

Human Services Committee  
Minutes of Meeting  
October 5, 2021 – 6:00 pm Kenosha County Administration Building

**Committee Members Present:** Supervisors Belsky, Berg, Rose, Lewis, Beth, Gulley and Decker

**YIG Present:** Arjun Kumar

**Others Present:** John Jansen, Jen Freiheit, Patty Merrill, Supervisor Sharon Pomaville, Supervisor Jeff Gentz and Supervisor Gabe Nudo.

1. **Call to Order/Roll Call**

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 pm by Supervisor Belsky. Roll call was taken.

2. **Citizen's Comments-** Tom Stanszyk, 8623 21<sup>st</sup> Ave. Wanted to speak about some additional resolutions on the agenda. He is not sure why we need to take federal funds to pass information on that is already being done. This is not what he wants to spend money on. What he wants answers for is what happened during the riots. Dulcie Schoff, 2615 24<sup>th</sup> St. Concerned about the children of our city. What will happen to the children of our city with causing them emotional, physical, and mental anguish with the mask mandate. Don Martinez-2816 16<sup>th</sup> St. -wearing of the mask has a lot of implications. Touching face, touching mask. It is giving a false sense of security

3. **Chairman's / Committee members / Supervisors / YIG Comments-** Thank you to everyone for coming tonight. She thinks it is great when community members get involved in local government and have their voices heard.

4. **Approval of Minutes** - Motion to approve the minutes of the Human Services Committee on September 7, 2021 was made by Supervisor Decker, seconded by Supervisor Rose. All in favor. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

5. **Resolution to modify the Division of Health's 2021 budget for a grant: The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration's four-year (09/30/2021-09/30/2025) FR-CARA grant # 1H79TI084560-01**

Dr. Freiheit introduced the resolution. There is a substance use, misuse and abuse concerning in Kenosha County. Public Health applied for this grant and were awarded. We are one of only 16 grantees in the country. This is to provide education, continue Narcan program as the other grant expired August 30, 2021 to help with stigma reduction, peer support, referrals, treatment and resources and provide services for the next 4 years in our community.

Supervisor Decker asked if this was another grant that we had before? Dr. Freiheit stated we had a Narcan grant so this will help to continue and expand services. Supervisor Decker-Do we have numbers of success of what we did in the past? Dr. Freiheit stated that it was very successful. Supervisor Decker asked if it was proven to save lives. Dr. Freiheit stated that it is hard to prove a negative. Supervisor Decker asked about the number of opioid deaths gone up? Death numbers have gone up and also the use has gone up. Supervisor Decker asked how we know that this program actually works? Dr. Freiheit stated that we would be hiring evaluators. The previous grant did not have a funding source to hire evaluators. We have numbers on how much Narcan has been distributed. Testimonials have stated that it does work. John Jansen stated that the grant in the past was to get people trained on using Narcan. This will allow us to continue with that. We can't follow each person has been trained to know if they have used it. The goal was to get it into people's hands. It is possible to get numbers from EMS.

Chairman Belsky asked if this the program that the Medical Examiner was promoting? John Jansen stated that yes, she is involved. Chairman Belsky stated that when coming forward for grants that we should be more prepared with statistics and numbers.

Supervisor Beth stated that we did have a presentation on this 6 weeks ago. Is this going through the whole county or are you targeting the area where this is the biggest problem? Dr. Freiheit stated that it is the whole county.

Supervisor Gentz said he had just seen a presentation with Aging and are we overlapping services? Are we speaking to the other divisions? How many staff will be involved? Dr. Freiheit stated that we would hire staff. 55% of Public Health Programs are grant funded. The divisions have already had a meeting together to discuss.

Much more discussion was had on this subject matter.

Chairman Belsky asked when the grant was due? John Jansen stated we have already been awarded this grant and now asking permission to spend it.

Chairman Belsky stated that if this resolution passes, then they would like an update and probably make it a standing agenda item.

Motion to approve this resolution was made by Supervisor Rose, seconded by Supervisor Lewis. All in favor.  
**MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

6. **Resolution to modify the Division of Health's 2021 budget with American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding designated for Public Health.** – Dr. Freiheit presented the resolution. This is three separate pots of money. This is not part of the ARPA funding that the county received. She explained the different areas of the resolution and what it can include.

Supervisor Decker asked her to expand on what the plan is on how the money will be spent. Dr. Freiheit stated the immediate concern is Human Resources and getting more people to help with the surge of disease investigation and contract tracing. To help with school support and testing in both the local Health Department and throughout the community. Also doing more mobile missions to be able to reach the most venerable population.

Chairman Belsky has a concern with this coming from ARPA funding since the money that is coming from ARPA for the county is being presented at the meeting immediately following. She said it should have been deferred. Also, it should have been 3 separate resolutions since only one of the sections is related to ARPA funding. She would prefer that it gets deferred until after the presentation tonight.

Supervisor Berg verified with Dr. Freiheit that this money was not the same pot of money that the presentation they were going to hear tonight. If this money is not used by us, it will be used by someone else.

Supervisor Rose asked for more detail on each area of the resolution. Dr. Freiheit and John Jansen gave the detail. They also explained why the 3 different areas were put into one resolution. (audio available online)

Motion to approve this resolution was made by Supervisor Berg, seconded by Supervisor Lewis. Roll call vote was taken. Supervisors Berg, Rose, Beth and Lewis Aye. Supervisors Gulley, Decker and Belsky Nay. **MOTION CARRIED.**

Supervisor Rose stated that they would expect a more detailed report.

