

Marathon County Social Services Board Minutes
Wednesday, June 17, 2020, 4:00 p.m.

| Attendance: | Present | Absent |
|--------------------|----------------|---------------|
| Julie Bollmann | X | |
| William Harris | X | |
| Christy Keele | X | |
| Romey Wagner | X | |
| Yee Leng Xiong | X | |

Board members Bollmann and Xiong attended the meeting virtually via WebEx.

Also Present: Vicki Tylka, Amber Tomaszewski

1. Pending the election of a new board chair, Social Services Director Vicki Tylka called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.
2. Introductions of Social Service Board Members – Social Service Board members and staff present at the meeting introduced themselves.
3. Policy Issues for Discussion and Item for Action
 - a. Election of Social Services Board Chair and Vice Chair

WAGNER MOVED, HARRIS SECONDED, TO ELECT THE FOLLOWING SLATE OF OFFICERS:

- **Board Chair – Christy Keele**
- **Board Vice Chair – Yee Leng Xiong**

VOICE VOTE REVEALED ALL IN FAVOR AND NONE OPPOSED. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Newly elected Board Chair Keele took over as chair of the meeting.

4. Public Comment Portion of the Agenda has been Temporarily Suspended
5. Approve Minutes from March 10, 2020, Meeting

A point of order was raised: Because of the turnover of board members in April 2020, there were not two board members present at the June 17, 2020, meeting who were also present at the March 10, 2020, meeting. Board Chair Keele temporarily relinquished the chair to Vice Chair Xiong for this agenda item.

Action: Minutes Approved

KEELE MOVED, WAGNER SECONDED BY APPROVAL OF THE OTHER MEMBERS, TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF MARCH 10, 2020. VOICE VOTE REVEALED ALL IN FAVOR AND NONE OPPOSED. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Vice Chair Xiong relinquished the chair back to Board Chair Keele.

The board members agreed by unanimous consent to hear the educational presentation for Agenda Item 6.b. Community Response Program Performance outcomes first, before Item 6.a.

6. Educational Presentations

- a. Department's COVID-19 response plan: impacts to programs, customers, staff and resources

Customers/Community

- Shift to phone and electronic contact – educating the public and our clients
- Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) protocol in building, employees required to wear masks during meetings with walk-in customers.
- Signage, website

Staff

- PPE protocol – health department helped us develop protocol to use when social workers have to go into a client's home.

The Wisconsin Department of Children and Families (DCF) was very clear with us about non-essential visits. Allowed more flexibility in terms of virtual visits/phone call visits. We increased the frequency of virtual visits. This was very well received by families.

- Maximize virtual visits and social distancing
- Work from Home, 60-70% of staff, monitoring performance. Most are not working full-time/100 percent from home. Seeing numerous cases of employees' performance improving while working from home.
- Secondary Traumatic Stress (STS) committee still meets by WebEx. They've given lots of information that's been supportive to employees.

Services and Programs

- Decrease in Child Protective Services (CPS) reports, but increase in serious ones
- Economic Support (ES)- some rules were relaxed (Health Care can't be terminated, less verifications required at the current time)
 - Increase in FoodShare applications in April, modest increase in Health Services applications, now things are evening out
- Child Support Grant – accommodations needed to be made, issues with enrolling participants – will have a status report in the fall

- b. Community Response Program: Performance outcomes

Amber Tomaszewski, Community Response Program social worker, presented program performance outcomes to the board. This is the one program we run that is not mandated. We started in 2008 with a grant and found it to be successful and carried through long-term data to show the success of the program. Both the Social Service Board and County Board have always voted to support the community response program based on the good outcomes we've had from the program, including some families we've been able to divert from the child welfare system. The program is 100 percent levy funded.

Community Response is based in Child Protective Services. These are families somebody

had a concern about, but they don't rise to the level for us to complete an investigation. Amber is a resource hub and an advocate for the families she works with. Amber reviewed program statistics with the board. Participation rate is 63% compared against state participation rate of 54%.

Staff answered board members' questions about the program. The board members thanked Amber for the great update.

7. Announcements and possible items for next agenda

a. Location of upcoming Social Service Board meetings

Vicki Tylka recommended looking for an alternative location because of the upcoming excavation work that will be done in the Social Services parking lot. Our parking lot capacity will be significantly diminished from June to November 2020. Two options recommended for consideration were the courthouse assembly room or a room at River Drive. Romey Wagner offered the use of his business facility if needed.

b. Future agenda items include:

- i. Budget education, overview - July
- ii. Family First Prevention Services Act (FFPSA)
- iii. Department of Social Services (DSS) midyear work plan updates
- iv. Youth Justice Diversion Programs
- v. Presentation of DSS Budget – August
- vi. Child Support Year End Performance and Grant update
- vii. Monthly COVID-19 updates

8. Adjournment

There being no further items to be discussed **HARRIS MOVED, WAGNER SECONDED, TO ADJOURN MEETING. VOICE VOTE REVEALED ALL IN FAVOR AND NONE OPPOSED. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Meeting adjourned at 5:12 p.m.