



The Combined Community Services Board Meeting July 13, 2022

The **Combined Community Services Board** convened virtually on Wednesday, July 13, 2022. Members and attendees joined the virtual meeting with video conference and or conference call options (computer or telephone).

Board Members Present:

Dennise Lavrenz, Chair
Tiffany Payne
Duncan Shrout
Julie Alexander
Lisa Burg
Supervisor Priscilla Coggs-Jones (Chandra Staples)

Board Members Excused:

Luanne McGregor
Cindy Bentley
Robin Rodgers

Milwaukee County Staff:

Marietta Luster, *DHHS-ADS*
Anouvong Chanthavixay, *DHHS-CYFS*
Shakita LaGrant-McClain *DHHS*
Schinika Fitch, *County Executive's Office*
Kelly Pethke *DHHS-CYFS*
David Muhammad *DHHS*
Christel Colorado *DHHS-ADS*
Daniel Idzikowski *DHHS-ADS*
Chandra Staples
David Crowley *DHHS*

Attendees from the Public

Chris Holmes
Brenda Wesley

MINUTES

I. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL:

Chairwoman Dennise Lavrenz called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m. Christel Colorado, Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) Aging and Disabilities Services Aging Unit Executive Assistant, took roll call.

II. REVIEW AND APPROVE THE MAY 11, 2022, COMBINED COMMUNITY SERVICES BOARD MEETING MINUTES

MOTION: To accept the May 11, 2022, Combined Community Services Board meeting minutes.

ACTION: Motion prevailed by unanimous consent (Alexander Moved, Shrout Second)



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III. COUNTY EXECUTIVE OFFICE UPDATE ON BOARD MEMBERSHIP, SCHINIKA FITCH, DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY RELATIONS, COUNTY EXECUTIVE'S OFFICE

Director Fitch shared with the board that all vacancies are currently filled however current bylaws indicate the need for two supervisors on the Board. Chairwomen Dennise commented that she has been in conversation with Director Shakita LaGrant McClain for the second supervisor. She is in the process of finalizing the bylaws to reflect this change. We are also recommending the addition of a parent that would represent Children, Youth, and Family Services. Schinika also updated on the following activities: Earlier in the week the County Executive signed a major legislation providing \$19 million for affordable housing, foreclosure rehabilitation and energy assistance for residents in need throughout Milwaukee County. Today the County Executive will be signing legislation funding for the McKinley Beach restoration and safety improvement. If anyone is interested in today's signing, it will be at 4:00 PM at McKinley Beach.

IV. DHHS BEHAVIOR HEALTH SERVICES BHS UPDATE, BRENDA WESLEY, COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT Advisory Council Chai

Brenda Wesley introduced herself, she has been an advocate for more than 20 years and was prior the Director of Education and Outreach for NAMI Greater Milwaukee. The reason she continues to be a passionate advocate is because she has a son that lives with a significant mental health diagnosis along with an addiction. She lost her sister 18 months ago to her mental health and addiction as well. Brenda has been on the Milwaukee County Mental Health Board for 8 years and currently her term has expired. She partnered with the MHB to create the community engagement community stakeholder Advisory Council. See handouts for more information on these new committee/councils to support the County Mental Health redesign and consumer feedback to amplify those who do not have a voice and their families. The community stakeholder Advisory Council has had two meetings and it's currently working with the council to expand their advocacy work the third meeting will be July 25th, where they will be visiting the new Mental Health Emergency Center. Brenda shared that the Advisory Council goal is to provide honest feedback from the eyes of the consumer and partner with those leading these services and client centered improvements if needed. She has visited the new emergency center and has provided a list of improvements to the new leader for which are being followed up on. The council will also be providing recommendations after their tour. Brenda and the council along with the Community Engagement Committee will continue to work through systems and processes to ensure that the key resolutions are met for improved client satisfactions with services. Brenda shares that being part of the community

