



EXTENSION, EDUCATION & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT MARATHON COUNTY COMMITTEE MINUTES

Thursday, February 3, 2022, at 4:00 p.m.

Courthouse Assembly Room, (B105), Courthouse, 500 Forest Street, Wausau WI

Members	Present/Web-Phone	Absent
Chair Sara Guild	X	
Vice Chair Ka Lo		X
Gary Beastrom		X
Becky Buch	W	
Tom Rosenberg	X	
Rick Seefeldt	X	
Chris Voll	W	

Also present/WebEx: Lance Leonhard, Jean Maszk, Jason Hausler, Leah Giordano, Kimm Weber, Ann Herda-Rapp, Toshia Ranallo, and members from the public.

1. Call Meeting to Order

Chair Guild called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.

2. Public Comment - None

3. Approval of Minutes:

MOTION BY ROSENBERG; SECOND BY SEEFELDT TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE DECEMBER 2, 2021, EXTENSION, EDUCATION & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MEETING. MOTION CARRIED.

4. Policy Issues Discussion and Potential Committee Determination

A. Childcare Access Challenges in Marathon County and potential next steps

Discussion:

Chair Guild explained this committee identified childcare as a potential economic development issue and a possible strategic plan item for 2022. She has been in contact with representatives from the Early Years Coalition through United Way and a local organization called Child Caring to tentatively present at the March meeting.

Administrator Leonhard reported Special Projects Coordinator Noor Ali Hassan has been collecting WI data on childcare challenges and how shortages are impacting the workforce. See findings below:

- unemployment rate currently in the State of Wisconsin is at an all-time low and under 2% in Marathon County
- In the last eight years Marathon County has lost more than 50 % of its regulated childcare programs
- In 2019 the average cost of childcare for one child was \$9,072, equivalent to the average cost of UW tuition and fees
- The cost for an infant in childcare is greater than average rent in at \$10,332 a year, the average rent in the State of Wisconsin is \$10,044
- Two children in childcare costs \$19,200, significantly more expensive than the average cost for an annual mortgage

Administrator Leonhard indicated he is in ongoing conversations with local administrators, school districts, NTC, the YMCA, the library, MCDEVCO and other entities for solutions to address childcare challenges.

Action:

No action taken

Follow Up:

Update will be presented at the March meeting.

5. Operational Functions required by Statute, Ordinance, or Resolution: None

6. Educational Presentations/Outcome Monitoring Reports

The following written reports can be viewed in the packet located on our [website here](#).

A. Reports from Committee-Affiliated Departments and Organizations

1. Marathon County Public Library (Leah Giordano)

2. MCDEVCO (Kimm Weber)
 3. UW-Madison Division of Extension (Jason Hausler)
 4. UW-Stevens Point Wausau Campus (Ann Herda-Rapp)
- 7. Next Meeting Time, Location, Announcements and Future Agenda Items:**
1. Committee members are asked to bring ideas for future discussion
 2. Next meeting: **Thursday, March 3, 2022, at 4:00 pm**
- 8. Adjournment**
- MOTION BY ROSENBERG; SECOND BY SEEFELDT TO ADJOURN THE MEETING AT 5:02 P.M. MOTION CARRIED.**

Respectfully submitted by,
Toshia Ranallo

The recording of the meeting can be accessed at the link below:
<https://tinyurl.com/MarathonCountyBoard>