

HHS Ad Hoc Committee on Out of Home Care Meeting Minutes

DATE: March 6, 2018

TIME: 12:00pm

PLACE: Wood County River Block, Conf Room 231A

PRESENT: Adam Fischer, Brad Kremer, Lori Slattery-Smith, Dawn Schmutzer, Tim McNaughton, Brandon Vruwink, Tom Buttke, Beth Ferdon.

OTHERS PRESENT: Bill Clendenning, Stephanie Wanserski, Jodi Liegl

Meeting called to order at 12:04pm by Chairman Fischer.

Public Comment: None.

Minutes: motion by Kramer to approve minutes, second by Buttke. All ayes. Note: minutes for the Ad Hoc meetings will not be in the Supervisors dropbox, they will only be available on the County website.

Alternate Response: Alternate Response is a different way to approach families in crisis/need of our services. It works on engaging services with clients prior to actions taken (ie: removal of children from the home). Wisconsin has select counties included in an Alternative Response Study that will be ending this year. Wood County is in that study as a non-Alternative Response county. Family Services works toward the result of reunification with family if at all possible. Using the Alternative Response method can reduce costs and possibly the number of children in out of home placement.

Task Report: The closing of Lincoln Hills/Copper Lake will take place in 2021. The State will create smaller regional corrections facilities throughout the state. No locations set yet. Portage and Marathon counties have juvenile detention centers currently. Discussion about if Wood County would be interested in a facility in our county. There was a discussion around treatment vs corrections options/services.

Ongoing Unit Out of Home Placement: The standard goal for children in out of home placement is reunification with the family. Stephanie gave an overview of one case in the Ongoing Unit. Discussion about different facilities and how foster parents can decide to not provide care for child occurred. Discussion regarding early intervention, prevention, treatment options, partnerships (private/public), services that are voluntary for clients and need for more 1-on-1 parent teaching services. Discussion around making use of unused space at Norwood for a Residential Care Center. State sets the daily rate for the RCCs. Idea of kids using their social media skills on a safe Facebook page or chat room; how could this be implemented?

Motion: Kremer made motion to explore the options and have a cost analysis done for possible group home or RCC at Norwood. Slattery-Smith seconded. All Ayes. Motion passed.

Assign Tasks: Provide possible options and a cost analysis of group home or RCC at Norwood using TBI space/unused space.

Next meeting: April 17, 2018 at 12pm (noon), Wood County River Block, Conf Room 130.

Agenda items: group home, RCC and corrections placement at the Juvenile Justice level.

Adjourned: meeting was adjourned at 1:51pm.

Recorder: Dawn Schmutzer