MINUTES

Human Services and Veterans Services Committee Meeting

Wednesday, July 15, 2026-9:30am

Erlandson Building 1st Floor Conference Room or remote via Microsoft Teams

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1. **Call to Order**
   - Meeting called to order by Scott Champion at 9:30 am.

2. **Affirmation of Proper Public Notice & Disclaimer**
   - Jill Bender stated there was proper public notice.
3. **Attendance**

Committee Members Present: Kay Stanek, Jean Klousia, Kathleen Sullivan, Jody Schroeder, Scott Champion, Greg Lawton

- Committee Members Not able to attend: Patrick Sullivan, Alycann Taylor, David Strudthoff
- Visitors: Charles Jacobson, Tim Hundt-Teams
- Others Present: Jill Bender, Ashley Bean, Brenda Anderson, Brenda Olson, Theresa Berger, Marsha Everson, Crystal Knoll, Crystal Jone-Teams, Nate Torres, Anne Lockyer- Teams

4. **Approve of Minutes: June 17, 2026**
   - Motion made by-Kay Stanek Seconded by-Greg Lawton
5. **Audience to Visitors-none**
6. **Regular Business**

A. Veterans Services

Office Bills - None

Office Numbers – See attached sheet. Active Veterans listed 295, 38 in full completed status, 55 finished on our side for now waiting on VA.

Office Notes

- Cemetery Markers situation and Vote - After speaking with Anne in Finance and Jerry Pedretti we have found a similar solution which will make the process a lot easier but change it only slightly. We have the Care of Graves Account which is run by both the Veterans Office for certain things and Jerry's office for the rest. The Statute that covers the funding is vague as to what constitutes as Care of Graves. Which is why Vernon County a very long time ago decided to use it to purchase the cemetery flags for Veterans graves with it. Jerry and I suggest adding the purchase of the Veteran's graves flag holders to that line item so there would be no need to add a line item to the Veterans' budget. What would only need to be decided is whether or not to cap the purchase per year of the number of markers and to only purchase if the supply of markers is not sufficient. I suggest capping the purchase to 100 per year this and unless we drop below 60 to not order any if the budget money is not utilized it will be returned to the General account at the end of the budget cycle. The only thing that would need approval would be the amount to increase this budget line and from which

account. Finance recommends utilizing Ho-Chunk Funding. At the current rate I can purchase the parkers at 100 for $13 a piece then then adding the cost of shipping. This is $1300 for the 100 markers and at least $100 for freight weight shipping. This is if there is no price change from this current year to the next.

B. Approval of Resolution for Veterans Services Budget Amendment

Motion made to purchase 100 markers in the amount of $1300 for 2026 by Greg Lawton. Seconded by Kathleen Sullivan. Motion Carried.

Motion made to amend prior motion to purchase 100 markers in the amount of $1400 for 2026 using Ho-Chunk Funds by Greg Lawton. Seconded by Jean Klousia. Motion Carried

C. Human Services-Unit and Program Reports

Western Region of Economic Assistance- Director

Bender gave the WREA report.

Total recipients for Vernon County were 5,393, Health Care only was 4,800, Caretaker Supplement Recipients 11. FoodShare Recipients 2,471. FS Benefit Issuance $341,384.00. WI Shares Child Care Families Served 30. WI Shared Child Care Children Served 56. WI Shares Child Care Subsidy Benefit Issuance $47,659.39.

The total number of recipients for the WREA Consortium was 54,842 for the month of June. Health Care only was 48,084 Caretaker Supplement Recipients 151. Health Care with FoodShare was 26,049, WREA FoodShare Benefits issuance was $3,967,137.14. WI Shares Child Care Families Served 362. WI Shared Child Care Children Served 570, and WREA Child Care Subsidy Benefit Issuance totaled $507,510.26.

Clerical/Administration/Energy Assistance- Brenda Anderson

Anderson gave the report.

Clerical/Front Office: Call stats for June total were 722.

Economic Support:

Administration/Salvation Army:

Salvation Army Vouchers for June: Gas 3, Utilities 5.

YTD Salvation Army Vouchers: Gas 4, Rent 4, Lodging 25, Disaster/Fire 1, Food 1, Utilities 25.

Season Stats: Total Households Applied for Energy Assistance: 1,024, Total Households paid for Energy Assistance 896 Total Households paid a Heat Benefit 893, Total Households paid a Non-heating Electric Benefit 888, Total Households paid a Crisis Benefit 155, Total Households paid an HVAC Benefit 67, Total Households paid a Water Conservation Benefit 13.

Child Support- Brook Strangstalien

Bender gave the report.

Performance for June. Caseload: 903; Court ordered performance: 89.92%; Paternity establishment: 103.29%; Current support collection: 82.02%; Arrears collection: 80.45%; Current Child Support Due in Vernon County in June $192,884.98 – CSA Collected $153,102.65.

Family & Children's Services- Theresa Berger

Berger gave the report.

