



HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING AGENDA

Date & Time of Meeting: **Wednesday, April 6, 2022, at 4:00 p.m.**

Meeting Location: **WebEx/ Courthouse Assembly Room (B105), 500 Forest Street, Wausau WI**

Committee Members: Tim Buttke, Chair; Michelle Van Krey, Vice-chair; Kelley Gabor, Dennis Gonnering, William Harris, Donna Krause, Tom Seubert

Marathon County Mission Statement: *Marathon County Government serves people by leading, coordinating, and providing county, regional, and statewide initiatives. It directly or in cooperation with other public and private partners provides services and creates opportunities that make Marathon County and the surrounding area a preferred place to live, work, visit, and do business. (Last updated: 12-20-05)*

Committee Mission Statement: *Provide leadership for the implementation of the strategic plan, monitoring outcomes, reviewing and recommending to the County Board policies related to health and human services initiatives of Marathon County.*

The meeting site identified above will be open to the public. However, due to the COVID-19 pandemic and associated public health directives, Marathon County encourages Health & Human Services Committee members and the public to attend this meeting remotely. Instead of attendance in person, Committee members and the public may attend this meeting by **telephone conference**. If Committee members or members of the public cannot attend remotely, Marathon County requests that appropriate safety measures, including adequate social distancing, be utilized by all in-person attendees. Persons wishing to attend the meeting by phone may call into the **telephone conference beginning five (5) minutes prior to the start time indicated above using the following number:**

Phone#: 1-408-418-9388

Access Code: 146 159 7938

The meeting will also be broadcast on Public Access or at <https://tinyurl.com/MarathonCountyBoard>

When you enter the telephone conference, **PLEASE PUT YOUR PHONE ON MUTE!**

1. **Call Meeting to Order**
2. **Public Comment (15 Minutes)** *(Any person who wishes to address the County Board, or one of its committees, during the "Public Comment" portion of meetings, must provide his or her name, address, and the topic he or she wishes to present to the Marathon County Clerk, or chair of the committee, no later than five minutes before the start of the meeting.)*
3. **Approval of the March 2, 2022, and Special March 28, 2022, Health & Human Services Committee meeting minutes.**
4. **Policy Issues Discussion and Potential Committee Determination:**
5. **Operational Functions required by Statute, Ordinance, or Resolution:**
6. **Educational Presentations and Committee Discussion**
 - A. Recommendation from Criminal Justice Collaborating Council to not modify existing marijuana possession ordinance and presentation from District Attorney on marijuana referral and prosecution data
7. **Next Meeting Time, Location, Announcements and Agenda Items:**
 - A. Committee members are asked to bring ideas for future discussion
 - B. Next Scheduled Meeting: **May 4, 2022, at 4:00 p.m.**

7. Adjournment

**Any person planning to attend this meeting who needs some type of special accommodation to participate should call the County Clerk's Office at 261-1500 or e-mail countyclerk@co.marathon.wi.us one business day before the meeting*

SIGNED /s/ Tim Buttke
Presiding Officer or Designee

EMAILED TO: Wausau Daily Herald, City Pages, and
Other Media Groups
BY: T. Ranallo
DATE & TIME: 4/01/2022 at 12:00pm

NOTICE POSTED AT COURTHOUSE
BY: T. Ranallo
DATE & TIME 4/01/2022 at 12:00pm



HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, March 2, 2022, at 4:00 p.m.

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

Members	Present/Web-Phone	Absent
Chair Tim Buttke	X	
Vice Chair Michelle Van Krey	X	
Kelley Gabor	Phone	
Dennis Gonnering	Phone	
William Harris	W	
Donna Krause	X	
Tom Seubert	X	

Also Present/WebEx: Lance Leonhard, Jean Maszk, Dave Mack, Toshia Ranallo, and members from the public.

1. Call Meeting to Order

Chair Buttke called the meeting to order at 4:00 pm.

2. Public Comment: None

3. Approval of Minutes:

MOTION BY VAN KREY; SECOND BY GABOR TO APPROVE THE FEBRUARY 2, 2022, HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING AND MOTION BY GONNERING; SECOND BY GABOR TO APPROVE THE FEBRUARY 22, 2022, SPECIAL HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES. MOTION CARRIED.

