



MILWAUKEE COUNTY
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
& HUMAN SERVICES

**AGING & DISABILITIES
SERVICES**

**The Combined Community Services Board
October 12, 2023
Meeting**

The **Combined Community Services Board** convened in person and virtually on Wednesday, October 12, 2023. Members and attendees joined the hybrid meeting held in Coggs room 104 with video conference options available for those attending via Microsoft Teams.

Board Members Present:

Cindy Bentley
Dennise Lavrenz, *Chair*
Delores Sallis
Tiffany Payne, B.S.
Robyn Rodgers
Supervisor Priscilla
Coggs-Jones

Milwaukee County Staff:

Christel Colorado, *DHHS*
Shakita LaGrant-McClain, *Executive
Director*
Marietta Luster, *DHHS*
Tina Anderson, *DHHS*
Anouvong Chanthavixay, *DHHS*
Kelly Pethke, *DHHS*

Board Members Excused:

Julie Alexander
Luanne McGregor
Robyn Rodgers



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MINUTES

I. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL:

Chairwoman Dennise Lavrenz called the meeting to order at 10:00 am., Domonique Klett Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) Aging and Disabilities Services Area Agency on Aging, Clerical Assistant I, Domonique Klett, took roll.

II. Review and Approval of the July 13, 2023, Combined Community Services Board Meeting minutes:

MOTION: Approve the July 13, 2023, Combined Community Services Board meeting minutes.

ACTION: Approved unanimously (Tiffany Payne and Cindy Bentley)

III. County Executive: David Crowley

a) Q & A with the County Executive

County Executive was unable to attend this CCSB meeting due to an emergency and will be rescheduled for a future meeting.

V. CCSB Advocacy Reports:

a) Announcements:

Shakita LaGrant spoke on the opioid problem addressing such things as; where there are gaps, what services aren't in place that should be, and advocacy. It is important that programs not rely solely on state funding but utilize grants and other funding opportunities to ensure that the county is meeting the needs of its program participants and can sustain their needs without the reliance of state funds.

Aside from meeting financial requirements, the overall goal with the Birth to 3 program is to diagnose and treat children closer to birth so that they do not end up in a detention system or correctional facility later on. We want to be able to treat our youth before they become institutionalized. Providing resources for the families and the youth early on can help prevent this.

Cindy Bentley suggested checking out the Star committee and will provide the info for it later. She spoke on how she encountered a family

that was unaware of the Birth to 3 Program and had to travel to Green Bay in order to receive services for her 2 sons that both exhibited behaviors and autism. So, raising awareness to the public about the Birth to 3 program would be beneficial those families in need of its services.

A review of CCSB board member's contact information was conducted. All present members were asked to verify address, telephone and email. For board members having issues accessing their Milwaukee County email accounts, it is encouraged to reach out to Domonique Klett so that arrangements can be made to set up a training. Chair Lavrenz would like to see an improvement in communication and feedback with board members and administration.

i. CCSB Ordinance

b) Board member Reports

Delores Sallis shares the work she does with teenagers who have IEPs and how she tries to ease the transition from teen to adulthood. Part of her work is to encourage those with disabilities to work instead of relying on a disability check and educate families that you can work and still collect a social security check. She also organizes a program called Parent University that teaches people computer skills regardless of age or disability. Flyers for the Parent University program were distributed during the meeting.

Cindy Bentley is the Executive Director of People First Wisconsin and is the first to be paid in that role. She has worked there for 25 years. Cindy also does job coaching. She is a member of the Governor's Board, Transit Plus, Star Board, Health Committee, three research boards: Alzheimer's with People with Downs Syndrome and Health for People with Disabilities and Sexuality and Violence.

Tiffany Payne is a member of the Governor's Committee for People with Disabilities. She would like to utilize the resources CCSB already has available to reach the goals we want to achieve and areas we would like to improve.

Supervisor Priscilla Coggs-Jones is the Chairwoman of transit and transportation. She is currently coordinating a listen and learn session to bridge gaps in communication and coordination with Transdev/First Transit transportation services. The Listen & Learn Session will be held at Northcott Neighborhood House on November 15, 2023, from 11:30am-1:30pm. Supervisor Coggs-Jones would like to collaborate with CCSB for this event.