Berger reports there were 7 CPS reports screened in, and 9 reports were screened out. CPS Maltreatment was 2 for physical abuse, 5 for neglect, 1 for sexual abuse, 1 for emotional abuse and 0 for unborn child abuse. Berger reported that there were 12 alleged victims screened in, 14 allegedly screened out. 3 had a same day response, 2 had a response time of 24-48 hours, while 2 were within 5 business. There were 3 screened in-service reports for child welfare and 1 screened out. Screened in by service type Services intake Child Welfare 2 and Kinship 1. For youth referrals there were 0 JIPS referrals, 1 delinquency referrals, and 0 Truancy. Berger reported that there are 27 kids in Foster Care, 24 in Kinship Care, 2 in a Group Home and 3 in Residential Care.

Berger stated there were 8 kids in Targeted Safety Support Funds and 13 in Coordinated Services Team. Berger stated the caseload total was 59. Berger stated that there were 6 total assessments approved in June. 0 assessments were open and 6 assessments were closed.

Long Term Support/Mental Health- Jeri Lynn Lindner

Bender gave the report.

Bender stated that in June: 29 children were receiving services in the Birth to 3 Program, 121 in the Children's Long-Term Support Waiver Program and 47 in the Children's Community Options Program. Bender reported in June: 1 Emergency Detentions, 11 Court Committed consumers, 6 MH Placements, 82 Comprehensive Community Services consumers and 43 Community Support Program consumers. Reported by Bender 123 Adult Protective calls for information and resources, 9 Adult Protective Service investigations, 2 Guardianship referrals and 1 Emergency Protective Placements. There are 3 consumer in AODA Treatment and 73 Protective Placement annual reviews.

Aging and Disability Resource Center of Vernon County

Olson gave the report

The ADRC had 815 telephone calls and 132 walk-ins during the month of June.

The Dementia Care Specialist provides services to one individual and case management to 10 individuals. Teresa had 5 support groups, office hours, and classes. She had 25 participants in her events. Teresa is holding a new Brain Health Club meeting, and this has been well attended.

The Disability Benefit Specialist had 16 new client meetings as well as 16 current client meetings. She has 57 open cases, 26 appeals and 8 new applicants. Lynette had 3 cases approved/won with a combined monthly award of $6,141.78 and a back pay award of $8,943.12. Her monthly financial impact was $383,768.00.

The Elder Benefit Specialist had 27 contacts with clients. Katie had a disability case which was won in the month of June. She had 6 outreach events discussing Medicare throughout the county. Katie's monthly financial impact was $219,472.00.

The transportation program provided 122 1-way rides via the volunteer drivers, 129 from the minibus and 61 by the handicap accessible minivan for a total of 312 1-way rides. There were 5 vouchers provided and financial assistance was provided to an individual for transportation to a medical appointment when we could not accommodate them. The Toyota Siena minivan was delivered on in July. It will still need to be decaled with the ADRC and Vernon County logos.

The nutrition program had 2,557 home delivered meals and 1,231 congregate meals for a total of 3,788 meals in the month of June. The Desoto meal site is temporarily closed, and this closure was approved by the Greater Wisconsin Agency of Aging Resources (GWAAR). The home delivered meals continued uninterrupted during the transition from caterers. Country Chicks started providing the HDM on 7/6/2026. The congregate meal site location will likely still be in Desoto but the contract with them has yet to be completed. They indicated that they will not charge for the usage of the building so we can use this as an in-kind match for funding purposes. There are some items that will need to be purchased before the reopening of the congregate site. There is also an open position for the Desoto congregate meal site manager. Ashley also had 6 SFMNP outreach events to handout vouchers to eligible participants.

The social workers had 95 new intakes and referrals during the month of June. They had 48 face to face visits, 16 long term care functional screens were administered, assistance with 9 Medicaid applications, 8 LTC enrollments, as well as 3 disenrollments. Beth and Tracy visited 8 different communities and visited 6 facilities.

Brenda Olson, Unit Manager

Financial- Marsha Everson

Everson gave the report.

2026 Everson presented the Fund 80 at 47.86%, Aging Programs are at 43.87%, ADRC 47.91%, Mental Health Court Committed at 34.52% and State Mental Health Facilities are at 26.91%.

D. Human Services- General Report

Review Human Services Voucher/Internal Transfers

Bender presented Internal Transfers in the total amount of $52.32. Bender reviewed department expenses with the committee. Questions on vouchers were answered. The monthly vouchers for Human Services for the month of May $563,949.73.

Review Human Services Service Contracts and Amendments

Bender presented 2026 Purchases of Services Contracts for F&C submitted for July. Total amount of $165,575.

Human Services Director's Report, Updates, and Announcements

Bender discussed changes with the WHEAP program. Bender discussed changes with high cost placements. Bender informed the committee about the current budget process and development for the 2027 budget.

E. Approval of Human Services Department Policies – none.

7. Agenda Items for Next Meeting

- Veterans Services Budget Breakdown

8. Confirm Next Meeting Date

- Scheduled for August 19, 2026

9. Adjourn

- Motion made by-Kathleen Sullivan Seconded by-Greg Lawton

Submitted by,
Ashley Bean
Administrative Assistant