4. Policy Issues Discussion and Potential Committee Determination: None

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

6. Educational Presentations and Committee Discussion

- A. Memorandum of Understanding between Marathon County, NCHC, and Wausau Area Transit System for Specialized Transportation Assistance (Dave Mack)

Discussion:

Dave Mack gave a brief overview on an agreement entered into between Marathon County, NCHC, and Metro Ride authorizing a program for state financial assistance for transportation aid to the elderly and disabled. The county will receive \$361,767 from the State with \$72,390 as a local match, the total program funds available is \$434,341. The funds will be distributed as follows:

- NCHC \$260,472 (with a \$52,094 local match) to implement its portion of the elderly and disabled County Transportation Program.
- METRO RIDE \$72,353 (with a \$14,471 local match) to implement its portion of elderly and disabled transportation in the City of Wausau area.
- The County Conservation, Planning and Zoning (CPZ) Department \$28,942 (with a \$5,788 local match) for administering the grant program for Marathon County.

The full memorandum of understanding can be viewed in the packet on the [county website located here](#).

7. Next Meeting Time, Location, Announcements and Agenda Items:

- A. Committee members are asked to bring ideas for future discussion
- B. Next Scheduled Meeting: **April 6, 2022, at 4:00 p.m.**

7. Adjournment

MOTION BY HARRIS; SECOND BY VAN KREY TO ADJOURN THE MEETING AT 4:21 P.M. MOTION CARRIED.

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



SPECIAL HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Monday, March 28, 2022, at 4:00 p.m.

WebEx/Employee Resource Room, 500 Forest Street, Wausau WI

Members	Present/Web-Phone	Absent
Chair Tim Buttke	X	
Vice Chair Michelle Van Krey		Excused
Kelley Gabor	Phone	
Dennis Gonnering	Phone	
William Harris	W	
Donna Krause	X	
Tom Seubert	Phone	

Also Present/WebEx: Michael Puerner, Vicki Tylka, Toshia Ranallo, and members from the public.

1. Call Meeting to Order

Chair Buttke called the meeting to order at 4:02 pm.

2. Public Comment: None

3. Policy Issues Discussion and Potential Committee Determination: None

4. Operational Functions required by Statute, Ordinance, or Resolution:

- A. Fair Housing Law Resolution for the CDBG-CV Grant

Discussion:

Marathon County is the recipient of Community Development Block Grant Funds. One of the requirements of receipt of said funds is that Marathon County have its local governing body publicly endorse the principle of fair housing and of adherence to the fair housing law.

Action:

- B. **MOTION BY HARRIS; SECOND BY KRAUSE TO MOVE TO APPROVE THE FAIR HOUSING LAW RESOLUTION FOR THE CDBG-CV GRANT. MOTION CARRIED.**

Follow Up:

Forward to the county Board.

5. Educational Presentations and Committee Discussion

6. Next Meeting Time, Location, Announcements and Agenda Items:

- A. Committee members are asked to bring ideas for future discussion
- B. Next Scheduled Meeting: **April 6, 2022, at 4:00 p.m.**

7. Adjournment

MOTION BY SEUBERT; SECOND BY HARRIS TO ADJOURN THE MEETING AT 4:10 P.M. MOTION CARRIED.

