



HearthStone of Wisconsin, Inc. PO Box 1444, Sheboygan WI 53082-1444  
www.hearthstonewi.org

**August 2006**

**IT'S TIME TO ADVOCATE**

Tight budgets. Cuts in services? What you can do about it.

**Show up. Speak up. Don't give up.**

Just four years ago when the Sheboygan County Board was asking Health & Human Services to cut over \$900,000 from their budget and it was clear that much needed services were threatened, almost 300 of us showed up at the Health & Human Services Budget Hearings. Our family members who rely on community support services spoke up and demonstrated how much they depend on those services and how successful the programs are at keeping people independent in the community.

This led to the County Board not only eliminating the cuts but also eventually adding another \$300,000 to help reduce the "Waiting Lists". Again in 2004 we were successful in adding another \$200,000 against the "Waiting Lists".

Have we become complacent? I hope not, but the turnouts at the Health & Human Services Budget Hearings in June were simply not what we need to make our voices heard. We **MUST** let our elected officials know we **NEED** these services and that we need to support the **PEOPLE** who rely on

them. We need to let them know this should be a **PRIORITY**. **We must speak out at the County Board Budget Hearing.**

**OCTOBER 31, 2006**

**at 6:00pm**

**Sheboygan County Courthouse – 5<sup>th</sup> Floor**

Please call 451-3179 and leave a message to let us know if you will speak and we will sign you up (You have to register – so please leave your name and address when you call). We need several participants and family members. Call now.

Please contact your County Board Supervisor directly as well. Find yours at: [www.co.sheboygan.wi.us/html/cntybrd\\_mem.htm](http://www.co.sheboygan.wi.us/html/cntybrd_mem.htm)

See you there.

Jon Rost,  
President, HearthStone of Wisconsin

**WEBSITE HAS A NEW LOOK**

Take a look at the redesigned HearthStone website at [www.hearthstonewi.org](http://www.hearthstonewi.org). The newsletter is going to be available on the website. If you would like to receive your HearthStone newsletter by email rather than postal mail, please send your email address to us at [info@hearthstonewi.org](mailto:info@hearthstonewi.org). Thank you!

## **SHEBOYGAN COUNTY HHS BUDGET**

By Frank Sterzen

For several weeks the Sheboygan County Health & Human Services Department has been preparing their 2007 budget. Because of the very expensive and unpredictable expenditures for things such as placements in the Mendota mental health facility, the Department must make some adjustments in staffing and services in non-critical areas in order to balance their budget.

While it is essential that the cost of county government be kept within reasonable limits, an effective budget process is as much about priorities as it is about total spending. Just as we must analyze the need and criticality of each area of our personal spending and allocate funds accordingly, so must government. I believe that our County Board and HHS Dept. have, in fact, made DD services one of their priorities.

With that in mind, I would like to share some information with all of you. The table below contains data on 10 key factors related to our DD population that should be considered by the County Board when determining the allocation of funds. This information was obtained from the Wisconsin Council on Developmental Disabilities using State of Wisconsin Dept. of Health and Family Services data from June of 2005 as its source. It shows where Sheboygan County ranks among the other 67 counties for which data were available. While these factors are not to be taken as absolutes, they are an indicator of our relative strengths and potential areas for improvement and should be investigated further. For example, the cost per child served in Birth-to-Three is low compared to other counties. The quality of the services must be evaluated to determine whether the program is exceptionally cost effective or

under funded. This is the responsibility of the members of the Health and Human Service Committee.

As advocates, it is our responsibility to discuss this information with our County Supervisors, to understand the budget constraints and difficult decisions they must make, to thank them for corrective actions being taken, and to express our concerns for those that are not. We are fortunate to have a county board that has been very supportive of improving DD services in recent years. I urge you to contact them, discuss the issues, and ask for their continued support in our quest to attain the best, most cost effective DD services in the State.

### **2005 Sheboygan County Developmental Disabilities Data**

<b><u>Data Element</u></b>	<b><u>Sheboygan</u></b>	<b><u>Rank</u></b>
Developmental Disabilities budget \$'s per capita	\$ 96	<b>46</b> of 64
Number of children served in Birth-to-Three program	266	<b>15</b> of 68*
Birth-to-Three average cost per child served	\$ 2,135	<b>54</b> of 68
Number of Children's Waivers participants w/DD	20	<b>46</b> of 68*
Number waiting for Family Support program	9	<b>9</b> of 68*
CIP 1A, CIP 1B, & Brain Injury waiver participants	262	<b>45</b> of 64*
CIP 1B average cost per day	\$6,407,451	<b>26</b> of 64
Number waiting for Long-term Support services	62	<b>33</b> of 68*
Number of State DD Center residents	9	<b>39</b> of 68*
Number of other ICF/MR & SNF residents	39	<b>54</b> of 68*

\* Rank calculated on number per 10,000 population.

