing case workers, but that would leave a gap somewhere else in human services.

"There is an expected amount of turnover that happens in this job just because of burn out," says Knutson. "Right now it's higher because of what people are dealing with."

Unfortunately the extra work is something workers will continue to deal with until a solution is found.

"We've spent a lot of time talking internally about this and assessing and analyzing the situation and we don't come forward with this lightly," says Pritzl. "And at this point, if we were talking about this it means we've exhausted a lot of the ideas that we have and it's time to engage other people and look for how we can get additional resources to address the issue."

Human services says the field of case work can be a competitive one.

Certain positions require a certain level of experience and knowledge and not all applicants have the necessary skill to obtain a position.

Human services says the field of case work can be a competitive one.

# More kids in foster care than ever before in Eau Claire County

<http://www.ktiv.com/story/38329653/2018/06/Friday/more-kids-in-foster-care-than-ever-before-in-eau-claire-county=>

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**Eau Claire (WQOW)** - The number of kids in foster care is rising in Eau Claire County, and there aren't enough foster parents to keep up.

Chelsea Smith is a foster mom in Eau Claire.

"There's a lot of kids out there that need help, and we want to be able to help heal and foster the resilience in them so that they can be good citizens, good productive members of society," said Smith.

For a year-and-a-half, she's fostered her current three children. However, Smith is one of few county foster parents, and the demand for them is growing.

"This year we have the highest number of children in care than we ever have," said Kerry Swoboda, social work manager at Eau Claire County Human Services. "So that is really kind of where we have a shortage of foster parents."

In 2016, there were 149 out-of-home children. In 2017, there were 168. So far in 2018, there are a record breaking 205. Big factors in the increase are drug and alcohol abuse.

"I think about 80 percent of some of the cases coming through, there's an impact of drug or alcohol in those situations," said Swoboda.

So, what happens when there aren't enough homes?

"When we don't have availability within the foster parents we have through the county, then we have to look to higher levels of care, which would be like treatment foster care typically, and that will often times result in kids not being able to stay within the community," said Swoboda.

This means some kids will have to move away from family, friends and even school. Smith said it's no small feat to be a foster parent, but encourages more to sign up.

"It's challenging, it's wonderful, it's rewarding, it's got it's ups and downs, but in the end, everyday I come home and I have three children running to the door excited to see me," said Smith.

Officials are hoping that by getting the word out about the shortage, more people may volunteer. To learn more about how you can be involved, visit Eau Claire County's [website](#).