

**Olmsted County Human Services Division
Community Services Advisory Board (CSAB)**

Wednesday, October 10, 2018
Room 161, 2117 Campus Drive S.E.

A. Call to order

Chair Schmidt called to order the regular meeting of the Community Services Advisory Board (CSAB) at 7:02 a.m.

Members Present

Alex Alexander, Patrick Keane, JoMarie Morris, Judy Ohly, Jim Rustad, Randy Schmidt, Kathy Schumann, Walter L. Smith III, John Tierney, Commissioner Gregg Wright, Shirley Westbrook.

Members Absent

Patrick Gannon, Evelyn Kuschel, Karen Nation, Stephanie Podulke, Julie Ruzek, Justin Stotts.

Staff Present

Sarah Oachs, Emily Colbenson, Corrine Erickson, Amy Shillabeer, Diane Paradise, Bea SanMiguel-Molina, Michael Garner, Jenna Gilbertson, Jennifer Shumaker, Laura Threinen, Kelly Gillespie, Tiffany Kacir.

Staff Absent

None.

Guests

Allison Johnson, Elizabeth Mangan, Jon Losness, Christina Block.

B. Agenda Changes for Regular Meeting

None.

C. Approval of minutes from last meeting

A motion was made and seconded to approve the September 12, 2018, CSAB meeting minutes with an adjustment to page 5 under Services to Seniors, second sentence, to read with the word “not” verses no. Also, provide the names of members who will complete their term under the Chair Announcements. Motion carried.

D. Chair Announcements

Chair Schmidt said if anyone is interested in the becoming Chair or Vice-Chair members should talk to him. The focus of the last couple of meetings is to narrow down the topics for the CSAB to focus on. Next month a debrief will be conducted of the topics presented.

E. Informational Items and Updates

Child Care Licensing – Amy Shillabeer

Amy said the Department of Human Services (DHS) delegates counties the responsibility for monitoring and licensing family child care and DHS does compliance checks every 4 years. The primary role of this 3-person licensing team is to support,

educate, assure providers are delivering quality care and comply with state rules and statutes. The team perform public information sessions, training orientations, background studies, home interviews, safety checks and investigate and follow-up on complaints. They also make recommendations to DHS regarding licensing actions and support providers to meet the health and safety needs of children in their care. Child Care Licensing is regulated by rules and statutes set by the State of Minnesota, but counties can grant variances to certain rules. Olmsted County can only issue short term variances for a provider for capacity limits. Statistics for this area show that Child Care Licensing cases are closing due to people finding other employment or retirement.

Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP) – Laura Threinen

Laura said CCAP provides financial assistance for child care, so parents can work, seeking work or attend school. The program can help pay for these costs for children up to age 13 and up to age 15 for children with special needs. In MN approximately 30,000 children receive services a month and in Olmsted County serves on average 833 families and approximately 250 providers. Eligibility workers determine eligibility based on family size and income guidelines on a yearly basis. A family can qualify if they are receiving cash assistance or have received it in the last 12 months or a family could also qualify for Basic Sliding Fee funding. This type of funding currently has 60 families on a waiting list. Parents are also required to cooperate with child support for any child that has an absent parent. Parents can choose a provider that best fits their family needs. Providers must be authorized to provide care in the county where the children live and meet child care assistance program requirements. Once a family is approved for CCAP and a provider is authorized, billing forms will be sent to the provider to complete for reimbursement. Families can apply in person at the 2117 building, call the 328-6400, email, online or by mail. Policy changes can cause challenges in workloads for the team, but they benefit families. Another challenge is providing incentives to providers to become a CCAP provider. Being a provider for the program requires more work and this can be a barrier. The department provides as much support as they can to providers.

Child Care Crisis – Families First: Sandy Simar, Allison Johnson, Elizabeth Manan & Jon Losness

Jon Losness gave a brief history and overview of Families First and said they offer early education programming in 28 counties across Minnesota. Their home base is Rochester and they have 40 funding streams, including federal and state grants, over 140 employees and a budget of 16 million dollars. Families First acquired the Head Start program in Olmsted County in 1984. Head Start primarily, has been a half day program but in 2016 the federal government started to move toward making this a full day program by 2021. They also made a partnership with the Boys & Girls Club shared facility for youth to included 10 classrooms for Head Start. In 2017 they

