

**Marathon County Social Services Board Minutes
Wednesday, March 20, 2024**

Attendance:	Present	Absent
Allen Drabek	✓	
Kody Hart	✓	
Elizabeth Robinson	✓	
Yee Leng Xiong	✓	

Public Present: Supervisor Morache attended the meeting virtually via WebEx.

Social Services Staff Present: Mike Nelson, child welfare manager; Becky Bogen-Marek, youth justice social work supervisor

1. Board Chair Yee Leng Xiong called the meeting to order at 3:32 p.m.
2. Public Comment – No one registered to speak during the public comment portion of the meeting; therefore, the board chair closed the public comment portion of the meeting.
3. Approval of the January 17, 2024, meeting minutes

HART MOVED, DRABEK SECONDED, TO APPROVE THE JANUARY 17, 2024, MEETING MINUTES AS PRESENTED. VOICE VOTE REVEALED FOUR IN FAVOR AND ZERO OPPOSED. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

4. Policy Issues for Discussion and Possible Action
 - A. None
5. Operational Functions Required by Statute, Ordinance, or Resolution
 - A. None
6. Educational Presentations
 - A. Lived Experience position – Mike Nelson introduced Becky Bogen-Marek, youth justice supervisor. Becky shared with the board the need for a lived experience position arose about a year ago specific to youth justice clients involved with severe substance abuse. The position will be 10 hours per week. One of the requirements for the position is that the successful candidate must be sober for at least three years. The objective is to give these kids support if they are willing to accept it. The group meetings may be like an AA meeting, structured educational program, etc. The lived experience worker will be given latitude to be

- creative in developing the program. It will be delivered in a group format. Supervisor Drabek asked since it's a pilot program, might it be expanded to rural areas of the county in the future? Becky said there is grant funding for transportation. Supervisor Xiong asked about how many kids will be participating. Becky anticipates five to six kids will participate initially, and the age range will be 13 to 17. It will take six to eight weeks to develop the program after the worker comes on board. The program is fully funded by a Wisconsin DCF (Department of Children and Families) grant and zero county levy. Supervisor Xiong asked when the board may expect to receive their next update. Becky said it would be at least two months.
- B. Youth Opportunity Center update – Becky also updated the board about the YOC. Ben Janssen is the lead worker. Ben brings experience from Portage County. Part of the planning process is to get input from kids. Staff have also been invited to share ideas. Target date for opening is June 3. Chair Xiong would like to have a future Social Services Board meeting at the YOC. Supervisor Morache asked about worker safety. Becky said there will be sensory rooms at the YOC and staff will be trained in de-escalation.
 - C. CLTS waitlist update – Mike shared with the board that as of March 20, 2024, we have 98 children waiting to be taken off the waitlist. Of the six new CLTS positions approved in 2023, two have been hired: one starts in May, and the other starts in June. There are four new social workers in CLTS who backfilled: one promoted to supervisor, one promoted to lead worker, and two who resigned.
 - D. Recommendations for a Social Services Board member (Julie Bollmann's replacement) – Chair Xiong announced that interested applicants may apply online through the county website. He also encouraged board members to share with Administrator Leonhard names of any potential board member candidates who may be a good fit.
7. Announcements and possible items for next agenda
- A. Committee members are asked to bring ideas for future discussion.
 - B. Next Social Services Board Meeting: Wednesday, May 15, 2024, at 3:30 p.m., in the Winnebago Room.
 - C. March is Social Worker Appreciation Month. April is Child Abuse Prevention Month. April 1 is Wear Blue Day to kick off Child Abuse Prevention Month. We will be planning Hands Around the Courthouse event toward the end of April.

8. Adjournment

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

Meeting adjourned at 4:22 p.m.