advisory gives her a voice to make some changes with these entities to see good results. Chairwoman Denise mentioned she looks forward to collaborating with Brenda as Denise will be chairing the Community Engagement Committee which reports to the Quality Committee and Mental Health Board. Dennise also highlighted that the work of the CCSB mirrors the work of the Advisory Council as we provide the consumer feedback to DHHS. Shakita LaGrant-McClain thanks Brenda Wesley for her advocacy. As we work together to invest in the upstream services. The council is supporting the No Wrong Door to ensure that all people are connected. Brenda also showed her passion to assure that the youth do not get deeper into the criminal justice system or deeper into a mental health diagnosis or disorder without being traumatized. Brenda appreciated the work that Department is doing and is seeing how the Department is moving forward amplifying the voice of the Community; but also needs to hold some system and ourselves accountable. Board member Tiffany Payne comments to hold ourselves accountable for designing systems that meet our mission vision and values. By bringing issues to the forefront and giving timeframes to address the issues. Chairwoman Denise thanks Tiffany, Shakita and Brenda. Dennise mentions that the CCSB is also the voice of the community and thanked the CCSB Board for their work to improve access and quality of care for our community.

V. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES (DHHS) AGING AND DISABILITIES SERVICES UPDATE, MARIETTA LUSTER, DHHS-ADS ADMINISTRATOR, AND DAN IDZIKOWSKI, PROGRAM AND POLICY COORDINATOR (DHHS) AGING AND DISABILITIES SERVICES

Administrator Marietta Luster shared with the Board, interviews for the Director Aging Unit will start this week and next week. Marietta invited the board to the Americans with Disabilities Act 32nd Anniversary on July 26th at Washington Park from 10:00 until 2:00. The Wellness Symposium is August 4th at the Wilson Park Senior Center from 8:30- 12:00. Today the Wehr Nature Center will be having the All-Terrain Wheelchair Launch from 2:00 – 4:00. The address for this event is 9701 College Ave in Franklin.

Dan Idzikowski reported that Advisory Meeting will be held later today where they will be presenting several proposals to utilize the American Act; ARPA dollars received from the federal government. Projects will include items such as financial wellness, expanding services who utilize the Senior Centers and supporting caregivers. The Commission on Aging took a break and will resume in August. The Advocacy meeting had many matters of concern with voting right issues. In which the Wisconsin Supreme Courts decision came down that municipalities could no longer utilize drop boxes in their elections. The question was not addressed whether people with disabilities could continue to use drop boxes. Disability Vote Coalition and Disability Rights Wisconsin has taken interpretation that the federal law still provides supports. So, individuals should check with their

municipal clerks to ask for any type of accommodation so they can continue to participate in the voting process. Dan encouraged the Board to check out the website for the Disability Vote Coalition, you'll be able to see information on how to register to vote, registration status. Board member Julie Alexander shared she attended a Governmental Affairs Meeting in which they discussed you will not be able to use others to turn in your ballots. She mentioned she will be connecting with her supervisor. Dan appreciated the CCSB board for advocating and attending these meeting. Also, with the upcoming elections he invited the board to become a poll worker or to observe the elections. The Wisconsin Election Commission is also looking for individuals to do poll place accommodation analysis. They will be going out to various polling places to evaluate them for accessibility under the ADA guidelines and help with America Vote guild lines. Anyone interested can check it out on the Wisconsin Election Commission site. Lastly Dan mentions that individuals should be contacting their Senators in regard to the Federal fiscal year 2023 and express what the funding priority should be for older adults and people with disabilities. Chairwomen Dennise asked Dan for the talking points and or letter for her to send one out to her Senator. Dan will provide that for her via email. Chairwomen shared with the board that Dan and Marietta have been working solicitating the voice of consumers and have sent out 7,000 surveys. They have received 1,000 back so far, Dennise would like to see what the gaps are, continued gaps in services, areas that need to be worked on to reach the goal of Milwaukee being the healthiest county in Wisconsin.

VI. CHILDREN'S YOUTH AND FAMILY'S SERVICES UPDATE, ANOUVONG CHANTHAVIXAY, CHILDREN'S SERVICE COORDINATOR

Kelly Pethke Interim Administrator for Children, Youth and Family Services and Anouvong Chanthavixay Program Manager presented a PowerPoint.

Discussed Birth to 3/CLTS/CCOP and happenings in Birth to 3/CLTS/CCOP.

