

Rusk County HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

AGENDA

DATE: December 12, 2024

TIME: 9:00 AM

PLACE: Rusk County Government Center-County Board Room, Ladysmith, WI 54848

Note: Items listed on the Agenda are for discussion and possible action by the Health & Human Services Board;

CALL TO ORDER

PUBLIC COMMENT-Limited to Five Minutes Per Person

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- November 7, 2024

HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES FINANCE

- Approval of Health & Human Services Vouchers and Out-of-County Travel Requests
- 2024 Contract Approval Process
- Budget Projections

HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

- Senior Services- Steam Table Purchase Request
- Children's Long-Term Support Program Staffing Needs

PUBLIC HEALTH

- General Updates

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

- Program Reports
 - Children & Family Services
 - Veterans
 - Economic Support

ADJOURN

This agenda was prepared by Jeremy Jacobs at the direction of Chair Schneider. Posted December 5, 2024.

At any time, a quorum of another County Committee or of the County Board may be present at the meeting to observe the proceedings, but no action will be taken except by those Committee Members for the stated Committee meeting and only on noticed agenda items.

Please note that, upon reasonable notice, efforts will be made to accommodate the needs of disabled individuals through appropriate aids and services. For additional information or to request this service, contact the Rusk County Clerk, at 311 Miner Ave. E. Ladysmith, WI Phone: (715) 532-2100. For deaf and/or hard hearing, please call us through Wisconsin Relay 711.

UNAPPROVED
RUSK COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES
BOARD MEETING MINUTES

November 7, 2024

Meeting called to order by Chair Schneider at 9:00 AM.

Board Members Present: Phil Schneider, Tom Hanson, Dr. John Ziemer, Lois Goode, Mark Schmitt, Mary Schneider, John Moore Excused: Ted Hakala

Staff Present: Jeremy Jacobs, Carla Closs, Appearances: Kathy Walthers, Kaylee Bugbee, Chris Soltis, Ashley Heath

Public Comments:

None

Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes:

Motion by Schmitt, second by Goode, to approve the October 10, 2024; meeting minutes. Motion unanimously carried.

Approval of Health & Human Services Vouchers and Out of County Travel Requests:

Jacobs reported on various purchases, invoices, and Out of County Travel. Motion by Hanson, second by Ziemer, to approve Vouchers and Out of County Travel. Motion unanimously carried.

Health & Human Services:

Motion by Hanson, second by Ziemer to enter into closed session at 9:23. All responded yes.

CLOSED SESSION- announced by chair.

Conferring with legal counsel pursuant to 19.85(1)(g) for conferring with legal counsel for the governmental body who is rendering oral or written advice concerning strategy to by the body with respect to litigation in which it is or is likely to become involved. To wit: Comprehensive Community Services Invoicing.

OPEN SESSION- 10:15 am

Motion by M. Schneider, second by Goode, to direct Administrative Coordinator Ashley Heath to send letter reviewed by HHS Board, after final review by Corporation Counsel on behalf of the HHS Board. Motion unanimously carried.

Motion by Schmitt, second by Ziemer, to approve for submission the 2025-2027 Rusk County Aging Plan. Motion unanimously carried.

Public Health:

Discussion held.

Presentation by David Elliott, principal at Our Lady of Sorrows School (OLS).

Motion by M. Schneider, second by Moore, contingent on remaining balance of PH ARPA funds, to provide funds to purchase up to 35 Chromebooks (\$8,700.00) as requested by OLS School, with any remaining funds available in the amount of up to \$1330.00 to be used for the request of the Blue Hills Trail Association, Inc. Motion unanimously carried.

Program Reports:

The Board received written reports from Adult Services, ADRC-Senior Services, Child Support and Public Health.

Meeting adjourned by consensus of the committee at 11:07 AM.

Next meeting: December 12th, 2024

As prepared by: Carla Closs, completed on 11/7/2024 at 1:15 PM.

