

RESOURCE COUNCIL MINUTES

August 21, 2023

In-Person/Virtual Meeting

Members Present: Kristin Vierow; Chair, Tonya Fitzgerald; Vice-Chair, Lloyd Erbaugh, Batsheva Halpert, Lesley Hauser, Amanda Knoll, Corky Mars, Catherine Rogers

Members Absent: Jane DuBois, Fredrick Ehlers, Jerry Finkel, Farheen Hassan, Suresh Nair, Pamela Peters, Sally Stockey, Dr. Michael Wilcox

Commissioners Present: Commissioner Jody Brennan

Guests: Sara Danielson

Staff Present:

Barb Dahl, Health and Human Services Director

Suzanne Arntson, Deputy HHS Director

Nikki Conway, Child Welfare Manager

Nikki Hallberg, Community Prevention Response Supervisor

Jane Jacobson, Administrative Services

I. CALL TO ORDER – Introductions:

- Kristin Vierow, Chair, called the meeting to order. Introductions followed.

II. MINUTES

A motion was made (Lloyd Erbaugh) and seconded (Tonya Fitzgerald) to approve the Resource Council minutes of May 16, 2023. The motion carried.

III. DIRECTOR'S REPORT

- Scott County Family Resource Centers (FRC) received the 2023 NACo's (National Association of Counties) Best in Category Award for Human Services. There were over 1,000 applications submitted for the 18 Best in Category awards. The FRCs also received a Minnesota Department of Human Services Commissioners Circle of Excellence Award in 2022.
- Barb updated the group on the Health and Human Services Legislative bills passed by the Minnesota Legislature in 2023.
 - Barb mentioned the \$36 million being introduced into the medical assistance infrastructure of which Scott County received \$712,232 to help Economic Assistance with Medical Assistance Redetermination.

- Public Health will receive additional funding for Emergency Preparedness, the Family Home Visiting program, and more.
- The MN Legislature established a task force on Priority Admissions to State-Operated Treatment Programs to study the state's Priority Admissions Law, also known as the 48-hour law. The Task Force will evaluate the impact of the requirements for priority admissions under Minnesota law on:
 - ✓ The Department of Human Services
 - ✓ Individuals referred for admission and care at state-operated treatment programs.
 - ✓ The mental health system in Minnesota, including community hospitals.
- The Legislature acted to split up the Department of Human Services (DHS). DHS will be split into three divisions: Direct Care and Treatment (hospital system), Department of Children, Youth and Families (child care and child support services, Office of Inspector General) and Department of Human Services (Medicaid program, housing, and services for seniors and people with disabilities).
- Housing received funding for the housing infrastructure program, the development of affordable rental housing, community stabilization program, Family Homeless Prevention and Assistance Program, and homeownership assistance programs, to name a few.
- There is additional funding from the Legislature for the child care industry, and available monies for school-linked mental health, Family Resource Centers, and mobile crisis response teams.
- The Legislature overhauled the State funding formula to provide more equitable and adequate funding for probation and parole services. Scott County Community Corrections received an additional \$2,450,472. Scott County is reviewing staffing needs and increased associated expenses.
- Other bills that passed in 2023 the Director noted: a bill that provides employees up to 20 weeks of Paid Family and Medical Leave (PFML) per year, another bill requiring paid sick and safe leave starting in 2024, and the Juneteenth holiday.
- The Commissioner of Human Services will take steps to implement a plan to streamline and minimize required paperwork for child protection cases.
- Scott County is in conversations with St. Francis Hospital and Allina Clinic in developing a behavioral health clinic on the St. Francis campus. American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) dollars could be utilized for the project. Open Door as a potential partner for services is being explored as well.
- Resource Council members discussed the need for a Professional Statement of Need form (DHS-7122). This form is currently not offered in Scott County. The form can be a primary pathway to housing stabilization services because it assesses for all needs-based criteria (disability, assessed need for services, and housing instability). Suggestion from the Council to explore the use of this form in Scott County in the future.

IV. New Business/Community Input

- **Family Resource Centers – Nikki Hallberg and Suzanne Arntson**
 - The Shakopee Family Resource Center (FRC), in the Marschall Road Transit Building, opened with 40 hours/week in March 2023.
 - Family Resource Centers began with the Together WE CAN program and model the Child Wellbeing Continuum.
 - FRCs are spaces where individuals and organizations come together to help children and families thrive.
 - Family Resource Centers partner with many to meet the basic needs of their families.
 - Scott County families find information about community resources, referrals to services, or assistance completing applications and paperwork.
 - FRC programming is made up of the 5 Protective Factors: Parental Resilience, Social-Emotional Competence of Children, Social Support, Concrete Support, and Understanding Child Development.
 - The Family Resource Centers tie their monthly calendar activities to these 5 factors.

- **Promoting Attendance and School Success (PASS) Program – Nikki Hallberg, Suzanne Arntson, and Nikki Conway**
 - There is growing interest nationally to create alternative pathways to address school attendance concerns.
 - Minnesota is one of 34 states to include educational neglect in the child protection statute.
 - PASS Prevention enables schools to make referrals directly to St. David's (student under age 12 has 3 unexcused absences). St. David's engages the student, family, and school to overcome barriers to school attendance and assist in linking the family to needed supports.
 - St. David's PASS program serves all Scott County school districts.
 - PASS Diversion will be followed when a student has seven or more unexcused absences and school interventions have not been successful. A report is made to Child Protection (CP). The report is then screened and either the report will be diverted to St. David's or if family refuses to engage in the program, the case may be referred back to CP.

- **Promoting Attendance Through Hope (PATH) – Nikki Conway, Suzanne Arntson, Nikki Hallberg**
 - PATH is a Partnership with Treehouse for truancy issues. The program supports increased collaboration and support to schools.
 - PATH creates an alternative to government intervention. PATH is less threatening, more supportive.
 - PATH Diversion program begins when a school makes a truancy report to the county attorney's office after a student has had seven or more

unexcused absences and school interventions have not been successful. The Scott County Truancy team reviews the truancy referral and if appropriate will divert it to Treehouse. Treehouse engages the student, family, and school in addressing and overcoming barriers to school attendance and links families to needed supports. If student or family refuses to engage in PATH diversion, the case may be referred back to county truancy services.

- Factors contributing to school absences include mental health and chemical health concerns for caregivers and students, safety concerns, behavioral patterns, and lack of resources for before/after school childcare.
- New this year is the prevention program with school referral directly to Treehouse after three unexcused absences.
- Also new this year is the Restorative Family Mediation piece created as an alternative to traditional court. This process allows student/families to work through problems together. Early response is possible with direct referral from the school.
- Jane will email the PowerPoint “Update on Prevention Services” to the Resource Council members.

V. SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

Minutes were sent prior to the meeting. No discussion.

VI. AGENDA ITEMS FOR AUGUST MEETING

- Suggestions for November 2023 Meeting:
 - Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinic (CCHBC)
 - Rule 25 – Chemical Dependency Changes with Behavioral Health
 - Coordinated Response with Law Enforcement update
 - Update on ARPA – truancy data

VII. ADJOURN

Motion to adjourn (Amanda Knoll) and 2nd to adjourn (Tonya Fitzgerald). Meeting adjourned.

A tour of the FRC followed adjournment.

Next Meeting: November 20, 2023

2024 Meeting Schedule:

February 2024 - TBD

May 20, 2024

August 19, 2024

November 18, 2024