Birth to 3 updates, the Family-Focused Pandemic Recovery Supports Grant was approved from ARPA. They have meet with Promote Local to assist with media ads and other campaigns. One thing Birth to 3 is focusing on this year is the Southeast Asian and Latin X communities. Data from last year showed that only 4% of the population was Asian and 22% was Latin X community population. Outreach will be increasing, events that are in the works are Mexican Fiesta on August 26th and 28th, and the Hmong New Year on December 10th and 11th. Will also be collaborating with churches and the Buddhist temples. Birth to 3 will be partnering with organizations sch as Milwaukee Consortium for Hmong Health, Sixteenth Street Community Health Centers, UMOS, HAWA- Hmong American Women's Association and many others. The goal partnering with these organization is to bring awareness to early childhood development programs and services, provide information and how to utilize the AQ ages and stages questionnaire, promote child development and protective factors social and

emotional competence knowledge of parenting and development social connections, parental resilience, and concrete supports in times of needs. CLTS/CCOPS updates, enrollments continue to increase with a 96%. Average enrollment is between 50-60 children in the program monthly. Comparing to the state May enrollment is the highest so far. April's enrollment had a total of 1877 children enrolled and in May 1936 children enrolled, enrollment continues to grow. Community Café is used to bring families, professional CLTS staff, and organizations together to discuss various topics. At this moment the Community Café are virtual but would like to bring them into the communities. This is hosted by a CTYS staff Luisana Waukau, along with a CTS and Birth to 3 staff. The Community Café is held on Wednesday at 5:00 PM. If anyone is interested, the link can be sent out. The first Friday of the month Children's One-on-Ones are held, where the Birth to 3 programs, the CLTS program and the Children's Community Options Programs are discussed. This next meeting will be held August 5th. Update on the Circles of Life Conference was also given, conference was held May 12th and 13th. One of the biggest events for families to get network and build support. This year a total of 16 families were able to attend, with 8 staff members attending as well. Next year the Circles of Life will be held in Wisconsin Dells, Children's will be preparing early for this event. The ARPA Grant for CLTS was discussed, the community-based services. This will open August 1st. The proposal focuses on assisting individuals with intellectual developmental and other disabilities, increased services and engagement, training for staff and families, partner with organizations increase accessibility with racial equity at the forefront, increase outreach.

VII. COUNTY EXECUTIVE DAVID CROWLEY

Executive David Crowley shared that they continue to serve all residents no matter the zip code they reside in, the background they have because equity is extremely important. He thanked the Board for all the work they do for the community and the County. Informing the Board members about strategies and how to move forward particularly continuing to create person centered quality services for Milwaukee County but particularly people with disabilities. He emphasized that the work that is done is partnership, especially when we want to meet the mission and vision of achieving equity, racial equity for Milwaukee County. Executive Crowley highlighted on a few things he is focusing on. The Transportation Coordinator positioning in Aging and Disability Services will be focusing on assisting all county residents with disabilities, veterans, and older adults with accessing and navigating available transportation options. They will produce a transportation guide but will also respond to the needs that were identified by board members, constituents, county supervisors and the County Transportation Coordination plan. In May the County Board unanimously voted to approve \$1,000,000 of the ARPA funds to the Milwaukee Market Match Food Program. These funds will go towards particular food markets throughout

Milwaukee County up to \$ 20 per food share account per day. The goal for this is to help low-income residents stock on fresh healthy produce. Focusing on the healthy culture, since nutrition plays a critical role in health outcomes. Another exciting highlight, there will be new housing developments on DHHS housing services recently received \$7.5 million grant from the State of Wisconsin Neighborhood Investment Fund. \$6 million will go towards development of single family homes in the neighborhood surrounding the Coggs building. Executive Crowley and Major Dennis McBride are currently looking into foreclosed properties within Milwaukee County to try to rehabilitate those homes and make them affordable. Lastly, Executive Crowley touched on the No Wrong Door and how we're going to achieve racial equity throughout the county and become the healthiest county in the state. The goal is to provide customer service regardless of their age or ability. Providing individualized needs to anyone coming into the system and assisting them with other services they might need. When thinking of the NO Wrong Door, it is serving people across their lifespan. Chairwomen Dennise commented that the Board continues to be interested in seeing how we're investing in those key drivers of health in the community and how the CCSB can partner. Board member Julie Alexander questioned how will these show up in the budget, and where will we see those investments being made? Board member Duncan Shrout shared he is happy that Shakita LaGrant is the Director of the Department Health and Human Services. She has been a true advocate for all service levels. Executive Crowley shared that people tell him all the great work he is currently doing but he is thankful and is lucky to have all the servant leadership in different positions throughout the county helping with Milwaukee's vision. Chairwomen, echoed what Duncan said, Shakita LaGrant is such a trusted partner. She has seen how Executive Crowley and Shakita work together with one mission and vision for Milwaukee County. Brenda Wesley asked the County Executive; how can the board support on a City/State level since everything is interconnected. County Executive mentioned that focusing on cross sector collaboration will make the County move forward. Bringing in people to partner with everyone else to break down silos, we can show people that the government works. Talking and showing to your counterparts what Milwaukee County is currently doing and comparing their perspective areas, sharing best practices, to create partnership and so forth. The work being done is a shared vision. If more people come to the table, the greater the opportunities Milwaukee County and surrounding areas will have. Tiffany Payne asked regarding housing, how it'll be marketed to people with disabilities. Executive Crowley mentioned that they are focusing on rehabilitating foreclosed home to make them more affordable in the suburban Milwaukee County areas. But will need to connect with other municipalities to make housing options more diverse. If Milwaukee County continue in the path of both racial and Health Equity, there will be transformation within the community.

