

**Marathon County Social Services Board Minutes
Wednesday, March 15, 2023**

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

Staff Present: Christa Jensen

1. Board Chair Christy Keele called the meeting to order at 3:32 p.m.
2. Welcome and Introductions – Supervisor Morache attended by phone. Nicole Rolain, IM Central Consortium manager, introduced herself to the board.
3. Public Comment – There was no public comment.
4. Approval of the February 15, 2023, meeting minutes

BOLLMANN MOVED, DRABEK SECONDED, TO APPROVE THE FEBRUARY 15, 2023, MEETING MINUTES AS PRESENTED. VOICE VOTE REVEALED FOUR IN FAVOR AND ZERO OPPOSED. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

5. Informational Updates
 - A. DSS leadership staffing – Director and Child Welfare Manager positions – Christa shared with the board the press release announcing her appointment as Marathon County Social Services Director. Christa also shared with the board that the child welfare manager position remains vacant, timing to fill the position was not yet determined, and tentative plan is to post the position after the department move is completed in April 2023.
 - B. DSS move to Lake View Campus – Christa shared with the board that the department is scheduled to move in two phases on April 7 and April 14, 2023, respectively. A dedication will be scheduled, and board members will be invited. We are targeting end of May for the dedication, but it will be contingent on completion of murals.
 - C. Family Keys – Christa shared with the board that one family is officially enrolled. Amended criteria to include at risk of losing housing or the department is paying for housing.
 - D. Community Partners Campus (CPC) – Christa updated the board about the human services space at CPC that is shared by DSS, North Central Health Care, and the Wausau Police Department social worker. There is an open-door policy, and workers strive to do a warm handoff when needing to refer clients to other services to get them connected immediately in the moment to other services.

6. Educational Presentations

- A. Unwinding of FoodShare and Medical Assistance – Nicole Rolain, IM Central Consortium Manager – Nicole presented to the board historical workload statistics and anticipated spikes in workload that will be driven by the unwinding of FoodShare and Medical Assistance post-pandemic. Clients will receive two notification letters: one will be mailed in March 2023 and the other 45 days before renewal date. Clients must be notified by two modalities (U.S. Postal mail, telephone, or email). To manage the additional workload, Economic Support is planning to hire additional, limited term employees and require mandatory overtime. How do clients know emails or texts are valid? Counties don't email. DHS email is just notifying and not asking for information.

7. Items for Discussion and Possible Action

None

8. Announcements and possible items for next agenda

- Christa shared with the board that April is Strengthening Families Month, and we will be bringing back the Hands Around the Courthouse event which will occur toward the end of April.
- It was the consensus of the board to cancel the April 2023 meeting. The May 2023 board meeting will be held at Lake View Campus and will include a tour of the new DSS offices.

The following possible future agenda items were mentioned:

- Putting Children First (Child Support)
- CPS presentation (future)
- Supervisor Hart asked about an update on staffing and how we're managing difficult caseloads. This will be targeted for the June 2023 meeting.
- Supervisor Hart also asked from the HHS committee, what role may we play in affordable child care?
- Julie Bollmann asked what training DSS offers to parents.

9. Adjournment

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

Meeting adjourned at 4:29 p.m.