

# Rusk County HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

## AGENDA

DATE: August 10, 2023

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

- July 13, 2023

### HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES FINANCE

- Approval of Health & Human Services Vouchers and Out-of-County Travel Requests
- 2024 Budget Proposal

### HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

- Rusk County Drug Court-Relocation of Supervision of Drug Court Coordinator-Update
- Indianhead Community Action Agency-MOU-Family First Home Visiting Program Presentation
- Social Work Classification Request

### PUBLIC HEALTH

- Reproductive Health/Regional Preparedness Position Planning
- Community Health Assessment/Community Health Plan
- Water Lab Incubator Purchase Request
- Electronic Health Record

### DIRECTOR'S REPORT

- Program Reports
  - o Economic Support
  - o Veteran Services
  - o Children & Family Services

### ADJOURN

*This agenda was prepared by Jeremy Jacobs at the direction of Chair Schneider. Posted August 3, 2023.*

*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**

**July 13, 2023**

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

Board Members Present: Phil Schneider, Randy Tatur, Dan Gudis, Mark Schmitt, Mary Schneider, Lois Goode, Dr. John Ziemer, Dave Willingham, Tom Hanson, Ken Brown. Excused: Ted Hakala

Staff Present: Jeremy Jacobs and Carla Closs. Appearances by Kathy Walthers, Abby Wendland, Maggie Huetl, Rich Gauger, Judge Barna, Sarah Rands, Chelsea Korzenieski, Ashley Heath

**Public Comments:**

None

**Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes:**

Motion by M. Schneider, second by Gudis, to approve the June 8, 2023; 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 Brown, to approve Vouchers and Out of County Travel. Motion unanimously carried.

Chair Schneider declared the Public Hearing regarding the 2024 Health and Human Services Budget open at 9:17 AM.

**Public Hearing Regarding 2024 Health and Human Services Budget**

No members of the public present.

Discussion held with regards to the proposed 2024 budget:

- Review of agency services
- Unmet needs
- Local/State budget implications
- Suggestions- System/Deliver, budget projections

Motion by Schmitt, second by Hanson, to close the Public Hearing regarding the 2024 Health and Human Services Budget at 10:22 AM. Motion unanimously carried.

**Health & Human Services:**

Discussion held.

Motion by Willingham, second by Hanson, to approve the relocation of the supervision of the Drug Court Coordinator to Health and Human Services for county employment functions only; with a strong recommendation to the full County Board to place performance oversight of this position with the CJCC. Motion unanimously carried.

Motion by Tatur, second by Ziemer, to approve the MOU between ICAA Home Visiting- Healthy Families America Affiliate and Rusk County Health and Human Services as presented. Motion unanimously carried.

**Public Health:**

Discussion held.

Motion by Hanson, second by Goode, to approve the Rusk County Health and Human Services Naloxone (Narcan) Policy as presented. Motion unanimously carried.

Motion by Brown, second by Gudis to enter into Closed Session at 11:12. All responded yes.

**Closed Session** announced by Chair Schneider

Employee Compensation Wis Stat 19.85 (1)c. For considering employment, promotion, compensation or performance evaluation data of any public employee over which the government body has jurisdiction or exercises responsibility.

Motion by Brown, second by Gudis to enter into Open Session at 11:25. All responded yes.

Motion by Willingham, second by M. Schneider, to concur with the July 6, 2023; Personnel Committee recommendation in regards to the Senior Services Substitute Site Manager wage proposal. Motion unanimously carried.

**Directors Report:**

Discussion held.

**Program Reports:** The Board received written reports from Adult Services, Public Health, Child Support and Aging Disability Resource Center/Senior Services.

Meeting adjourned by consensus of the committee at 11:28 AM.

Next meeting: August 10, 2023.

As prepared by: Carla Closs, Completed on 7/13/2023 at 12:18 PM.

## ECONOMIC SUPPORT REPORT FOR Aug 2023

Public Health Unwinding continues. Consortium is reporting an increase in call volume and case processing time due to work arounds often needed to maintain health care until specific dates designated by DHS.

New Economic Support worker Heather Holman started on May 15<sup>th</sup>. She continues with her DHS training until Aug 4<sup>th</sup> then she will move into more hands-on training.

Katie Shimko started training for the EBD programs on July 24. That will go for two weeks and then she will start hands-on training. It is the hope that Katie will man both the Family and EBD call center like Tiffany does. This helps the Consortium work load with the high call volume days for each of these groups of members.

### FOODSHARE – June 2023 numbers

#### Rusk County

FS Cases- 1,256  
FS Recipients- 2,369  
Total FS Benefits Paid- \$308,919

#### Northern Consortium Cases

Consortium FS Cases- 16,356  
Consortium FS Recipients- 30,288  
Consortium FS Benefits- \$ 4,086,194

#### Health Care

Badger Care – 1848  
EBD Medicaid- 686  
Long Term Care - 205

Badger Care- 26,478  
EBD Medicaid -7,844  
Long Term Care -3,205

### WISCONSIN HOME ENERGY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (WHEAP):

Rusk County- 2023 Heating Season: 1,147 applications, 1,028 Households received Energy Assistance totaling \$1,097,543. There were also 44 households that received furnace repairs or replacements totaling \$96,058.

