

Marathon County Social Services Board Minutes
Wednesday, May 18, 2022, 4:00 p.m.

Attendance:	Present	Absent
Julie Bollmann	X	
Allen Drabek	X	
Kody Hart	X	
Christy Keele	X	
Yee Leng Xiong	X	

Supervisor Xiong attended the meeting virtually via WebEx. All other board members attended the meeting in person.

Staff Present: Vicki Tylka

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 Services Board Members

Social Services Board members and staff present at the meeting introduced themselves and welcomed Supervisor Hart to the Board.

3. Policy Issues for Discussion and Item for Action

- A. Election of Social Services Board Chair and Vice Chair

Action: Social Services Board Chair elected

Vicki Tylka shared with the board that Christy Keele expressed interest in continuing as Social Services Board Chair for this term.

XIONG MOVED, DRABEK SECONDED, TO ELECT CHRISTY KEELE AS SOCIAL SERVICES BOARD CHAIR FOR THE 2022 TO 2024 TERM. VOICE VOTE REVEALED FIVE IN FAVOR AND ZERO OPPOSED. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

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

Action: Social Services Board Vice Chair elected

HART MOVED, DRABEK SECONDED, TO ELECT YEE LENG XIONG AS SOCIAL SERVICES BOARD VICE CHAIR FOR THE 2022 TO 2024 TERM. VOICE VOTE REVEALED FIVE IN FAVOR AND ZERO OPPOSED. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

4. Public Comment – There was no public comment.
5. Approval of the February 16, 2022, Meeting Minutes.

Action: Minutes approved

DRABEK MOVED, BOLLMANN SECONDED, TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 16, 2022. VOICE VOTE REVEALED FIVE IN FAVOR AND ZERO OPPOSED. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

6. Educational Presentations
 - A. 2021 Out of home care data – Vicki Tylka reviewed with the data with the board including number of children in care and costs per category of care. Combined – all costs decreased from \$4 million in 2020 to \$3.7 million in 2021. The pandemic and staffing were large drivers of the change in numbers between 2020 and 2021. Our goal is to move children from higher-cost to lower-cost placements and ultimately to permanency.
 - B. 2021 Performance Scorecard – key measures in child welfare programs – Vicki reviewed the scorecard results with the board including 2021 and 2020 yearend comparisons along with comparisons of Marathon County results against statewide results. Unfavorable results in timeliness of initial response and completion of initial assessment within 60 days were driven by the pandemic and staffing. Fortunately, we are close to filling our remaining vacant positions in the social work section. For the time to reunification metric, Vicki shared with the board that the child welfare manager is working with social work supervisors and staff to move cases to permanency following a methodical approach starting with children who have been in out of home care the longest. Vicki also shared with the board that she expects the actions we have taken and are taking will lead to favorable results.
 - C. Housing Collaborative – demonstration project to address housing issues for child welfare families – The Wisconsin Department of Children and Families chose Marathon County as one of three counties in the state along with La Crosse and Wood Counties to participate in this project. The project is being funded with one-time federal funds to help prepare for the Families First Act. Funding sources will be available through 2025. A significant number of children are removed from home because of unsafe housing. Marathon County’s goal is that no child will be removed from home or delayed in return because of unsafe housing.
7. Announcements and possible items for next agenda – Upcoming agendas will include midyear workplan update, position request, and community response update.

Julie Bollmann asked about how staff have adjusted to virtual work. Vicki shared that many staff work a blended schedule (combination of working in the office and working from home). By educating our customers, we have been able to reduce the amount of foot traffic into our building. Customers have learned that they are able to access services in a timelier fashion either telephonically or online. Some

customers still want to meet with a worker in-person.

Board members also discussed the monthly meeting start time and agreed to moving the meeting start time to 3:30 p.m. Board meetings will continue to be held on the third Wednesday of the month at River Drive.

8. Adjournment

There being no further items to be discussed **DRABEK MOVED, HART SECONDED, TO ADJOURN MEETING. VOICE VOTE REVEALED FIVE IN FAVOR AND ZERO OPPOSED. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Meeting adjourned at 5:04 p.m.