

**Marathon County Social Services Board Minutes
Wednesday, August 18, 2021, 4:00 p.m.**

Attendance:	Present	Absent
Julie Bollmann	X	
Allen Drabek	X	
William Harris	X	
Christy Keele	X	
Yee Leng Xiong	X	

Board members Bollmann and Keele, and Supervisors Harris and Xiong, attended the meeting virtually via WebEx. Supervisor Drabek attended in person at River Drive.

Board member Bollmann joined the meeting at 4:09 p.m. and left the meeting at 4:56 p.m.

Also Present: Vicki Tylka, Christa Jensen, Coleen Krasowski

1. Meeting called to Order by Chair Christy Keele at 4:01 p.m.
2. Welcome and Introductions – Vicki Tylka introduced staff who presented and responded to questions during the meeting.
3. Public Comment – There was no public in attendance and, therefore, no public comment.
4. Approve minutes from July 29, 2021, meetings

Action: Minutes approved

XIONG MOVED, HARRIS SECONDED, TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF JULY 29, 2021. VOICE VOTE REVEALED ALL IN FAVOR AND NONE OPPOSED. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

5. Educational Presentations
 - A. Racial Disparity in the Child Welfare system – local data and comparisons – Vicki Tylka walked through the presentation and highlighted the key data points after which she discussed next steps: What do we do with the data? Consultation with the Wisconsin Department of Children and Families (DCF). What is systemic vs. what is in our control? DCF’s main strategy is looking at current policies and making sure they are adjusted for differences and that their policies are not going to be inadvertently diminishing one race over another in terms of opportunities for services available and involuntary actions based on statutes, rules, etc. DCF is doing an internal evaluation of their programs and ones that may not have been structured in a way to be equitable. We were encouraged not to go back to complete a record review and instead focus on going forward for better results. Initial strategies the DSS is evaluating: Utilizing parts of this data in mandated reporter training, refraining from using case names that might identify race in case consultation; additional dialog with social workers and supporting individual learning about intrinsic bias, and opportunities for more cultural awareness that can impact our practice. There may also be opportunities to collaborate with the Hmong community to

support families at earlier stages of involvement with CPS, or as a diversion from the system.

Supervisor Harris recommended focusing on how we will measure progress moving forward and training in terms of diversity with both new and existing staff.

Board Chair Keele asked about Milwaukee being included in the state data. Yes, Milwaukee is included in state data. Board Chair Keele also asked if there are other states that are ahead of us in the process. There are none that we are aware of.

- B. General overview of the Department of Social Services budget – expenses and revenues – Coleen Krasowski, financial services supervisor, presented a general overview of the Department of Social Services budget to the board.

Supervisor Xiong asked about the federal match and how that works. In the Child Support program, we receive a 66 percent federal match on every dollar spent. In the Economic Support program, we receive a 50 percent federal match on every dollar spent.

- C. 2021 DSS Work Plan – progress report – Vicki Tylka provided the board a progress report on the 2021 work plan. Board Chair Keele acknowledged great progress that has been made on many of the work plan items.

6. Items for Discussion and Possible Action

- A. Consideration of Social Services Board returning to in-person meetings again at some point - Supervisor Xiong shared that the county board has started to discuss allowing virtual option again because of rise in COVID due to the Delta variant. Based on this information, the board members present agreed that we should monitor the factors and bring this item back at an appropriate time in the future.

- B. Scheduling a tour of the current Department of Social Services facility for interested board members – Based on the outcome of the above discussion, the board members present agreed that individual board members may contact staff to request an individual tour. The full board will hold off on a group tour until we're in a better place with COVID levels.

- 7. Announcements and possible items for next agenda – There were no announcements. The September meeting agenda will be full with the budget discussion.

8. Adjournment

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

Meeting adjourned at 5:21 p.m.