State Wide- 237,871 applications, 195,861 households received Energy Assistance totaling \$158,185.

## Veterans Services HHS Board Report 5/30/2023 – 7/30/2023

### Forms and Reporting:

- Total Federal VA and State Forms filed for veterans (May, 30 2023 – July, 30 2023) = 292; 145 of which directly involved Federal Service Connected, Pension, DIC and/or burial benefit claims.
  - Reported deaths for 4 Rusk County Veterans; Burial benefits filed for 3 county veterans' next – of – Kin; Ensured over \$3,468 received easing the financial burden of veteran's funeral and internment for the grieving families.
  - Coordinated mental health treatment for 2 combat veterans through the La Crosse Vet Center. Skilled professional counseling established while gaining quantifiable medical evidence for potential service connected claims.
  - Processed VA Health Care Claims for 5 local veterans through the Minneapolis or Tomah VA Medical Centers. All filings approved resulting in full health benefits for the veteran.
  - Assisted Caregiver Support filing for a veteran family caregiver (this case daughter but is usually spouse); Case resulted in a 62.5% of fully allowed stipend received (averages about \$1,200 monthly allowance). Another submission denied due to misrepresentation of ADLs; formal Notice of Disagreement filed through the Federal VBA on behalf of the veteran/spouse.
  - Petitioned WI Property Tax credit for 2 qualifying veterans and 1 surviving spouse ensuring 100% reimbursement of CY2023 property taxes.
- **4 Service Connected, Pension and specialized claims finalized by the VA**

Earned benefits and pensioned dollars this period totaled \$169,094 allocated from the Federal VBA which directly goes in the pockets of Rusk County resident veterans and/or their surviving family.

Experiencing multiple “bad rating decisions” by VBA initial level reviewers; extensive time spent on Notice of Disagreement rebuttals on decisions to overturn inaccurate and unsubstantiated adjudicated claims. Large turnover @ VBA.

### Highlights:

- Performed an additional in-office Board of Veterans Appeal hearing in front of Federal Law Judge; ensured connectivity of video/audio and sworn in on two hearing providing testimony and direction to the veterans and their spouses.
- Accomplished Accredited Representation informal conferences on two Higher Level Reviews with VBA Regional Office (Seattle) rating supervisors.
- Worked with SSVF case manager for placement of 1 Rusk County homeless or displaced veteran with out-of-county admittance to an income-based housing authority.

- Continue to address and file benefits claims IAW the recently implemented PACT Act targeting Vietnam, Gulf War through post-911 veterans dealing with toxin(s) exposure. Publicly relayed the Aug, 9<sup>th</sup> 2023 cutoff date for potential retro-payments.
- Performed in-home Occupational Evaluation via virtually with MSP Prosthetics personnel; HISA Grant approved for structural of bathroom and internal doors, \$6,800 of funding directly to the veteran for these modifications.
- Attended 2023 National CVSO conference (virtually, event was in Madison) accumulating mandated accreditation CEUs. National level VBA/VHA encompassed top level policy and procedures on a variety of new topics affecting veterans benefits as a whole. Relayed/briefed additional changes and updates at multiple SVO (and future) meetings/events.
- Coordinated the start of accreditation and internal VBA required training(s) for employee designated part-time assigned to the CVSO office. Worked with VA Milwaukee Regional Office representatives and WDVA trainer point of contact to eventually gain Office General Council accreditation and Personal Identification Verification card. Part time employee will focus mainly on veteran death claims and procurement of VA supplied memorials.

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

**July 2023 Board Report**

	July Referrals	2023	2022	2021	2020
CPS reports	15	99	217	194	175
Services reports	4	39	105	90	104
Delinquency/JIPS	1	25	58	61	31

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Children in Out-of-Home Care 13  
Children in home on caseload 29

Placements 5 children placed with relatives  
1 child placed in Rusk County foster home  
1 child placed in relative foster care  
3 children placed in private agency home  
1 child placed in another county's foster home  
1 child placed out of state w/ relative  
1 child in a Residential Care Facility

**Child Protection:** Most children in out of home care are on the caseload due to parental meth use. The youth in Residential is having positive pre-placement visits with a foster home in Green Bay. We are currently working with the District Attorney's Office on three Termination of Parental Rights cases.

**Youth Justice:** We continue to receive referrals from law enforcement and the schools regarding delinquent acts and juveniles in need of protection or services as well as truancy.

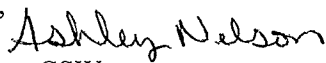
**Kinship Care:** We are currently providing kinship for 8 voluntary cases, 5 long-term cases and 4 court-ordered cases.

**Children's Long-Term Support (CLTS):** We are currently serving 85 children under this program. 27 of these children are also enrolled in CCS.

**Foster Care:** We have 3 foster homes in our county which limits our options for children in need of placement. This has caused us to seek homes outside our county as well as utilizing costly private agency homes.

As always, please reach out to me with any questions or concerns you may have.

Respectfully,

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