

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

Wednesday, March 13, 2019  
Room 161, 2117 Campus Drive S.E.

**A. Call to order**

Chair Alexander called to order the regular meeting of the Community Services Advisory Board (CSAB) at 7:04 a.m.

**Members Present**

Alex Alexander, Melissa Brandt, Patrick Gannon, Commissioner Sheila Kiscaden, JoMarie Morris, Randy Schmidt, Justin Stotts, Judy Ohly, Tierre Webster, Shirley Westbrook.

**Members Absent**

Susan Ahlquist, Patrick Keane, Commissioner Stephanie Podulke, Walter L. Smith III.

**Staff Present**

Sarah Oachs, Corrine Erickson, Amy Shillabeer, Graham Briggs, Dave Dunn, Dan Jensen, Jenna Gilbertson, Trent Fluegel, Michael Garner, Leigh Durbahn, Nate Pike, Bea SanMiguel-Molina.

**Staff Absent**

Diane Paradise, Amy Thompson.

**Guests**

Kashanti Taylor, Jinlin Li, Lara Pfrimmer.

**B. Agenda Changes for Regular Meeting**

None.

**C. Approval of minutes from the last meeting**

A motion was made and seconded to approve February 13, 2019, CSAB meeting minutes acknowledging the duplication of page 2. Motion carried.

**D. Chair Announcements**

Chair Alexander gave an overview of the previous new member application process, changes, and mentioned the letter and its content written to the County Board. Chair Alexander asked Commissioner Kiscaden to give some insight on the criteria for new members and the decision-making process for member selection, as this would help the CSAB with recruitment of future members. Commissioner Kiscaden said the County Board relies on and appreciates the work of this board. The County Board would like to see some consistency in bylaws, membership, and representation from people who have lived experiences in human services. People who work or have worked in the human services sector add extreme value to the work being done, but

the balance of the two perspectives is essential. An example given of this was the consumer on the Housing & Redevelopment Authority (HRA) Advisory Board and how this member has grown to be an advocate. A small discussion took place on how difficult it has been to fill any of the open seats. The time the meeting is held, and the lack of community knowledge of advisory boards were identified as barriers in recruiting. People receiving services from human services are usually experiencing some form of crisis and asking them to join this kind of commitment could be a challenge. Some professionals in the field have tremendous lived experiences and bring those perspectives to the work they do. The recruitment efforts of new members will have to be more robust and looked at with a strategic and intentional lens. Chair Alexander reviewed the open positions: two members at large, one consumer, and one United Way representative, with a possible candidate in mind. He welcomed the Youth Commission guest and had her introduce herself to the CSAB. Kashanti Taylor, a Junior at Mayo High School, has been on the Youth Commission since the beginning of the school year and is visiting today's meeting because she is considering becoming a youth representative on the CSAB. Patrick Gannon declared his occasional consulting for Families First (14 hours total for 2018) as his only unlikely conflict of interest.

### **Staff Announcements**

Sarah Oachs said the Kresge Foundation agreed to grant funding to Dakota and Olmsted County for the Pathways Toward Prosperity & Well-being project (PTPW). They were also encouraged to apply for a second grant to continue to fund the project. They have been working diligently with Dakota County to get PTPW from a concept to an operational plan that fits within the current organizations. One of the essential elements in developing the operations piece has been the engagement of consumers with the design.

Amy Shillabeer reported that the State of MN received a federal grant for \$12 million to fund the expansion and sustainability of the System of Care for children and their families struggling with mental illness. Counties will be granted \$4 million of that funding for services expansion. Child & Family Services (CFS) was awarded some funding to expand the Collaborative Intensive Bridging Services (CIBS). This program is an intensive in-home behavioral therapy for both the child receiving case management and their family. The initial meeting with the Department of Human Services (DHS) is tomorrow. They hope to learn and gain some guidance on some of the components on the contract such as family, youth, community engagement, and social marketing. The Wilder Foundation is doing the evaluation work. The intention is to add some new services to the medical assistance benefits set so there can be a form of reimbursement for the work, it can continue to expand and impact the system.

