

NORTH CENTRAL COMMUNITY SERVICES PROGRAM EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

October 28, 2021

1:00 p.m.

Wausau Board Room

Present: X Kurt Gibbs X_(phone) Deb Hager X Lance Leonhard
 X Robin Stowe X Cate Wylie

Staff Present: Jill Meschke, Jaime Bracken, Jennifer Peaslee, Tom Boutain, Jarret Nickel, Kim Van Ermen, Bobby Splinter _(phone)

Others Present: Atty. Andy Phillips _(phone), Dejan Adzic, Deputy Corporation Counsel, Mike Puerner, Corporation Counsel _(phone)

Call to Order

- Meeting was called to order at 1:12 p.m. by Chair Gibbs.

Public Comment

- None

Discussion of Organizational Structure Options for NCCSP

- In January 2021, Atty. Phillips was asked to identify recommendations on North Central Health Care's (NCHC) organizational structure after concerns, issues, and breakdowns had been encountered which was followed by the resignation of the CEO in May. Should the NCHC Board have a recommendation to change the structure of NCHC, the three member counties would make the final decision on how they would operate a community department.
- To consider options moving forward, we must understand the history of NCHC and the existence of the Retained County Authority (RCA) and Executive Committee, which are comprised of individuals to speak on behalf of each of the three counties, as well as a governance structure that the three counties and the NCHC Board have a clear understanding of its charge, missions and roles.
- The difference between a community department with a county executive/administrator (Marathon County) and those with a county administrative coordinator (Langlade and Lincoln Counties) was provided. Also, Wisc. Statutes 59.52(7) addresses joint cooperation between counties by entering into an intergovernmental contract to jointly carry out the responsibilities of the jointly maintained agency/department. This sub-chapter was not utilized in the Tri-County Agreement as it is new to the Statutes within the last 10 years.
- The administrator model with a single department of community programs is one that efficiently achieves enhanced accountability, governance, mission, and clarity on roles and responsibilities with the departments. This model identifies the Board as a policy-making board.

- Atty. Phillips has reached out to the Department of Health Services (DHS) for additional clarification on the desire to utilize Chapter 59 to implement the administrator model. Will provide updated after receiving a response.
- Discussion included:
 - Need feedback from DHS on use of Chapter 59 to achieve the features referenced prior to final decision.
 - Any modifications to the tri-county agreement will need to be proposed to the three county boards who are charged under Statutes to make those determinations.
 - Under the Administrator model, the real administrator is the Executive Committee comprised of the three county designees.
 - A process needs to be crafted to take the recommendation to the three county boards, the NCHC Board, and NCHC staff.
 - Mission of NCHC will not change.
 - Who makes decisions and provides direction will be clarified.
- Next steps:
 - Decide on organizational model.
 - Prepare packet of information for each county board including background and why the recommendation is being made.
 - Present to the NCHC Board of Directors the model the Executive Committee is recommending to the three counties and why, make clear that the role of the NCHC Board is in policymaking, and providing strategic direction for and on behalf of the organization.
 - Authorize Atty. Phillips to reach out to the Wisconsin Counties Association and DHS indicating a resolve on the part of three counties looking at the administrator model and if there are any concerns to move forward with the change.
 - Provide information to the NCHC staff i.e., no significant change to mission of NCHC, provide clarity on who makes decisions, and who NCHC takes direction from.
- **Motion**/second, Wylie/Stowe, to adopt the administrator model and reach out to DHS.
 - Following discussion, the motion was restated as follows:
 - The Executive Committee is recommending to the three counties the adoption of the administrator/executive model for NCHC governance and will work to finalize the intergovernmental agreement and bring to each member County Boards in due time, and, authorize Atty. Phillip to reach out to DHS relative to the potential move. Motion carried.

Announcements

- No announcements.

Adjournment

- **Motion**/second, Stowe/Leonhard, to adjourn the Executive Committee meeting at 1:52 p.m. Motion carried.