



APPROVED MINUTES

Health and Human Services Committee
WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 27, 2021 at 5:00 p.m.
Health and Human Services Community Room
303 W. Chapel Street.; Dodgeville, Wisconsin

Iowa
County
Wisconsin

Item	
1	Chairperson Nankee called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m.
2	<u>Roll Call:</u> Members Present in Community Room: Chairperson Dan Nankee, Richard Rolfsmeyer, Joan Davis, Justin O'Brien Members Excused: Kimberly Alan Others Present in Community Room: Larry Bierke, Nikki Mumm, Steve Deal, Bruce Paull, Valerie Hiltbrand, Echo Bristol, Debbie Siegenthaler, Linda Pittz, Jeff Lockhart Others Present Remotely: Jeff Lindeman, Heidi Tiber
3	<u>Approval of the October 27, 2021 Agenda:</u> Motion by Rolfsmeyer and seconded by O'Brien to accept the agenda. Aye: 4; Nay: 0. Motion carried.
4	<u>Approval of the September 8, 2021 Meeting Minutes:</u> Motion by Davis and seconded by O'Brien to accept the meeting minutes. Aye: 4; Nay: 0. Motion carried.
5	<u>Reports From Committee Members and an Opportunity for Members of the Audience to Address the Committee. No action will be taken.</u> <u>Rolfsmeyer-</u> He will be attending a UW-Extension luncheon with the Chancellor. They have been working on big picture things. There is a briefing on Friday on the new Ag Institute staffing plan. He and Chairman Meyers attending the UW-Extension session at the WCA conference. <u>Nankee-</u> He referenced the S.U.N. article in the September edition of the News & Views.
6	<u>Resolution to commend and support the Iowa County Health Department's response to the COVID-19 pandemic:</u> Siegenthaler shared that the resolution serves to acknowledge that pandemics are part of our history and something that we have always used science and public health to combat and, to be successful, we need to collaborate and engage multiple stakeholders. It highlights the many successes we have had in Iowa County and elevates and acknowledges the work that has been done by the Health Department and other partners. This is an important opportunity for policy makers to acknowledge, commend, and formally support the work of the employees, community, and stakeholders. O'Brien pointed out that Siegenthaler began her position with Iowa County just as the pandemic was beginning and commended her response to the pandemic along with that of Keith Hurlbert, Emergency Management Director. He fully supports the resolution and the need to remain vigilant. Davis supports the resolution and commends the Health Department. Rolfsmeyer supports the resolution and states that it is the right thing at the right time. He appreciated the message and stands behind it. It is important to him that the County Board support the message as well, and shared that the role the Iowa County Emergency Management group has taken to support the Health Department is unique compared to other counties. Nankee also supports and stated that it was well put together. Pittz shared support on behalf of the Iowa County Board of Health and pointed out the many successes of the Iowa County Health Department and Emergency Management Department, including the fact that Iowa County is one of the top 25 counties in the nation for their response to the pandemic per a John's Hopkins Research Study. They are hopeful that with this Resolution and study results, more places and people will adhere to the recommendations to bring the pandemic to a halt as much as we can. Motion by Rolfsmeyer and seconded by Davis to move the Iowa County Health Department's Resolution to the full County Board. Aye: 4; Nay: 0. Motion carried.
7	<u>Request for consideration of increasing Bloomfield private pay rates for 2022:</u> Bristol requested that the Bloomfield private pay rates be added as part of the fee schedule on the budget and be updated annually. Motion by Davis and seconded by O'Brien to increase the private pay rate to \$295 and have the rate reviewed annually as part of the budget process. Aye: 4. Nay: 0. Motion carried.

