

# Rusk County HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

## AGENDA

DATE: October 12, 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

- September 14, 2023

### HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES FINANCE

- Approval of Health & Human Services Vouchers and Out-of-County Travel Requests
- OIG Audit-Recovery Wellness Consortium-CCS
- 2023-2024 Contracts Approval Process
- Senior/Youth Center Door Project Bids

### HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

- WCHSA Fall Conference Attendance Request
- WATCP (Wi Assoc. of Treatment Court Professionals) Coordinator Conference Attendance
- Program Purchase-Court Solutions Online/Juvenile Court Intake
- Prevention Specialist Job Description
- Advisory Committee Appointment
- Assistant Cook Senior Center-Recruitment Update

### PUBLIC HEALTH

- Public Health ARPA Available Funding Update via Health Officer
- Department of Agriculture, Trade, and Consumer Protection-Fee Schedule
- Marshfield Medical Center-Ladysmith Grant

### DIRECTOR'S REPORT

- Program Reports
  - o Children and Family Services
  - o Veterans
  - o Economic Support

### ADJOURN

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

**September 14, 2023**

Meeting called to order by Chair Schneider at 9:02 AM.

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

Staff Present: Jeremy Jacobs, Ashley Nelson and Carla Closs. Appearances by: Kathy Walthers from the ADRC with volunteers Kathy H., Alice K., MarySue T., John S.

**Public Comments:**

None

**Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes:**

Motion by Tatur, second by Hanson, to approve the August 10, 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 Gudis, second by Hanson, to approve Vouchers, to include the payment to Chippewa County for CCS Service Provider expenses, and Out of County Travel. Motion unanimously carried.

**Health & Human Services:**

Discussion held.

Motion made by Willingham, second by Hakala, to approve as needed, more than one individual to attend the same specific/required training and/or conference; justification has been provided by Jacobs as to this request; additionally, the requests will be placed on the Out of County travel listing for approval each month by the Health and Human Services Board.

Motion was made by Hanson, second by Ziemer, to approve recruitment for the vacant Assistant Cook position at the Senior Center. Motion unanimously carried.

Motion made by M. Schneider, second by Willingham, to approve moving forward with the process of obtaining bids for the construction/installation of exterior automatic doors and bathroom doors in the Senior/Youth Center and forward the bids and the proposed plan to the Property Committee.

Motion made by Hakala, second by Goode, upon notice being provided to participants; to increase the suggested contribution of \$3.50 per meal to \$4.50 per meal for home delivered and congregate meals. Motion unanimously carried.

**Public Health:**

Discussion held.

Motion by Tatur, second by Gudis, to approve submission of the application for the Public Health Preparedness Grant. Motion unanimously carried.

Motion by M. Schneider, second by Ziemer, to approve the Public Health fee schedule as presented effective October 1, 2023. Motion unanimously carried.

**Directors Report:**

Discussion held.

**Program Reports:** The Board received written reports from Child Support, ADRC-Senior Services, Adult Services, Public Health.

Meeting adjourned by consensus of the committee at 10:55.

Next meeting: October 12, 2023.

As prepared by: Carla Closs, Completed on 9/14/2023 at 3:03 PM

DRAFT

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

**September 2023 Board Report**

	September Referrals	2023	2022	2021	2020
CPS reports	19	130	217	194	175
Services reports	8	51	105	90	104
Delinquency/JIPS	5	31	58	61	31

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Children in Out-of-Home Care	14
Children in home on caseload	29
Youth Justice cases	25
Interstate Compact Case	1
Courtesy cases (assisting another county)	5

Placements

- 7 children placed with relatives
- 2 children placed in Rusk County foster home
- 1 child placed in relative foster care
- 4 children placed in private agency home

**Child Protection:** Most children in out of home care are on the caseload due to parental meth use. The youth in residential care has been transitioned to a foster home in Green Bay. 2 cases just completed the Termination of Parental Rights process, one more coming up.

**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 84 children under this program. 34 of these children are also enrolled in CCS. 11 children in the process of being screened for eligibility.

**Foster Care:** We have 2 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

## Veterans Services HHS Board Report 8/1/2023 – 9/30/2023

### Forms and Reporting:

- Total Federal VA Forms filed for veterans (August, 1 2023 – September, 30, 2023) = 250; 195+ of which directly involved Federal Service Connected, Pension and/or burial claims.
- Reported deaths for 4 Rusk County veterans; Authorized burial benefits filed for 3 county veterans' next – of – Kin; Ensured over \$4,682 received easing the financial burden of veteran's funeral and internment for the grieving families.
- Coordinated mental health treatment for a combat veteran through the La Crosse Vet Center and another through regular VHA channels, providing skilled counseling while establishing substantiated medical proof for potential service connected claims.
- Processed VA Health Care Claims for four local veterans through the Minneapolis or Tomah VA Medical Centers. All filings approved resulting in full health benefits for the veterans.
- Submitted three CHAMPVA dependent health care benefits for two surviving spouses' post-death of the veteran and a single filing for the 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 3 qualifying veterans (or surviving spouses) ensuring 100% reimbursement of CY2022 property taxes.