Anouvong Chanthavixay talked about the Birth to 3 Program which is currently experiencing funding issues despite enrollment rates continuing to grow. Birth to 3 is contracted with 3 agencies: Penfield, St. Francis, and Curative Care. The

program is too expensive to finance and understaffed. Anouvong and the Birth to 3 team will be meeting with the Governor's Office on October 17th to advocate for more funding for the program as well as on October 30th at the County Board Public Hearing. There are 600 participants on the waitlist to join the Birth to 3 program. In order to reduce the workload, Birth to 3 has contracted with other agencies. The waitlist is expected to be at zero within 6 months. In 2024, Anouvong plans on having his team engage in more outreach for CLTS and the Birth to 3 program since there are many people who are still unaware of its existence.

Tina Anderson, who is the director of the ADRC spoke about the gaps in services between youth and adult transition. This issue was noticed in 2022 and is now being actively bridged in 2023 by educating parents on what the adult services look like and helping them through the transition from youth to adult. There is a decline in PCWs (Personal Care Workers) so the ADRC is reaching out about that to see how they can remedy this problem. The providers have a greater ability to retain more PCWs than the ADRC does so they're beginning the Milwaukee 5 meetings as a way to discuss these issues and find viable solutions for support. The ADRC has also identified an issue with isolating elders. To try and alleviate this issue, they are trying to offer more elder support as well as looking for more events for seniors. The ADRC is also enrolling for the Independent Living Pilot Program that is for individuals who would not be eligible for Medicaid services but still need some support to live in their home or community. They received 1,700 slots for this program and 150 of them have already been filled.

Dr. Marietta Luster spoke about updates within the ADRC. The ADRC is working to increase the knowledge of the teachers, students and parents to help ease the transition of teens into adulthood. Adult Protective Services is going out into the community to educate people on what abuse is, what does abuse look like, what is neglect and what does financial exploitation look like. Area Agency on Aging (AAA) has made some changes in the Senior Centers. The AAA provided new equipment to the Senior Centers such as new sewing machines and exercise equipment. The Office for Persons with Disabilities participated in the adaptive sailing program this past summer which was featured on TV. The sailing program provided an inclusive environment where people with disabilities are able to join in on the fun instead of watch from the sidelines. Since the program was such a huge success, next year it will be including participants over the age of 60.

ii. CCSB Priority 2024

CCSB would like to focus on the following issues in the new year:

1. The shortage of in-home personal care and certified nursing assistance.
2. Acquiring reliable transportation services
3. Alleviating the need for more housing and accessibility for housing other than apartments

4. Bridging the welfare gap for people with disabilities
5. Increased regulation of group homes

Implementation of these key issues should be solved by tapping into the resources we already have such as utilizing other pre-existing boards to collaborate on common goals.

Shakita stresses the need for advocacy. The Birth to 3 program needs additional funding and its providers are struggling. There is a financial gap, the state provides U.S. and federal funds and then we are providing services on Milwaukee County's behalf but they are running a deficit. The county has gone to the state (Madison) twice this year to advocate for funding for the Birth to 3 program and is requesting a meeting with the Governor's office to ask for help to ensure no more providers drop out of service.

c) Advocacy Calendar 2023

Going forward, members of CCSB should attend events of representatives of the board. They should reach out to event liaisons to get their own booths and flyers to hand out at attended events to raise awareness of what CCSB advocates for and to recruit new members.

- ii. **ADJOURNMENT:** Meeting adjourned at **12:00 p.m.** The next CCSB Meeting will be November 22, 2023, 10am-12pm.

ADA Accommodation Requests: *ADA Accommodation requests should be filed with the Milwaukee County Office for Persons with Disabilities, (414) 278-3932 (Voice) or 711 (TRS) upon receipt of this notice.*

The Combined Community Services Board meetings are open and recorded meetings, and the community is welcome to attend. The Chair will take public comments on each agenda item at his discretion.