**FAMILY CARE  
EDUCATION SESSION**

By SueAnn Schuh

Are you wondering how Family Care is going to effect you? All of Wisconsin is moving towards "Family Care" for Health and Human Service support. The last several years Family Care has been tested in five counties and the Wisconsin legislature has decided to expand it to all of Wisconsin. One of the test counties was Fond du Lac.

HearthStone has invited the following people to a panel discussion on Family Care. They will share their experience with the Family Care pilot programs and shed some light on what Sheboygan County can expect.

Creative Care Options, Fond du Lac County  
Lori Knapp, Inc., Provider  
Wisconsin ARC, Advocate  
Arc of Fond du Lac, Advocate  
State of Wisconsin Division of Disability & Elderly Services

Plan on joining us to learn more about and ask questions about Family Care.

**Tuesday, September 26<sup>th</sup>  
6:00-7:30pm  
at  
Mead Public Library  
in the Rocca room**

**THERE IS HOPE**

The "There Is Hope" Suicide Prevention and Awareness Walk will take place on **Saturday, September 23<sup>rd</sup>**, starting at the Odyssey Fun Center in Sheboygan Falls at 10:00am. Registration fee is \$25. For more information, contact Kristi Luecke at (920)467-2518.

**SHIPS AHOY!**

HearthStone sponsored a picnic and boat ride on Elkhart Lake on August 12<sup>th</sup>. We had 21 people show up on a beautiful Saturday afternoon for a picnic lunch at the park. Then we all headed over to the launch site for an hour long pontoon boat tour of Elkhart Lake. Lots of photos and a video were taken so look for them on the website.

Everyone had such a good time that we would like to make this an annual event. Hope to see more of you next year.

**HEARTHSTONE RESPITE CARE  
PROJECT OF SHEBOYGAN COUNTY**

By Ray Cary

A collaborative effort of Hearthstone, Family Resource Center of Sheboygan County, and Sheboygan County Health and Human Services resulted in a respite cost reimbursement program for families with developmentally disabled members. The program was initiated in 2004.

It is our hope that we can positively support your family by helping to provide a much needed break. Applications may be done over the phone. An interview is completed and eligibility is determined. Simply call the Family Resource Center in Sheboygan at (920)208-6266; or in Plymouth at (920)892-6706.

The program has been in operation for approximately 1.5 years. At present, the caseload is 32 families. These are families who have a respite need, unavailability of other programs, or have used up an annual allocation. HearthStone and its partners hope to support in as many ways as possible the developmentally disabled community. Call today for more information.

**AGING AND DISABILITY  
RESOURCE CENTER  
OF SHEBOYGAN COUNTY**

By Milda Zuengler

The *Aging and Disability Resource Center of Sheboygan County* is a “one stop” resource for information and assistance for the elderly and adults with developmental or physical disabilities.

Services provided include:

- Information and Assistance
- Long Term Care Options Counseling
- Benefits Counseling
- Caregiver Support
- Adult Protective Services
- Elder Abuse

Our office is located on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor of the Sheboygan County Health and Human Services Annex Building, 821 North 8<sup>th</sup> Street, Sheboygan, WI 53081. You can also reach this office by calling (920) 459-3095.



Have  
a safe  
and  
happy  
Labor  
Day!

Contact your editor, Vicky Long, with your information for the next *HearthStone* newsletter. (920)458-8261 ext. 1384.

Contact the webmaster at [info@hearthstonewi.org](mailto:info@hearthstonewi.org) with any corrections or suggestions regarding our website or to sign up to receive the newsletter via email.

**ELECTION SUPPORT LINE**

Disability Rights Wisconsin has set up a toll-free Election Support Line for people with disabilities. This Support Line is staffed Monday through Friday from 8:30 am to 5:00 pm. The Support Line will be open while the polls are open on Election Day. The Support Line will allow you to register your voting complaint or get voting information. The Support Line is:

**1-800-928-8778 (voice) or**

**1-888-758-6049 (TTY)**

- If you have general questions about the voting process, call the Support Line.
- If you need information about absentee ballots, call the Support Line.
- If the polling place is inaccessible for any reason, call the Support Line.
- If poll workers refuse to allow you to vote for any reason, call the Support Line.
- If you experience poll worker insensitivity or discrimination in the voting process, call the Support Line.
- If your polling place runs out of ballots or has an incorrect ballot, call the Support Line.
- If there is a late opening or early closing of a polling place, call the Support Line.

When you call the Support Line to register a complaint, be prepared to give your name, address, telephone number, disability, and note as many details as possible, including the names of the people who are involved.