

SAWYER
COUNTY

Administration— Ms. Lyons reported that HHS staff is busy due to staffing vacancies; current areas of focus include changing placements, creating a central referral process, and billing processes.

Ms. Pearson announced her retirement from the HHS board; her resignation was accepted and the position will be filled by the County Administrator and confirmed by the County Board per the HHS Board Bylaws.

Ms. Lyons presented a proposed HHS fee schedule for 2026 and requested increases in OWI assessments and the Driver Safety Plan, changed some wording, and implemented a Home Study for Adoption Fee.

Motion to approve the proposed changes to the 2026 HHS fee schedule for recommendation to the County Board by: Mr. Savitski Second by: Mr. Shuman
Motion carried without negative vote.

Aging and Disability Resource Center (ADRC)—

Ms. Lyons updated the committee on Adult Protective Services; the county has had 2 recent Ch. 55 commitments related to mental health, Alzheimer's and dementia which present complex challenges for resources and placement arrangements within statutory deadlines.

Ms. Lyons stated a closer dementia crisis center is needed for northern counties and should be a goal of strategic planning.

Behavioral Health—

Ms. Carlson reviewed a written report and updated the committee on OWI assessments, CLTS, CST and CCS referrals and staffing challenges. Caitlyn Myren has agreed to provide CCS psychotherapy along with Hailey Sands, and the department is looking to hire a part-time mental health clinician to complete the staff. CCS provides wrap-around services for medical assistance clients and is 100% funded; it is a potential revenue source for the department.

Ms. Myren reviewed the Community Support and Mobile Crisis report: there was a dramatic increase in calls in August with 20 consult calls, 10 assessments completed; 47 CSP clients participated in August.

Mental Health monthly expenses were reviewed.

The Mental Health cost by client report was reviewed; out of county placements continue to be an expense concern for the county with a projected expense of \$813, 676.25 for four clients.

Children, Youth & Family Services—

Ms. Lyons presented the out of home care report; there was an increase in foster care cases in August. Youth Justice has 26 open cases with 8 referrals in August. Ms. Inczauskis presented positive numbers on truancy referral cases, indicating that Diversion program efforts are working: 15 kids are at 100% attendance so far this school year. Grant funded incentive programs recognize students and parents for success in the program.

On November 12 there will be a four hour presentation by Tall Cop on dangerous substances found in gas stations and dispensaries that our local youth have access to; some of these are similar to opioids.

The Children in Care report was provided.

Economic Support—

Ms. White presented the Northern Income Maintenance Consortium report.

Ms. Lyons provided a written report on the impact of the Federal Budget Reconciliation Bill on Wisconsinites.

Public Health--

Ms. McCallum provided a written report and stated that Clean Sweep had a large amount of electronics, sharps and medications turned in. The program is annual and this was the first year a grant was received for the electronics collection.

Fiscal—

Ms. Lyons reviewed the September budget reports.

Board Appointed Committee Updates— None

Correspondence, Reports from Conferences and Meetings-- Mr. Markgren commented on sessions at the WCA conference on the need for mental health facilities in the state.

Future Agenda Items— None

Meeting Date/Time – The next meeting of the Health and Human Services Board will be **Monday, November 3,** at 6:30 pm in the Board Room.

Meeting adjourned at 7:53 pm

Minutes recorded by Liz Klein, County Clerk