

Addendum to May Observer Corps Report: Human Services Board Meetings for April and May. Thank you Suzanne. 😊

**Humans Services Board Meeting**  
**April 27, 2023**  
**Humans Services Office, Jay Street, 4:15 p.m.**

*Submitted by observer Suzanne Zipperer*

The meeting was called to order by Chair Jim Brey. Minutes were approved for March, 2023

The education topic was **Medication Assisted Recovery for Substance Use Disorders** presented by Dr. Basil Spyropoulos, Human Services psychologist.

Dr. Spyropoulos has been using medication to treat substance abuse disorder for about 15 years. In that time, treatment has evolved. Methadone was the primary treatment for opioid addiction, where now Vivitrol and Suboxone are. These are opioid blockers. Vivitrol is used once a month after the patient has gone through detox for ten to 14 days. This is administered in the clinic by injection. The goal is to help with cravings.

Suboxone stimulates opioid receptors to reduce cravings and decrease the “high” if drugs are used. It is taken once or twice a day.

The cost of Vivitrol is about \$1,700 a shot. It is covered by medical assistance and it is difficult to get coverage for people without MA. Nurses work with drug companies, get vouchers or PAP programs to help with the cost. There are roughly 30 – 50 people in treatment at a time and many more referrals come in.

Medication alone is not fully treating the problem as almost all of our client’s addictions were a result of trauma. All clients are also in psychotherapy to help them solve life issues.

**There are no reliable statistics on the success of treatment here.** Most Manitowoc clients have been addicts since 13–15 years old with 30- 40% doing pretty well. About 50 percent recover through an ongoing 12-step program. They are working, have a place to live, and can function rather normally. It is hard for most patients to stay motivated because they don’t know what a stable life is, what goals are because they have never had a normal life. The recovery rate among pilots and doctors is high because they have so much to lose. Many addicts have nothing more to lose.

**Business**

**Moving offices:** The offices will move into the old library (formerly Lakeside Packing Co.) as of June 1<sup>st</sup>.

**State grant:** Manitowoc received a grant of more than \$730,000 for opioid addiction services. This is the second largest in the state, only second to Milwaukee. The grant will be used for staff training, testing, and recovery efforts. It can also be used to monitor for sexually transmitted diseases, which are common with intravenous drug users of which Manitowoc has many. The contract was not yet signed at the time of this meeting. Fentanyl is an increasing problem as it is everywhere. It is being added to other street drugs.

**Staff changes:** The board approve the transfer of a facilitator position to administrative assistant to provide front desk coverage at the new facility. Betsy Johnson is the new Deputy Director of the Clinical Services Division. Betsy has been at Human Services for 18 years. She supervises crisis, adult protective services, outpatient, and SUD.

### **Statistics**

- May is Foster Care Month. There are currently 39 foster home and seven respite homes. As of March, 87 children were in foster care, 22 placed with relatives, six in group homes and four in residential care. Seventy-seven parents were receiving support services to keep their children safely at home.
- Just over 8,000 people receive Food Share (SNAP) assistance. F
- There have been 42 mental health hospitalizations as of end of March. That is the same number for all of 2022. Adult protective services cases are up with 127 as of the end of March while there was a total of 122 for all of 2022.

## **Human Services Board Meeting May 25, 2023 Board Room, Jay Street, Manitowoc**

The observer was unable to make this meeting. This report is taken from the minutes.

The meeting was called to order at 4:15 by Board President Jim Brey.

### **Education Topic: Youth Wellness Center**

The Youth Wellness Center was developed in 2011 as an alternative to secure detention. Youth were given days to serve in court, and staff monitored the youth. The program has changed over the years and now offers an array of services. They are located at Clarkbridge Hall, which has some office space, a foosball table and recreation area, basketball hoop, workspace and area to make meals. Youth are either voluntarily attending or referred from court but staff comes up with individualized plans for each child so they can provide them services at the level they are at. Youth are referred for 5, 10, or 15 sessions, based on the reason for the referral or the level of violation being addressed. They focus on skill development,

independent living skills and community engagement. The Youth Tracking Program is usually court ordered to address community safety and may include GPS monitoring. Restorative Justice assists youth in complying with restitution and community service obligations and to increase skill development. Some youth that are too young or with mental health issues are able to get a small wage from working in our community garden that can be used for restitution payments. Intensive Case Management is for high needs kids.

Staff can meet with them 2 – 5 times a week. They focus on accountability, community safety and skill development. They include independent living skills, community engagement, educational support, crisis intervention and focus on family engagement. 2 Take in the Good is a mindfulness program that gives them empowerment to handle stress throughout their everyday lives, in any environment. The goal is not only to give the opportunity to change their perspective on how they can experience stress but to also encourage self- care. We have staff trained in mindfulness. We did a survey a while back and roughly 80% of youth justice kids had Child Protection referral when they were young. So, they work with youth on planning a future, doing regular things in the community they never experienced, teaching them practical things. We have about 110 kids in the programming now, normally about 80 but received 14 new cases this month. Almost all the kids have been meeting their goals. The Kids at Hope philosophy of believing, connecting and time-traveling with youth is utilized in all programming at the YWC. Youth Justice staff believe that all youth are capable of success, no exceptions, and we are lucky to have great workers with lots of different experience working with them.

## **Business**

- A dedicated crisis worker in Clinical during the day replacing a rotation has led to more consistent screening of calls for assistance and fewer placement with more community resources offered.
- The 2022-year end deficit was \$1,609,049 but with the planned fund balance of \$925,546 the actual year end deficit was \$683,503. The fiscal team for collected additional administration costs and the recent grant to brought the deficit down to \$118,282.93. For 2023, the current deficit is \$784,059.
- The State made changes to the Administrative Code last year merging Mental Health and AODA under DHS 75. New under this code is a requirement for Intensive Outpatient (IOP) to become certified. This was applied for in October of 2022. On May 17th the State completed the survey and said Manitowoc was the only county that sent in the correct policies on the first try. They thought we had the perfect space for a self-contained IOP, with a restroom, Narcan and direct access to outside.
- The June education topic will be Narcan training. We have also been working on employee safety.
- As situations are becoming increasingly complex, reports of mass shootings this year being higher than ever, everyone is concerned about staff safety in and out of this building. We have had Ted Hayes come in for two trainings on home visit safety and personal safety. He will be doing a final training on June 14th at the office complex. That day he will also do a walk -through of the Hamilton Street building to assess for safety and will make recommendations. We will continue efforts in this area.

- The department held a Poverty Simulation at the Office Complex. This was facilitated by UW Brown County extension. It is a role-playing simulation where some staff volunteered as local agencies or businesses while the majority of staff were given scenarios and resources than had to figure out how to make it until the end of the month. It was well attended and helps sensitize workers to the challenges people living in poverty face on a daily basis.
- Positions are being filled but two CCS Facilitators, a CSP Case Manager, a Staff Accountant, two Transportation Specialists and a CPS Social Worker are still open positions.

*Submitted by Suzanne Zipperer*