### **12 Service Connected, Pension and specialized claims finalized by the VA**

Earned benefits and pensioned dollars totaling \$402,008 (to include a veteran's single back payment of \$92,815) allocated from the Federal VBA. These tax-free monies go directly in the pockets of Rusk County resident veterans and/or their surviving family.

### Highlights:

- Contacted the State Dept. of Natural Resources questioning the absence of free park/trail pass specifically for gold star families. Relayed concerns and statute (or lack thereof) to our 87<sup>th</sup> Assembly District rep for potential legislation.
- Happy to inform the board that Geri Leisch attended the week-long Accreditation Training through WDVA earning her certificate. Additionally, gained sponsorship by the Milwaukee VBA Regional Office starting the federal security background check; fingerprinting coordinated and accomplished with the Tomah VAMC. Currently waiting on notification and eventual issuance of the Personal Identification Verification (PIV) card allowing Geri to officially represent those veterans who are Federal represented by WDVA.

- Facilitated one in-office veteran appeal teleconferences with the Board of Veterans Appeals (Law judge, Washington DC) and one Higher-level Review (HLR) with a west coast Regional Office. Representation and testimony resulted in HLR approval and back pay awarded.
- Petitioned congressional assistance through Rep Tom Tiffany's Office dealing with a death certificate amendment. All efforts to rectify with the certifying official and the medical facility located in Waupun, WI were exhausted. This amended certificate is vital and will ensure the surviving spouse's award of the Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC) award granting a monthly \$1,600 tax free benefit.
- Multiple Fiduciary filings through the FID HUIB located in Milwaukee. VBA does not accept private Power of Attorney and Fiduciary must be established when the veteran is deemed "incompetent" to handle financial matters.
- Assisted with coordination and active participation of the multi-organizational annual 9/11 ceremony honoring those first responders and others who tragically lost their life.
- Accomplished and submitted the FY 2023 Rural Transportation Grant through the WI Dept. of Veterans Affairs. New WDVA ambiguous mandates were eventually met and grant is currently under adjudication at the Madison WDVA.
- Presented multiple briefings to include the American Legion District Meeting, on new legislation to include the recent 2022 Pact Act. The Act establishes 20 new presumptive disabilities and other qualifying factors for Gulf War, Post 911 and Vietnam Veterans based on exposure of deadly toxins while deployed to a multitude of SW Asia locations.
- Worked three HISA Grants through VHA, Minneapolis VAMC ensuring potential funding backing of \$6,800 for each submission focusing on disability home modifications. Additionally, processed through VHA Minneapolis, two applications under the Primary Caregiver Support Program.
- Assisted 5 veterans with establishing new direct deposit information to the federal VA as a result of main bank changing ownership/management. Each individual coordinated meeting involves an office visit and telephonic coordination between the VBA and the veteran.
- Spearheaded admission of one veteran through the Admissions dept. at the Veterans Home @ King. Worked directly with multiple social worker departments and the immediate family expediting the veteran home placement.

## ECONOMIC SUPPORT REPORT FOR October 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. Consortium continues to see employees leave due to 100 % remote options offered by other Consortiums within the State.

Call volume increased by 8.37% from July 2023.

Heather Holman has started on call center for the EBD team. On-going training will continue.

Tiffany Johnson started training for the Long -Term Care team to fill vacancy within the Consortium. Tiffany has moved through the ranks very quickly. She has only been in Economic Support for a little over a year and has volunteered to learn EBD and now LTC. She catches on very quickly and has high case accuracy.

Brenda Lane has been volunteering for overtime approved through the Consortium to help with the high volume of work right now.

In process of replacing for the Medicaid Enhanced open position.

New Energy Assistance year starts October 1<sup>st</sup>.

### WOODSHARE – Aug 2023 numbers

#### Rusk County

FS Cases- 1,237  
FS Recipients- 2,282  
Total FS Benefits Paid- \$303,999

#### Northern Consortium Cases

Consortium FS Cases- 16,260  
Consortium FS Recipients- 30,053  
Consortium FS Benefits- \$ 4,070,825

#### Health Care

Badger Care – 1,727  
EBD Medicaid- 671  
Long Term Care - 209

Badger Care- 24,753  
EBD Medicaid -7,681  
Long Term Care -3,168

### 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.