Also, at the federal level, Families First Prevention Act was passed in February of 2018. This act allows funding to be used for preventing out of home placement, which traditionally was only used for funding of placement. They are considering prevention services specifically to mental health, substance use, and in-home parenting skills training. They are looking to understand a specific standard and waiting for guidance from the Federal Government. Minnesota requested a non-binding 2-year delay for implementation, to allow for planning, and to try and make an impact on early prevention. In legislation, the African American Family Preservation Act intends to address disproportionality within children of color in out of home care; an issue across the State of MN. The act will require diligent and active efforts versus reasonable efforts to keep the child in the home. For example, 60-day in-home safety plans before removing a child from their home, no removals for neglect, removal only for physical, sexual abuse, and grievous harm. Counties are working together to understand how this will affect the existing resources and staffing needs. On the Child Protection Grant Withhold, it is a hold on 20% of state funding; which is awarded after two performance measures are met. These measures have been challenging for many counties because when they don't meet the standard, it further impairs their efforts to improve the work they need to do. Many agree the withhold should be eliminated so counties can count on full funding to do what they need to support the work. In 2018, Child & Family Services met the performance measure which led to an additional \$66,000.

Educational stability for foster care ensures that the child remains in the school which they were enrolled in at the time of placement or school of origin. A pilot has been in place since the beginning of last school year where the state offered some reimbursement for these services. Since this was a pilot, it was potentially going to end, but they have been working with Melissa Brandt and the Rochester School District to find some more permanent funding solutions. Finally, the changes to the children's residential treatment facilities classifications led to the federal government no longer paying 50% of the cost, which would have meant 100% of the cost going to counties. The State of MN passed legislation that would allow them to pay the 50% no longer being covered. This legislation is coming to an end in June. One bill will cover the last two months of this biennium and the second more expansive bill proposes funding through the next biennium with expanded psychiatric residential treatment facilities available in the state. The two bills seem to be getting support in both houses, and they have even started the conversation to find a more long-term solution. Amy passed out a handout with Gage East information.

Corrine Erickson stated Family Support & Assistance's (FSA) audit season is in May. The Federal Government will be looking at the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) because FSA has information on people's federal tax information.

They will also be going through an audit on how they protect that information. FSA was asked to apply for a Minnesota Family Investment Program (MFIP) Innovation grant. This funding will help MFIP participants with barriers to access child care assistance. When FSA receives a case, they are processed in the order it is received. This funding will help with adding one full-time equivalent (FTE) so that this staff person can process the MFIP cases newly eligible for child care assistance. Now the average time to process can take a few weeks which can put a burden on a family needing to start employment right away. They are also working with Child Care Licensing to find ways to support MFIP participants in becoming a child care provider, if they choose to. Olmsted County's Human Resources will now recognize the certificate people can obtain through the Pathways to Public Sector Employment. If someone has a criminal record, the County Attorney will make the determination on how to handle the background check. Lastly, FSA will be adding some security measures at the front desk and will be reconfiguring their space to welcome the HRA team.

Graham Briggs said the Public Health Services Advisory Board (PHSAB) Chair met with the CSAB's Chair and Vice Chair and the meeting went very well. The common work plan topic between both boards was Mental Health. Every three years a Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA) is completed in Public Health. The CHNA is a comprehensive document that focuses on assessing our community's health and prioritizing our top community needs. When this is finished, he will have staff present the information to the CSAB. DHS awarded a grant to Public Health to expand the home nursing program. They will be partnering with Mayo Clinic to do a child obesity study and using the home nursing program to determine if they can make an impact on these children. Public Health will be attending the Tobacco 21 (T21) Public Hearing at the County Board on April 2<sup>nd</sup>. The county is potentially changing the legal age to purchase cigarettes from 18 to 21. A small discussion took place on the ordinance change and the cost impact.

Chair Alexander asked the other students who joined the meeting to introduce themselves and give their opinion on T21. JinLin Li, another Youth Commissioner, said they have been discussing T21 in their Youth Commission meetings and they are ardent supporters of the ordinance change. Laura Pfrimmer, a visiting student, commented that an 18-year-old has more access to younger children than 21-year-olds do and that this change will also help push back the chances of young adults forming an addiction.

## **E. Decision/Working Items**

### **Approval of Public Forum Documents**

The CSAB members reviewed the public forum documents and suggested Heath, Housing & Human Services try another approach to reach out to the community, other than just the newspaper and the County website. Sarah said the new Communications Director in Administration could possibly help in utilizing other avenues of advertising. A motion was made and seconded to approve the public forum documents with a change to the date from 2018 to 2019 in the Public Comments document. Motion carried.

### **Presentation of Work Plan to the County Board**

Chair Alexander reviewed that the CSAB had previously decided on two priorities for their work plans: Behavioral Health and Housing. In preparation of presenting these to the County Board, Vice Chair Ahlquist, staff, and himself worked on the work plan templates alongside the PHSAB Chair and Vice Chair. Before presenting the work plans to the County Board, County Administrator Heidi Welsch reviewed the information and recommended that the CSAB concentrate their efforts on homelessness as this relates to the housing priority chosen. It is a topic that is very relevant in the community right now. It was mentioned that the issue of homelessness is going to need coordinated efforts with all parts of government and organizations to find a solution. If the CSAB delves into this topic, it would help the community find workable solutions. Mayor Kim Norton is hosting another town hall meeting on this issue on March 26<sup>th</sup> at the Mayo Civic Center and Cathy ten Broeke, the MN Director to Prevent and End Homelessness, will be the speaker. CSAB will continue to learn about Youth Behavioral Health in conjunction with Public Health's findings on this topic.