VIII. CCSB ADVOCACY REPORTS:

a) Board Member Reports

Board member Julie Alexander reported she is involved in the Wauwatosa Commission for Citizen with Disabilities. They are currently dealing with a zoning issue relation to housing. Implanting disability accommodation policies for people that are running into zoning hurdles when helping family members with disabilities. There is also an AARP grant for liable communities. A five-year grant, to make the community more walkable for racial, cultural, people with disabilities. Julie discussed the ARPA grant, and the renovation of a foreclosed home. The home is now more affordable but not physically accessible. Chairwomen commented the board will connect with Jim Mathy to see what resource or grants are available to make housing more accessible for people with disabilities.

Board member Duncan Shrout reported he has not much advocacy due to his physical circumstances. Duncan came into CCSB primarily because of his work in substance abuse area prevention and early intervention. But interests have been food access and housing for homeless. He is currently a member at Saint Ben's where they assist people with long term housing concerns. Duncan suggests that they should bring in someone from Continuum of Care. It would be helpful to know their goals for the next two to three years. Saint Ben's continues to see both House of Peace and the meal program, more families. Most of these families have severe economic difficulties most being African American or Hispanic families.

Board member Tiffany Payne reported that she has reached out and will take part of the election committee to do assessments on accessibility. She will also be participating in a training video with Milwaukee County Transit System for Transit Plus. Tiffany comments the Board should have subcommittees were issues like transportation, housing, long term care are discussed by passionate member then to report back with suggestions to make a greater impact. Tiffany suggested that she would be willing to Chair a Subcommittee. Tiffany mentioned the advocacy calendar, with all advocacy events so members can see what is happening around the community. Chairwomen shared that she would like to make these opportunities more organized and coordinated. She has asked Christel to create a method to organize these events and send out invites to our calendars.

Brenda Wesley mentioned that being a new Council as well, she appreciates the work that is being done. She was contacted by a church regards that they are starting this initiative called I am your Voice. A coalition of family members and community members being the voice again for mental health. Chairwomen Dennise commented that all this is done in

partnership, assisting each other. Brenda invited the board to chime in on their meeting, it is posted on the County site and do have a open forum for any concerns.

Board Member Lisa Burg shared the struggle she is currently facing with finding home health aides. She has noticed that COVID has affected long term care and its programs. Lisa comments she currently resides in a building where it is wheelchair accessible but most of the people are ambulatory people. She is aware the waitlist contains many people in wheelchairs and would like to see more people in wheelchairs since the building is quite accessible. Tiffany Payne commented that the funding the building receives to make it affordable might have to do with the certain criteria.

Chandra Staples shared she is the new legislative assistant for Supervisor Priscilla Coggs-Jones. She apologized for not being able to assist.

b) Advocacy Calendar 2022

I. Announcements:

1. Attend events presented today if possible and report next meeting feedback. Board to send Christel March, April and May advocacy.
2. Log onto the Board meeting 10 minutes prior to meeting so we can start on time
3. Contact Christel for help with county email
4. Contact Schinika for board swearing in reassignment requirement
5. Thank you for sending in website pictures and your advocacy

IX. ADJOURNMENT: Meeting adjourned at **12:03 p.m.**

The next Combined Community Services Board will be September 14, 2022, at 10 a.m., a virtual Teams meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Christel Colorado
Executive Assistant