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

Respectfully submitted by,
Toshia Ranallo



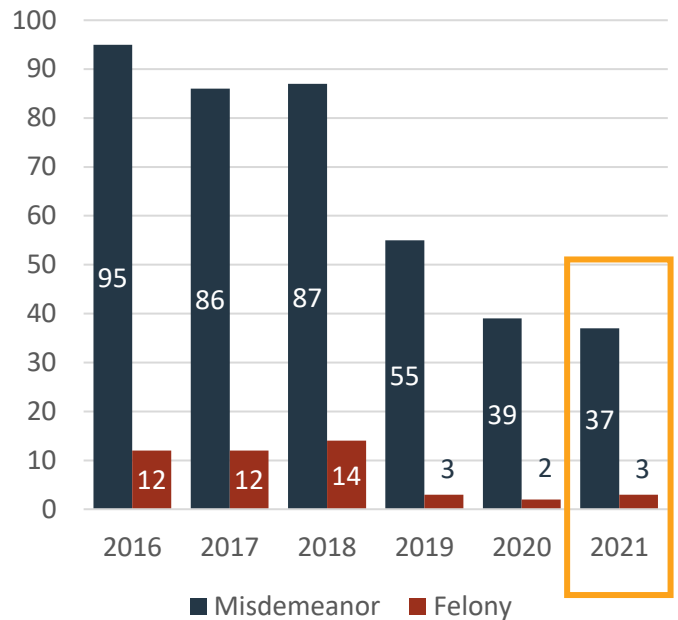
THC Citation Report

On January 5, 2022, the Health and Human Services Committee requested the Criminal Justice Collaborating Council to "assess and develop a marijuana possession ordinance" to bring back to the committee. This report provides data to assist in a data-informed assessment of this request.

The Marathon County data¹ included in this report is from January 2016 through December 2021, filtered to include only Marathon County Sheriff's Office referrals to the Marathon County District Attorney's Office. Over the last six years, both simple Possession of THC criminal referrals from the Marathon County Sheriff's Office has declined.

There are two types of criminal simple possession of THC under Wisconsin Statutes. Misdemeanor simple Possession of THC under [Wisconsin Statute 941.31\(3g\)\(e\)](#), and felony Second and Subsequent Possession of THC, also under Wisconsin Statute 941.31(3g)(e).

Even though there is a felony-level charge for second and subsequent possession of THC charge, it is rare for deputies to make felony-level referrals for this charge, even if they have a THC possession criminal history. In 2021, three (3) felony-level THC charges were referred to the District Attorney's Office, which is only 7% of the total THC cases referred.



Felony Referral 1

- Referred as a felony but charged as a misdemeanor
- Suspect had 7 open criminal cases at the point of arrest, many felony drug and/or domestic violence cases
- Suspect had prior felony convictions and was in prison for 5 years at one point
- Sentence: 5 years of probation on domestic abuse and simple possession of meth charges.

Felony Referral 2

- Referred and charged as a felony
- Incident also included possession of meth charge
- Suspect had prior convictions for meth and THC in other counties and is currently serving prison sentence based on those charges
- This case is still open

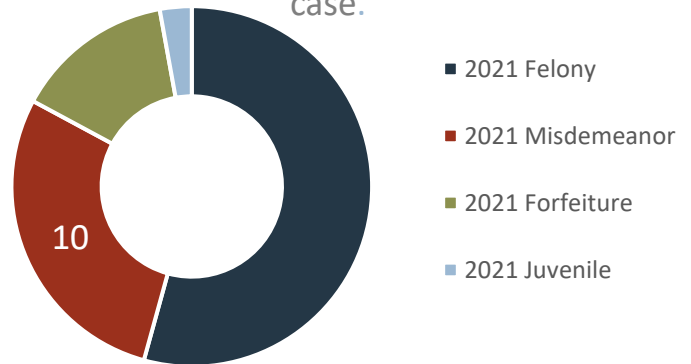
Felony Referral 3

- Referred as a felony but charged as a misdemeanor
- Incident also included felony meth and heroin charges
- Suspect had prior felony convictions
- Sentence: 2 years of probation on meth charge

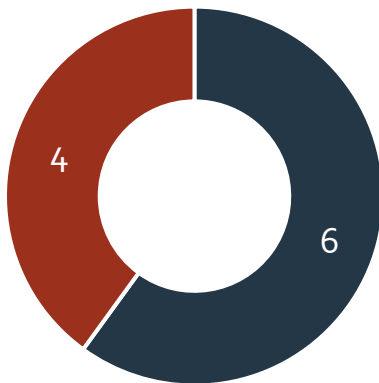
¹ Data used in this report was pulled from the Wisconsin State Prosecutor Database, PROTECT (2012) on January 3, 2022. This does not include any data from Marathon County Law Enforcement Agencies.