8	<u>Discussion and possible approval of the 2022-2024 Aging Plan for ADRC:</u> Hiltbrand gave report. O'Brien appreciates the work that has gone into this document and states that it is important for us to have. Rolfsmeyer reinforced O'Brien's comments and stated that the goals are good and have his full support. Nankee stated it was well put together and appreciates the chart outlining the expenses by program. Davis commended the work and appreciates the action items and steps in place to complete the goals. Motion by O'Brien and seconded by Rolfsmeyer to approve the plan and submit it to GWAAR. Aye: 4; Nay: 0. Motion carried.
9	<u>Discussion on ARPA fund request for HHS Committee departments:</u> Nankee stated that the Executive Committee and Budget Committee currently have funds budgeted as part of the 2022 budget. He outlined the current plans and shared his concern that there is not enough funding allocated to HHS Departments. For ARPA, they are looking at one time expenditures that will help improve operations. Davis stated that the electronic health record (EHR) needed by Unified Community Services (UCS) has already been approved to be purchased and that there is a request for Iowa County to provide \$44,037 towards it and that if Iowa County will allocate the requested portion, that Grant County will provide \$88,074 towards it. She said the request went to Executive Committee and no action was taken. O'Brien shared that he believes the Social Services areas have been directly affected by Covid-19 and that \$44,037 is a small ask as it is only 1% of the budget and is essential to the operation of their organization. Lockhart spoke on behalf of UCS stating that we are in a twin pandemic and it makes sense that ARPA funds are spent on human type services. He shared that UCS is triaging the most serious mental health and substance abuse cases and that they are having to turn people away. The EHR software is not just a nice thing to have, but a necessity as they are losing more money each year than the new system costs so they will need to purchase it regardless. If UCS needs to pull the money from their reserves or normal budget, it could cause UCS to need to eliminate two positions. He did confirm with Grant County that they will provide \$88,074 if Iowa County provides \$44,037. Rolfsmeyer states this is important and shared his support. Motion by Davis and seconded by Rolfsmeyer that consideration of UCS's request of \$44,037 is taken to the Executive Committee. Aye: 4; Nay: 0. Motion carried. The committee discussed the need to earmark funds for a specific project or use instead of designating a set amount for a specific department. The ARPA funds cover the entire county, we have three years to utilize them, and they do not all need to be spent at one time. The committee discussed reusable and disposable food containers for SUN as well as heating coolers that plug into cigarette lighters. Moved by Davis and seconded by O'Brien that a request be made of the Executive Committee that \$30,000 of ARPA funding is set aside or added for the SUN program for the purchase of reusable serving and delivery supplies. Aye: 3; Nay: 1 (Rolfsmeyer). Motion carried.
10	<u>Aging and Disability Resource Center Update:</u> Hiltbrand gave report. She shared that we still have an open Disability Benefits Specialist (DBS) position that has been open since August. Grant and Green Counties are assisting us with our DBS services until the position is filled. Lafayette County has also lost their DBS so we are down to two for the entire four county region. There has been an increase in business since the building has reopened. This is a busy time of year for our Elder Benefits Specialist (EBS) due to Part D season, which runs from October 15th to December 7th. There has been an increase in residents looking into retirement benefits and Medicare. Davis asked about the enrollment dates for Medicare. Hiltbrand stated they are three months before and three months after retirement. She shared that with the different types of Medicare and supplements that it is best for residents to reach out to the ADRC for advice. They are highlighting the SUN program at their Stepping On class on Thursday, October 28th. Stepping On was the only in-person program offered by the ADRC this year and took place at the Ridgway Community Center. Caregiver Renewal Day is November 18th, and we are partnering with Jefferson County. There will be a live, virtual presentation by speaker, Teepa Snow. She is an inspirational and educational speaker for persons with dementia. The Health and Wellness Expo was a drive-through event this year at Harris Park. There was bingo and parking lot poker at Hidden Valley Church. Emergency Management, the HeART Coalition, Agrace Hospice and Upland Hills Health helped that day. It worked well, and we had over 200 participants. We ran out of lunches and bags and were down to one or two bingo cards. Nankee inquired if the second Dementia Care Specialist for the region will be housed in Green County. Hiltbrand stated that it is anticipated that one of the specialists will cover Iowa and Grant Counties and be housed in one of those counties and the other will cover Green and Lafayette