7. **Resolution for Brookside Care Center to apply for American Rescue Plan Rural Funding and Provider Relief Fund Phase 4**

John Jansen presented the grant. This is a request for Brookside to apply for this grant for lost revenue. Patty Merrill stated that Brookside could have applied without coming to the committee. Last year Phase 1 and Phase 2 were awarded through the Cares Act. They had to apply for Phase 3 and were not awarded. In this case with

them coming forward before applying for funding, if awarded they will not come back to tell you how the money is being spent. It will go directly to Brookside.

Supervisor Decker wanted to make certain that this is allowing the designated person the ability to sign for the grant and not sign contracts. Yes.

John Jansen recommended that Lynda Bogdala attend the next meeting to give an update on the nursing home industry. Chairman Belsky stated yes. She also asked for Lynda to explain why expenses are increasing and why beds are not filled for Supervisor Nudo.

More discussion was had. (audio available online)

Motion to approve this resolution was made by Supervisor Berg, seconded by Supervisor Decker. All in favor.  
**MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

8. **Update/Discussion Aging, Disability and Behavioral Health Services (Lake Behavioral Hospital)-** Chairman Belsky stated that you may not be aware that there are significant costs not only to Public Health but the Sheriff's department as well. They have a proposal that they are working towards.

John Jansen stated that Lake Behavioral Hospital is located in Waukegan, Illinois. It is a hospital for people suffering from severe mental health and other addiction issues. They reached out to us saying we are right around the corner so why don't you start using us as a resource. John stated that they could not do that if it was a Chapter 51 commitment, only if it was voluntary. Illinois changed their laws; the Governor signed a bill and now has led to very serious talks about utilizing them. Everything is in the attorney's hands. The cost is TBD. Winnebago is over \$1,000/day and this change would be lower.

Supervisor Berg toured the facility and it is built around safety, there are no choking hazards, and everyone was very professional.

Chairman Belsky stated that this will also decrease the Sheriff's Department budget as they will not have to go as far.

9. **Discussion on Resolution Pertaining to Placement Location Process of Chapter 980 Sexually Violent Persons in Kenosha County** – Chairman Belsky stated this was passed by the Legislative committee on a 5-2 vote. She asked Supervisor Decker to speak on it since she wrote the resolution to speak to it tonight so we understand that role that Human services plays in the new procedure and what the process was and what she is proposing.

Supervisor Decker stated that in 2017 and 2021, 980 sex offenders were being placed in the county in homes that was next to a child and one was close to a park. In both instances, local governments did not know this was happening and no communication was given. In 2017 laws were different but legislators changed it, so offenders were placed by local decision and control rather than state. She has been following this now. Supervisor Decker said she noticed on a meeting notice something called review committee. She had no idea what this meeting was for. The title and the agenda were very broad. Once offenders serve their time you cannot hold them but fell under Public Health to help and treat them.

Chairman Belsky likes this resolution as it engages townships, villages, towns and municipalities before placement by the Sheriff's Department. Now they are informed and know where they live.

Supervisor Gulley asked John Jansen if there were any logistical concerns from a Human Services standpoint. John stated that this is not a Human Services committee, it falls under Corporation Counsel.

Supervisor Decker stated that the make up of the committee does follow state statutes. This resolution is on the county board agenda on this night.

10. **Kenosha County Public Health – Jen Freiheit** – Chairman Belsky stated for the people in the room that Public Health/Human Services is made up of Federal and state dollars and grants. About 17% of funding is on levy which is on county taxes.

a. **COVID-19 Update** - Dr. Freiheit stated that numbers this week are steady out. With epidemiology they really look for a 14-day trends to say numbers are decreasing. Hospitalizations have decreased slightly. There are testing issues that are now being resolved. As more testing sites open that are not getting reported to the state which means many people are not getting calls from the health department, but they are working with those sites to go through the proper channels. The call center has been getting more calls largely due to the booster. Seeing about 15 people a day in the clinic.

b. **COVID-19 School Metrics**-there was a document created in August 2020 in collaboration with each of 11 school districts. There are weekly calls with each district. Working very closely with each of them. This was based on State DPI and State Health Department guidance. The school districts asked them to put in writing on what it would look like with schools reopening. No where does it imply that we would close the schools at 3%. It was a document that everyone worked on together trying to say what this should look like. All the schools that have closed has been their own decision based on staff or disinfection.

Supervisor Decker has talked to several administrators/superintendents that said they were led to believe that if their positive case percentage was 3% or higher that they would be closed down by the county. She then read an email from a superintendent. They believed that the county would shut them down. Supervisor Decker would like the Division of Health to be clearer and to make certain that all schools know that they will not be shut down and that they can make the decision to shut down or not.

Supervisor Rose stated that this letter makes people believe that you have the authority to do these things. You need to remedy a new statement that you do not have the authority to shut them down.

11. **Any other business as authorized by law** – none

12. **Adjournment**-Motion to adjourn was made by Supervisor Beth, seconded by Supervisor Berg. **MOTION CARRIED.** Meeting adjourned at 7:26 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathy Duberstine, Senior Administrative Assistant  
Office of the Director

(A recording of the meeting minutes is available online)