

**Rock County Supervisor District 26—responses to League of Women Voters - Janesville questions.
Spring Election – April 3, 2018
Candidates: Vicki Brown, Dave Homan**

#1. What are your views on the county’s responsibility toward at risk children and youth, particularly those in foster care and juvenile justice facilities?

Vicki Brown: State Statute requires Rock County to provide child welfare services for at risk children and youth. Given the increasing caseloads, I fully support the Wisconsin Counties Association, (WCA), position that the state needs to increase funding for services provided to children and families.

State statutes also require county government to operate and fund the juvenile justice system. I support allowing 17-year-old first time, non-violent juvenile offenders to be brought back to the juvenile justice system, versus the adult state corrections system. Having said that, I again firmly support the WCA position that the state must increase funding to the juvenile justice system and must fully fund this needed change.

Dave Homan: I feel the county is responsible for supporting and funding programs that involve early intervention and alternative options with families. This involves partnerships with Human Services and many other agencies such as State, Federal and local schools. As a current County Board Supervisor, I have voted to approve the Human Services Budget that is currently funding such programs as:

- Aggression Replacement Training (A.R.T.) – is a multimodal intervention design to alter the behavior of chronically aggressive youth. It consists of skill streaming, designed to teach a broad curriculum of prosocial behavior, anger control training and a method for empowering youth to modify their own anger responsiveness and moral reasoning training to help motivate youth to employ the skills learned.
- Community Service – open to all youth currently on supervision. Community service sites are located throughout Rock County.
- Developing & Inspiring Values Among Sisters (DIVAS) – This group meets weekly to inspire teenage girls to see themselves for who they really are focusing on the physical, sexual, intellectual, relational, emotional, spiritual and cultural aspects of their development.
- Evening Report – is for youth ages 11-17, who violate their court order while on supervision. This alternative action targets youth who violate by committing a status offense or first time/low level drug offense.
- Nurturing and Essential Skills Training (NEST) – NEST is designed to support families currently experiencing or are at risk of a child being removed from the home as well as court system involvement due to family functioning.

#2. What is the County’s role in supporting evidence based policies and practices in treating mentally ill and /or addicted individuals and their families?

Homan: The County should be requiring initiatives that utilizes data to make decision in programs that help individuals and their families in proactive verses a reactive method. I approved funding and initiatives for these types of programs. Human and Court Services are using evidence based data to drive decision in developing alternate programs. Rock County is 1 of 7 counties that has an Evidence-Based Decision Making (EBDM) Program for our Criminal Justice system. The EBDM policy team was formed as an ad hoc committee to specifically focus on the EBDM initiative. Collaboratively, using data and research, the committee intensively analyzed the justice system at each

decision point. It continues to provide oversight of the development and implementation of the specific change targets arising from this process.

Rock County's harm reduction goals include:

- Enhance Public Safety, as evidenced by a 20% reduction in recidivism for low and medium risk offenders and a 10% reduction in recidivism for high risk offenders as measured by no new convictions three years after disposition of their criminal case by 2020.
- Allocate Resources Effectively, as evidenced by an 80% pretrial court appearance rate, 10% reduction in jail bed days, 80% pretrial release success rate, 50% increase in enrollment in diversion programs, and 90% of low risk defendants released pending case disposition by 2020.
- Promote Fairness, as evidenced by historically disadvantaged populations completing diversionary programs in equal proportion to others by 2018 and a 25% decrease in disproportionate minority population in the Rock County Jail by 2020.

Brown: Rock County has established a firm foundation in this area, being one of eight counties with an Evidence Based Decision Making Ad Hoc Committee, already several years old. Rock County's District Attorney is the chair of the statewide team, and as such, Rock County's role should be front and center in both policies and practices in this state and our nation. Our treatment courts, (OWI Court, Drug Court, and Veterans Court, which includes drug and mental health treatment), need to continue to improve and be an option.

Bullock: The county has a duty and a responsibility to its citizens to support the very best programming available that is anchored in evidence-based, best practices. The county also must be mindful that especially when dealing with mental illness and addictions, individual and family uniqueness must be taken into account as well. There isn't a one-size-fits-all solution and trauma-informed practices reinforce this concept. Investment in staff training and partnerships throughout the community are keys to addressing this very serious issue that will be with us for decades to come. The county continues to make progress in the area of treating consumers with a dual diagnosis that increasingly impacts our approach to assisting a successful recovery for those with addictions and mental illness.

#3. What do you perceive is the Board of Supervisors' role in encouraging community development that is welcoming to entrepreneurs of all races, religions, genders, sexual orientations, and ethnic backgrounds?

Bullock: Rock County Board of Supervisors has an opportunity to influence a welcoming climate both individually, as a governing body, and as a regional community partner in private and public collaborative efforts. The board can do this by implementing policies that promote diversity, empowerment, equity, and inclusiveness. The board can commit to a socially just vision for the community. There is an opportunity to show real leadership in developing and nurturing partnerships with those organizations that promote and implement the above policies throughout Rock County.

Homan: The County Board Staff are responsible for all county policies. They approve and/or recommend changes. Rock County does not and will not discriminate on the basis of protected status as defined by State or Federal law, and Rock County Personnel Ordinance 18.102(B4).

Rock County Entrepreneurial Business Development (RCEBD) program is a regional resource that assists start-ups and small businesses located in Rock County welcoming all. This program assists in small business ownership transition as well as customer & Market Diversification. As a current County Board Supervisor I have approved funding to support the County Administrators initiative to foster a culture of inclusion. The diversity work group has been developed to work on how we as a county can do better. It also encourages all

people to feel welcomed. I feel it is one thing to say we will not discriminate but it is more important to live it and make all feel welcomed.

I have always, and will continue to, support all entrepreneurs in their endeavors of law abiding and moral efforts to succeed in our community.

Brown: The County Board exercises policy supervision of County activities, and as such, the policies of our Economic Development team within the Planning, Economic & Community Development Agency should be welcoming to all businesses regardless of race, religion, gender, sexual orientation and ethnic backgrounds. Equity is the lens through which decisions should be made.