opened 5 classrooms at the Empowerment Center and they will open 4 more by 2020 through the Jeremiah Program. Early learning scholarships offer the opportunity for early care and education primarily for 3-4-year-old children living in up to 185% of poverty throughout 20 counties in Minnesota. Crisis Nursery is the only program through Families First that does not have income guidelines. School Readiness is programming done jointly with Rochester Public Schools and helps children get ready for kindergarten. Child Care Aware is a state funded program to help find child care information for parents and child care providers. Providers can receive professional development and support through this program. Elizabeth said there is a steady decline in-home family child care over the past five years. A study in 2014 showed 74% of Minnesota households with children under age 6 had both parents in the workforce and at the time was 3rd highest in the nation. Between 2006-2015 the number of in-home licensed child care providers decreased by 27% which is 36,500 spaces. Child care centers helped fill that capacity with the majority being met in the metro area and centers are generally more expensive than family home providers. According to Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation Region – Potential Child Care Need Summary 2018, Olmsted County is 1,060 quality child care slots short and last week, there are 344 family child care providers. Providers are leaving the field for several reasons like retirements. New providers entering the field find it difficult to make a livable wage and there is no support group, nor do they have access to benefits such as life insurance and retirement plans. If this field were to be recognized, professionalized and compensated there would be less of a gap with in home family child care providers. Quality of care is key in the early childhood development of child. HighScope Perry Preschool Study examined the lives of 123 children born in poverty and at high risk of failing in school. From 1962-1967, at ages 3 and 4 the participants were randomly divided into program groups that entered a high-quality preschool program based on HighScope’s participator learning approach and a comparison group who received no preschool program. The study found that adults at age 40 who underwent the preschool program has higher earnings, committed fewer crimes; were more likely to hold a job, and were more likely to have graduated from high school than the adults who did not have a preschool education. A child’s bulk of brain development will occur from birth to 3 years old. Allisson continued and said the impact on families and children accessing affordable and available child care is huge. Families face difficulty entering workforce, may settle for substandard care, truancy of older siblings, increased stress levels of parents and children, increased risk of abuse and neglect, and potentially deeper-end, more costly services like child protection case management. Crisis Nursery helps parents that are thin on resources and support. Investing in supportive and preventative services is key in strengthening and stabilizing families in the community. The cost of child care is also making an impact for example, a single mother making \$27,075 will pay about 30% of her income

towards care, a single father making \$41,283 will pay 19%, whereas a married couple making \$96,364 will pay 8%. Elizabeth said Families First of Minnesota is trying to build quality capacity across the state with the help of an Otto Bremmer Grant and other local grants. A child care consultant is on-board to help with licensing, training, coaching and resource connection. Families First Family Tree is a center that will serve up to 92 children with quality care and learning environment following best practices and serve families with income levels at or below 185% of the federal poverty line. It will also provide family child care providers resources and training and following the two-generation model of care and partnership. The success with this project will be done by empowering families. The Families First Family Tree partners are Mount Olive Lutheran Church, Early Head Start, Crisis Nursery of Olmsted County and the Child Care Consultation Program but the potential for partnerships has no limits.

Housing – Housing Redevelopment Authority (HRA) - Dave Dunn

Dave the mission of Olmsted County Housing Redevelopment Authority (OCHRA) is to give residents the opportunity to obtain quality, affordable housing. Last year Dave gave the CSAB a presentation and he gave an update of previous talks about obstacles. He said the assistance demand exceeded the supply of affordable housing. The department receives approximately 10-20 phone calls daily from families in distress, but they have limited options for homeless/near homeless in the community. The waiting list for the Housing Choice Voucher (HCV) has been closed since 2012 with 700 families on this list previously. They have reduced the list to 140 families due to not being able to find people as their name has come up and they plan to reopen the HCV wait list in 2018. The public housing list closed in 2016 and had 500 families on the waiting list and there are currently 300 families on this list. The affordable housing issue in our community is still significant with rents ranging \$900-\$1200 or higher. HRA received a federal funding increase this year. The Rochester home sale increase since 2010 for example the median sale price in 2010 was \$152,000 and in 2018 it is \$235,000. Building a new home is impacted by the cost of land, lumber and labor that has increased considerably. Multifamily unit new construction currently costs \$200k per unit to which constitutes a rent to be approximately \$1,300-\$1,500 for and even break in profit. The cost to produce affordable housing exceeds the revenue it produces. The supply of homes for first time home buyers in this county has not been promising with currently only 13 homes under \$150,000 for sale. If more funding were to be given to HRA Dave said in the short term it would help provide people with rental assistance and long term the supply for affordable housing would have to increase. Both the city and county have home rehabilitation programs and it would benefit if people could stay in their homes. HRA has been collaborating with Health, Housing and Human Services Divisions to bring housing assistance along with other types of assistance to make an impact in people's lives.

F. Emerging Items & Updates
County Board Announcements

None

Staff Announcements

None.

Other

None.

G. Adjournment

Chair Schmidt adjourned the meeting at 8:55 a.m.

Minutes submitted by: Bea SanMiguel-Molina