For the purpose of the report, data is unavailable for exact possession amounts, but the ordinance proposal is for possession of marijuana 25 grams or less. Looking at the 2021 data further, **thirty-seven (37)** of the simple possession of marijuana referrals were misdemeanors, which is 93% of the total THC cases referred to the District Attorney's Office. The District Attorney's Office filed charges for thirty-five (35) out of the thirty-seven (37) misdemeanor referrals. Of those incidents charged, nineteen (19) were part of a larger felony case, ten (10) were filed as part of misdemeanor cases, five (5) were filed as ordinance cases (non-criminal), and only one (1) referral was for a juvenile offender. **None of the alleged offenders were first-time offenders.**

35 out of the 37 misdemeanor THC charges were filed, **19** were filed as part of larger felony cases, **10** were filed as part of misdemeanor cases, **5** were filed as ordinance tickets, and **1** was a juvenile case.



6 out of the **10** misdemeanor referrals had simple Possession of THC and associated paraphernalia as the only criminal charges in the case.

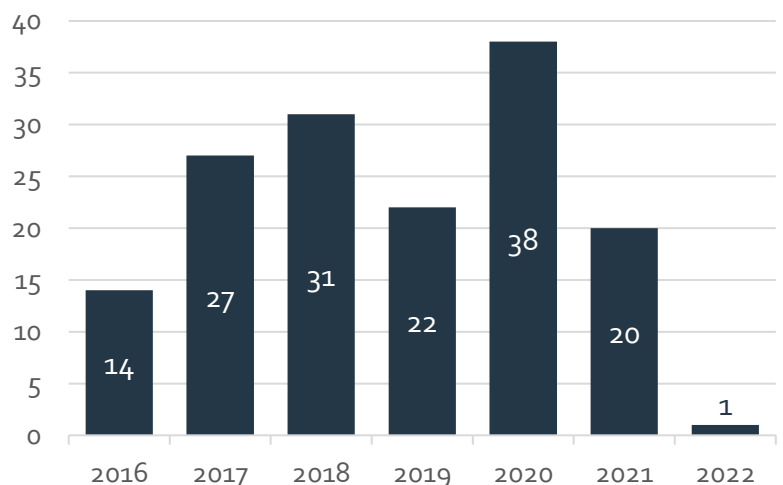


■ Simple Possession Only ■ Has Additional Criminal Charges

Of the ten (10) misdemeanor cases that could have ended up being an ordinance instead of a criminal misdemeanor, only six (6) of these cases had simple possession of THC and associated paraphernalia as the only charges. Again, all of these six (6) individuals already had a criminal history. Three (3) of these cases ended with a misdemeanor conviction and a fine; one (1) case is still open; the final two (2) cases were dismissed.