DRAFT

Rusk County Department of Health and Human Services
Children and Family Services

November 2024 Board Report

	November Referrals	2024	2023	2022	2021
CPS reports	8	173	210	217	194
Services reports	4	62	82	105	90
Delinquency/JIPS	9	53	52	58	61
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Children in Out-of-Home Care		17			
Children in-home on caseload		18			
Youth Justice cases		21			
Interstate Compact Case		0			
Courtesy cases (assisting another county)		2			
Placements		9 children placed with relatives 1 child placed in Rusk County foster home 5 children placed in relative foster care 0 children placed in private agency home 2 children placed in residential facilities			

Child Protection: 2 children started a Trial Reunification with a parent in November. We are hopeful that 5 more will start the reunification process in December. 4 In-Home CHIPS cases were successfully closed in November.

Youth Justice: We continue to work with youth who have had received referrals regarding truancy and delinquent acts.

Kinship Care: We are currently providing kinship for 13 voluntary cases, 3 long-term cases and 9 court-ordered cases.

Children's Long-Term Support (CLTS): We are currently serving 100 children under this program. 34 of these children are also enrolled in CCS. 9 children are in the process of being screened for eligibility.

Currently, we are down one worker. We are hopeful with a limited pool of applicants that we can fill the position with a qualified and capable individual. As always, please reach out to me with any questions or concerns you may have.

Respectfully,

Ashley Nelson
Ashley Nelson, CSW
Children and Family Services
715-532-2120

Veterans Services HHS Board Report 10/1/2024 – 11/30/2024

Forms and Reporting:

- Total Federal VA Forms filed for veterans (1 Oct, 2024 – 30 Nov, 2024) = 155; 120 of which directly involved Federal Service Connected, Pension and/or burial claims.
- Reported deaths for 6 Rusk County veterans; Authorized burial benefits filed for 2 county veterans' next-of-kin;
- Processed VA Health Care Claims for 9 local veterans through the Minneapolis or Tomah VA Medical Centers; All filings approved resulting in full health benefits for the veterans.
- Submitted 0 CHAMPVA dependent health care benefit for surviving spouse post-veteran's death and 0 submission for a spouse of a veteran recently granted the 100% P&T Award. CHAMPVA provides qualifying dependents with an excellent health insurance coverage through the federal VA free of charge.
- Petitioned WI Property Tax credit for 1 qualifying veterans (or surviving spouses) ensuring 100% reimbursement of CY2023/2024 primary residence property taxes (home + 1 acre).

4 Service Connected, Pension and specialized claims finalized by the VA

Earned benefits and pensioned dollars totaling \$65,604.55 received and allocated from the Federal VBA to include PACT Act/TERA claim grants. These tax-free monies go directly in the pockets of Rusk County resident veterans and/or their surviving family.

Highlights:

- Received multiple donations from a private individual and local business totaling \$700. Monies deposited in the Rusk County Veterans Emergency relief fund intended for emergent situations that our county veterans may face.
- Worked with multiple Veteran families providing much need emergent support, with Food, gas cards, washer and a dryer (All different Veterans)
- Attended many different Veteran support organizations throughout Rusk County doing introductions and providing pertinent veterans related VBA/VHA to the leadership of our multiple service organizations.

ECONOMIC SUPPORT REPORT FOR December 2024

The Consortium continues to offer overtime in order to keep up with the work load. The Consortium is down 4 total workers at this time.

New workers Alexandria Albrecht-Livingston and Mikayla Riel start on Dec 16th.

FOODSHARE – October 2024 numbers

Rusk County

FS Cases- 1,270

FS Recipients- 2,309

Total FS Benefits Paid- \$324,728

Northern Consortium Cases

Consortium FS Cases- 15,933

Consortium FS Recipients- 29,288

Consortium FS Benefits- \$ 4,201,445

Health Care

Badger Care – 1,471

EBD Medicaid MSP- 492

Long Term Care – 219

Badger Care- 20,319

EBD Medicaid MSP– 5,656

Long Term Care -3032

WISCONSIN HOME ENERGY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (WHEAP):

Rusk County- 2025 Heating Season started Oct 1, 2024: 685 applications, 617 Households received Energy Assistance.