

Sheboygan County Health and Human Services Department 2016 Annual Report

Mission Statement and Summary of Responsibilities

To improve the quality of life and self-sufficiency of Sheboygan County residents...

The Sheboygan County Health and Human Services Department is the County's comprehensive health and human service planning and delivery agency organized under Chapter 46 of the Wisconsin Statutes. It provides information and assistance to a diverse consumer base including individuals facing economic crises, health risks, challenges to child, youth and family wellness, life changes associated with aging, and other needs.

Goals and Objectives Achieved in 2016

2016 marked a year of continued challenge and growth for the Department. Through the contributions of staff, contracted partners, and the Health and Human Services Committee, significant objectives were achieved during the year.

- The Department was approved as a participant in the Wisconsin Trauma Project in partnership with the Wisconsin Department of Children and Families. Staff member Katy Pruitt was installed as Trauma Informed Coordinator. Over the year, more than 700 law enforcement, court personnel and community stakeholders were trained on the impacts trauma can have on human growth and development, and a foundation for continuous quality improvement in the years ahead was laid.
- Outpatient Services Supervisor, Jody Gallaway, launched a drug and alcohol treatment court with the assistance and leadership of Judge Edward Stengel and multiple community partners. Through it, county residents struggling with addictions but motivated to change will now have the opportunity to regain their lives, families, and livelihoods in lieu of incarceration.
- A regional Child Advocacy Center (CAC) was created in collaboration with Washington and Ozaukee Counties. The CAC will allow child victims of egregious crimes to benefit from a child-sensitive, coordinated investigative approach rather than facing multiple inquiries and exams from law enforcement, health care, and child protection personnel.
- Public Health nursing staff teamed with the Department's Child and Family Services Division to promote improved integration of care and positive health outcomes for children and families involved in child protection and juvenile justice services.
- An onsite security presence directed at improving workplace safety was made possible with the assistance of the Sheriff's Department. Deputized personnel are now deployed

in the Department's main office location, assuring order and promoting positive community relations.

- Plans for inpatient service coordination and post-hospitalization follow-up care for children and youth having experienced psychiatric emergencies and their families were introduced with further development slated for 2017. The effort was made possible through the collaboration of Public Health, Behavioral Health, and Child and Family staff members.
- Phase three of the Department's remodeling project, establishing a more visible and accessible location for administrative offices, was completed. The work complements the construction of a new lobby, meeting room and billing office completed in 2015.
- A dementia care specialist was hired to work with the Department's Aging and Disability Resource Center and Elder Programs. The position will support caregivers and help prepare the community for the aging of the baby boom population in the years ahead.
- The Department's environmental health personnel were prepped for the assumption of the Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP) licensing responsibilities for retail food establishments. The change was brought about as a result of the 2015-17 State biennial budget.

Budget

The Department's 2016 budget was set at \$33,285,210 for the year and later amended to \$33,593,861 to allow for adjustments to state and federal grant awards that were unknown at budget time. The spending plan reflected an increase of just over \$1 million as compared to 2015. Included in the increase was the transition of Medicaid reimbursement associated with the State's Comprehensive Community Services Program from 60 to 100 percent, the creation of a Behavioral Health Manager position, and the reallocation of a secretarial position to provide an administrative assistant to the department. Levy contributions accounted for \$13,440,802 or approximately 40% of total for an increase of \$145,593 over the prior year.

The Department is projecting a \$779,342 positive variance, or approximately two percent, once all entries for the year are closed. While the Department has enjoyed a record of positive variance for several consecutive years, the 2016 experience was lower than prior years. A primary contributing factor included budgeting for staff wages and benefits at 96.5% of capacity in order to allow for turnover and lags in refilling positions while actual cost was closer to 98.5%. Fluctuations in the purchase of services also contributed as increased numbers of children required placement in foster care due to parental drug abuse among other factors and

placements of youth in high-cost residential care settings were made in lieu of state correctional settings. Facilities at Lincoln Hills and Copper Lake Schools have been the focus of state and federal investigation for over a year due to allegations of mistreatment there.

Issues and Challenges Ahead

A trend involving heroin, opiate abuse, and complex mental health disorders noted in 2015 continued through 2016 and is expected to extend into the new-year. The Department's out of home placement rate for children in foster care was exacerbated by it. Placements were up by 24 percent over the prior year and by 159 percent since 2010. Many involved children are being born addicted. Crime, family deterioration and other health risks are all associated with the epidemic.

Complicating the scenario will be likely shifts in health insurance availability as a repeal of the Affordable Care Act (ACA) appears imminent at the federal level. Within the plan, current indicators suggest that the Medicaid program, long a federal-state entitlement, will be reformulated into a block grant. Through that potential approach, federal financial participation will be capped while states are given greater flexibility to design their own coverage. It will remain to be seen what options may exist for individuals currently covered though it would appear likely that greater pressure will be placed on the County and its safety net services should the measure materialize.

Less imminent will be the aging of our population. County residents age 65 and older as a percentage of the demographic are projected to grow from approximately 15 percent today to just over 26 percent by 2040. Concurrent with that trend will be increasing demands on health care, transportation, housing, and consumerism while supply-side resources in the form of insurance, Social Security, and other long term supports will struggle to keep pace.

Goals and Objectives for 2017

The Department's focus for the coming year will be directed in response to its recent experience, community feedback, and need.

- The Department's commitment to improving its understanding of and practice related to trauma will continue. A minimum of three additional mental health therapists, whether department employed or community partners, will be targeted to be trained in related evidence based practices.

- Opioid detox services will be established under phase two of the Department's drug and alcohol treatment court initiative. Addicted parents involved in child protective matters with children placed in foster care will be given priority access to services.
- An integrated team of nursing, mental health and social work personnel will be formed to team with staff serving addicted parents as well as children in or at risk out of home care. An interdisciplinary approach is deemed necessary in order to address the associated complex needs of the involved families and to promote family reunification.
- The Department will support the addition of personnel in the District Attorney's Office so that children unable to return to their birth families can move more rapidly to permanency through the filing of necessary petitions. Under-staffing in the DA's Office in recent years has contributed to a backlog of children awaiting adoption.
- The Department's Community Support Program, serving persons with the most severe and persistent mental illness will be reinstated in response to stakeholder request. Program certification was previously allowed to lapse at the end of 2015 in favor of higher reimbursement program models.
- A pilot youth and family mentoring program will be established in partnership with Sheboygan South High School. The effort will target at-risk students whose families have moved to the area from larger metropolitan areas in search of jobs and an improved quality of life.
- Orientation, training, and support for Department staff will be enhanced in an effort to prepare for the challenges ahead and to preserve morale.

Thanks are owed to the Department's workforce for their tremendous contributions throughout the year and to the County Board for its understanding and support of the role they play. We look forward to being of continued service in 2017.