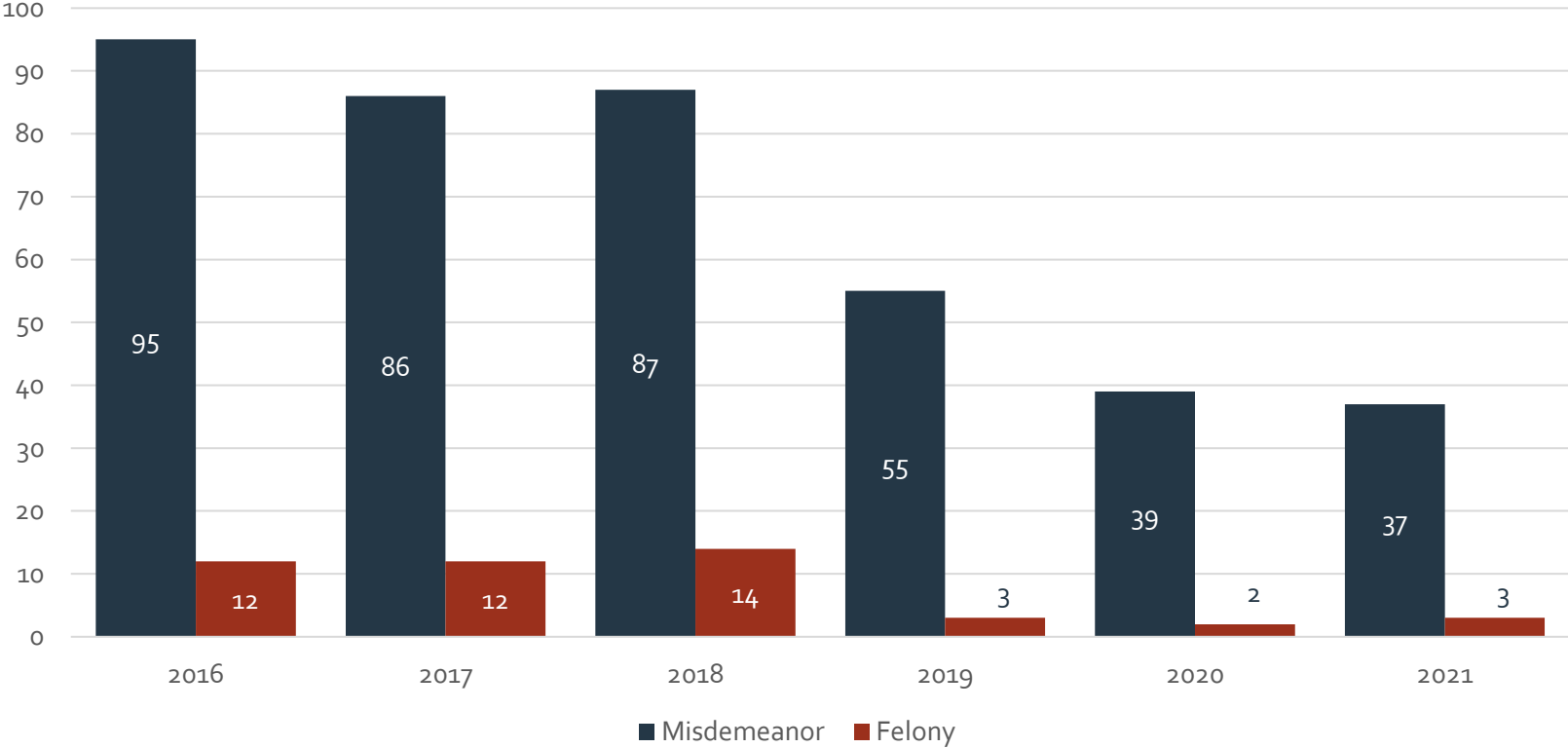
Since 2016, the Prosecutor-Led Pre-Charge Diversion program successfully diverted **153** misdemeanor THC referrals from the criminal justice system. This number includes all Marathon County Law Enforcement referrals. This program offers the opportunity for first-time offenders to complete individualized programming instead of filing criminal charges. Programming ranges from online drug and alcohol education to substance abuse counseling. Participants under the age of 21 are drug-tested to monitor sobriety.

All LE Referrals Successfully Diverted



Conclusion: The data supports that the THC cases referred to the District Attorney's are not for first-time low-risk offenders and are often part of a larger criminal case. The Marathon County Sheriff's Office Deputies already utilize the Marathon County marijuana ordinance. Passing this ordinance change would not increase or decrease this ordinance's utilization. Furthermore, the decline of criminal possession of THC referrals transmitted to the District Attorney's Office supports the notion of a culture shift in the Sheriff's Office from criminal referrals to issuing ordinance citations.

Sheriff's Department THC Referrals



2021 Felony THC Summary

In 2021, only 3 out of the 40 Sheriff's Office simple Possession of THC referrals were felonies.

Felony Referral A:

- ❑ Referred as felony but charged as misdemeanor
- ❑ Suspect had 7 open criminal cases at the point of arrest, many felony drug and/or domestic violence cases
- ❑ Suspect had prior felony convictions and was in prison for 5 years at one point
- ❑ Sentence: 5 years probation on domestic abuse and simple possession of meth charges

Felony Referral B:

- ❑ Referred and charged as a felony
- ❑ Incident also included felony possession of meth
- ❑ Suspect had prior convictions for meth and THC in other counties and is currently serving prison sentence based on those charges
- ❑ Case still open