Dave Dunn indicated his team has been working on homelessness for some time, but with the Mayor's town hall and Director ten Broeke joining the effort, they have had the opportunity to evaluate the issue more closely. There are about 30 unsheltered homeless in the downtown area every night. They are attempting a two-pronged approach. In the short term the Salvation Army has agreed to have the Warming Center open through the month of March. This is also going to be an opportunity for the HRA to obtain data. Longer term they need to be able to answer the question, what does it cost to operate a facility such as this? They believe just for the month of March it will cost about \$15,000 to \$25,000 to keep the facility open for that amount of extra time. The goal is to provide the best outcomes, with the most cost-effectiveness of all the pieces working together. Cathy ten Broeke will help them view this with a practical, evidence-based practice approach.

Trent reported that Olmsted County staff and Premier Security helped them with surveys they organized at the Warming Center. Surveys were done when the

Warming Center was open and when it was closed. The Warming Center had been open 23 nights and served 109 unduplicated individuals, but it can only serve 40 people at a time. The Warming Center will not accept anyone under the age of 18. In terms of usage, the lowest number served was 10 individuals on December 7<sup>th</sup>, the highest was 39 on January 30<sup>th</sup>, and averaged about 27 per night. They conducted 8 surveys in the skyway system between February 21<sup>st</sup> and March 3<sup>rd</sup> and the census ranged from 4 to 23 individuals over those nights. The skyway averaged 21 individuals when the Warming Center was closed and 6 when the Center was open. They also found that most of the people that stay behind in the skyways had done so because they are not as mobile. Heath, Housing & Human Services staff Bill Franken and Jacob Radke did surveys from February 21<sup>st</sup> to the 28<sup>th</sup> and saw 22 unique individuals, 18 of those had previous contact with them in the past. 16 of those individuals had completed the Vulnerability Index-Service Prioritization Decision Assistance Tool (VI-SPDAT), 17 had a diagnosed Mental Health and/or Substance Use Disorder, 4 had physical disabilities, and 3 had used services at the Warming Center earlier that day but chose to sleep in the skyway. In the River Valley Continuum of Care February 2019 report, it identified 27 individuals with a likely high-need for permanent supportive housing and a total of 83 people in Olmsted County. In addition to discussing cost and time of operation, the Salvation Army is having a challenge filling their volunteer slots, especially overnight ones. Data collection will help the community decide what avenue to take. He is working with the Continuous Improvement & Analysis (CIA) team to help interpret the data.

## **F. Emerging Items & Updates**

### **County Board Announcements**

Commissioner Kiscaden said the Diversity Council oversaw a meeting with the Commissioner of Human Rights, Rebecca Lucero, Human Rights Commission, Olmsted County, and other community leaders to discuss the goal of having a Human Rights office here in Rochester. The local office has a contract with a mediation company that helps resolve some of the calls that come through the office. Much of the complaints are about housing and employment discrimination. If a case warrants legal matters, it is referred onto the State Human Rights Department. The 2020 census campaign "Everyone Counts in MN" is underway. The federal government is not funding the census as in previous years, so the State of MN is asking counties to form Complete Count Committees (CCC). Olmsted County's CCC is coming together and hoping to have much more participation because of it. It is essential to get an accurate count not only because Olmsted County averages \$1,500 per resident in revenue from the federal government, but it allows for better planning. On another subject, Communities United for Rochester Empowerment (CURE), an organization of low- and moderate-income people working to hold corporations and elected officials

accountable to the community, have been raising concerns about the national immigration policy and particularly the role that Sheriffs play with deportation. A rally is being organized by CURE next Tuesday to potentially ask the Sheriff not to notify the immigration database when someone is in custody. The Sheriff's Office and the County Attorney have said they are legally obligated, when a person is detained, to add them into a national database. The Sheriff has had several meetings with the Latino community to try and arrive at a place of understanding. A proposal from several organizations is moving forward to start a legal defense fund for immigration issues.

**Other**

None.

**G. Adjournment**

Chair Alexander adjourned the meeting at 8:58 a.m.

Minutes submitted by Bea SanMiguel-Molina.