	Counties and be housed in Green County. Nankee also asked how things were going for the O'Rourke Dementia Stabilization Unit. Hiltbrand stated that most things are in place, but that staffing is an issue they need to overcome before it can be opened.
11	<u>Bloomfield Healthcare and Rehabilitation Center Update:</u> Bristol gave report. The current census is 39 residents, seven of which are Medicare. They have transitioned to Reinhart Foods and are projected to save money. They hired a new Rehab Director, which is contracted through Greenfield. They changed the oxygen supplier, which will have a substantial budget impact annually. They have applied for ARPA funding for nursing homes. They have been in contact with Walgreens and have a Covid-19 Booster Clinic planned for residents and staff in mid-November. Influenza vaccinations are currently underway. They have had a large turnover lately, and better work hours and/or better pay have been cited as reasons for leaving. They are currently covering with Agency Staff. The State has put a plan in place to help by paying for 60% of the cost of Agency Staff. She foresees that it will pull more permanent employees to work for agencies as they will be able to pay more; therefore, they may need to decrease the census to accommodate staff levels. Davis verified that Agency Staff do not receive County benefits and retirements. They do not get County benefits, but the agency could offer benefits. Nankee, O'Brien, and Rolfsmeyer appreciate the reports she puts together and submits as well as the changes she has made.
12	<u>Health Department Update:</u> Siegenthaler gave report. They are busy planning booster clinics, which will take place each Thursday at the Lands' End Day Care Center. They plan on going into schools to offer school-based Covid-19 vaccination clinics for 5-11 year olds, and just finished the school-based flu shots. She believes school-based clinics are an important and efficient means to deliver a lot of vaccine quickly, but is anticipating that some parents may want to be with their children when they receive it. They are continuing with the regular Covid-19 vaccination clinics on Wednesday's at the Health Department Suite, and are currently offering flu vaccines to employees. There is drive-through testing on Tuesday and Thursday. There is ongoing recruitment for LTE's to increase their depth, and an outstanding requirement for a Public Health Project Nurse. Carly Tibbits was hired as a Public Health Nurse replacing Kari Bennet. She is concerned about the pandemic and fatigue it has caused for her staff and herself stating that staff resiliency will be important, and that it is important that we support our staff. Davis asked if she was able to ensure staff are getting days off. Siegenthaler stated that they commit to this as a team and have a great team that works together and takes initiative to make this work and accommodate everyone. They have depth to cover time off, but are limited in depth for backup coverage for her as the Health Director. She also wanted to highlight the John's Hopkins Research Study where we were one of the top 25 counties in the United States indicating there was more information to come.
13	<u>Veterans Office Update:</u> Lindeman gave report. He shared that local service organizations are getting back to their regular meetings and holding more events in the communities. He is working on the winter edition of the newsletter, and there has been some interest from the county-wide Veterans notification e-mails. He has been posting some different news releases from the VA on the County website newsfeed. The American Legion/Veterans of Foreign Wars is hosting a traditional Veteran's Day ceremony at the Iowa County Courthouse on November 11th at 11:00 am. Davis asked if the school was holding one this year, and Lindeman shared that it would be limited compared to in the past. His first Veterans Relief Program application for the year came through last week. This program is statutorily required of every county to have veteran relief funds available for county resident veterans who need financial assistance, and Iowa County budgets \$3,000 each year. He is currently looking into a statewide program run by the Medical College of Wisconsin in Milwaukee called Live Today-Put it Away! This program promotes a statewide veteran suicide prevention endeavor and works with local gun shops to give veterans an avenue to turn in their firearms for safe storage if they are going through a difficult time. He plans on reaching out to local gun shops to become authorized to provide the service once he receives more information. Rolfsmeyer stated that there will be a Veteran's Day service in Hollandale at the Elementary School at 10:00 am, mask will be required.
14	<u>Wednesday, December 8, 2021:</u> Approved for the next HHS Committee meeting at 5:00 p.m., HHS Center, Community Room, Dodgeville.
15	Motion by O'Brien and seconded by Rolfsmeyer to Adjourn. Aye: 4, Nay: 0. Meeting adjourned at 6:43 p.m.