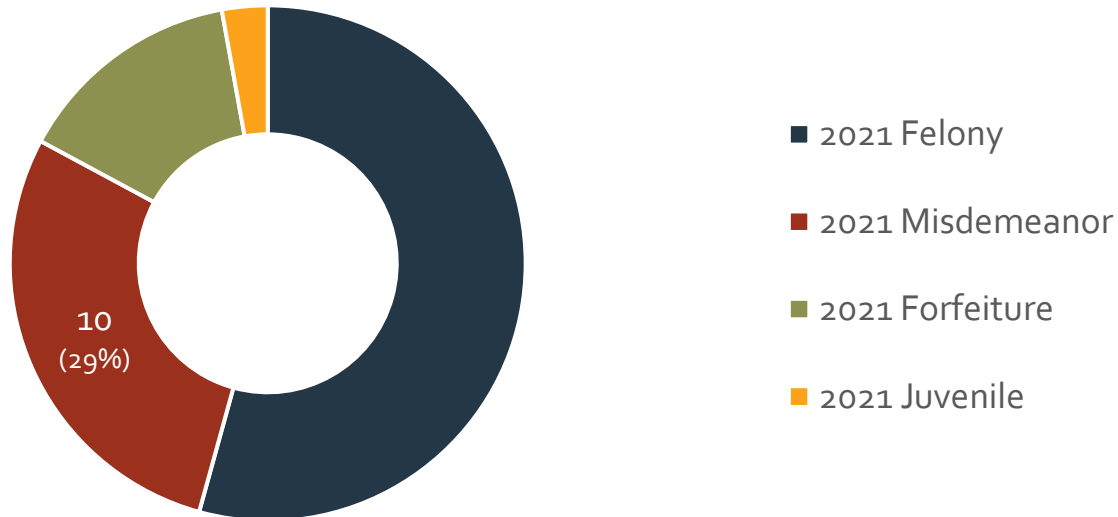
Felony Referral C:

- ❑ Referred as felony but charged as misdemeanor
- ❑ Incident also included felony meth and heroin charges
- ❑ Suspect had prior felony convictions
- ❑ Sentence: 2 years probation on meth charge

2021 Misdemeanor THC Summary

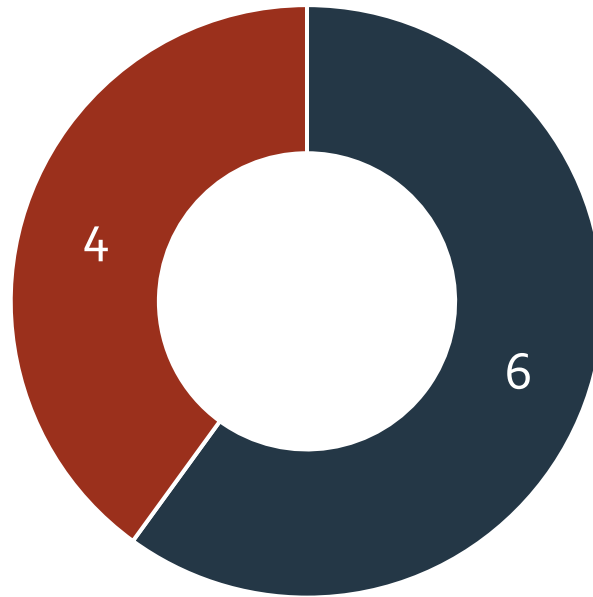
Out of the 37 misdemeanor THC referrals, none of the alleged offenders were first-time offenders.

35 out of the 37 THC charges were filed, 19 were filed as part of larger felony cases, 10 were filed as part of misdemeanor cases, 5 were filed as ordinance tickets, and 1 was a juvenile case.



2021 Misdemeanor THC Summary – Simple Possession Only

6 out of the 10 misdemeanor referrals had simple Possession of THC and associated paraphernalia as the only criminal charges in the case



■ Simple Possession Only ■ Has Additional Criminal Charges

THC Prosecutor-Led Pre-Charge Diversion

Since 2016, 153 misdemeanor THC referrals were successfully diverted from the criminal justice system.

Referrals Successfully Diverted

