



# HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, October 6, 2021 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	W	
William Harris	W	
Donna Krause		Excused
Tom Seubert	X	

**Also Present:** Lance Leonhard, John Robinson, Michael Puerner and Toshia Ranallo.

**WebEx/Phone:** Jean Maszk, Vicki Tylka, Kelly Gross, Jarret Nickel, and Leah Griesbach.

**1. Call Meeting to Order**

Vice-Chair Van Krey called the meeting to order at 4:00 pm.

**2. Public Comment**

**3. MOTION BY GONNERING SECOND BY GABOR TO APPROVE THE SEPTEMBER 8, 2021 HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES. MOTION CARRIED.**

**4. Educational Presentations and Committee Discussion**

A. ELEVATE Child Support Multiyear Systems Change Grant Presentation (Vicki Tylka)

*Discussion:*

Social Service Director Vicki Tylka gave a brief overview on the ELEVATE Program, a systems change grant that will provide opportunities to Marathon County’s Child Support System. She indicated based on high performance factors in meeting child support federal performance metrics and culture change (attributed to Kelly Gross and her team), Marathon County along with four other counties were asked to apply for a ELEVATE Child Support Multiyear Systems Change Grant.

ELEVATE Coordinator Leah Griesbach provided additional background on why ELEVATE was created, and how Marathon County has developed a model and a plan to move it forward. The program focuses on supporting people who receive services by empowering lives and supporting family connections through vocational assessments, training and education. The full presentation can be viewed in the [packet here](#).

**5. Operational Functions required by Statute, Ordinance, or Resolution:**

A. Requesting a 1.0 FTE Social Service Coordinator Grant Funded Position Effective 10/21

*Discussion:*

This position is in direct relation to the ELEVATE Child Support Multiyear Systems Change Grant. Administrator Leonhard explained to the committee the proper processes outlined in the Code of Ordinances that needs to be followed for new position requests, particularly when they are solely grant funded. As part of the process he approves of creating this position.

*Action:*

**MOTION BY VAN KREY; SECOND BY GONNERING TO MOVE TO APPROVE THE SOCIAL SERVICE COORDINATOR GRANT FUNDED POSITION EFFECTIVE 10/21/2021 AND TO FORWARD IT TO THE HR FINANCE & PROPERTY COMMITTEE FOR FURTHER CONSIDERATION. MOTION CARRIED.**

*Follow Up:*

Forward to HR Finance and Property Committee.

**6. Policy Issues Discussion and Potential Committee Determination:**

A. Recommendation from NCCSP Board to reduce Mount View Care Center Nursing Home Licensure to 154 Beds

*Discussion:*

Administrator Leonhard gave an overview of NCHC's construction of the Mount View Care Center (MVCC) Tower, and on the remaining renovation phase related to the existing MVCC for the continued use of a nursing home. The new tower provides private rooms with a maximum occupancy of 96 beds. He introduced Jarret Nickel, NCHC Operations Executive who gave a presentation on where the market is with respect to nursing home care; why NCHC's consultant is making a recommendation relative to bed licensure; and why the North Central Community Services Program Board is sharing in that recommendation. NCHC is recommending a license of 154 beds for MVCC. 96 in the tower and the remaining on the second floor of the existing MVCC facility. The current bed license is 188 at \$170 per bed per month which would result in a proposed reduction of 34 beds and a savings of \$69,360 annually. 154 beds is the actual physical number of rooms that would be available after all the renovation phasing is complete.

Nickel provided the committee with information (located in the [packet here](#)) comparing percentages of occupancy to other nursing facilities in the area. MVCC opened in 1986 and had 165 beds in service, the remaining 23 were in what's called a reserve capacity for future renovations. MVCC percentage in the county stays relatively close to 75% and a number of other facilities in the county also have open beds available. Nickel indicated NCHC will be able to serve the needs of the community to provide services and be more financially cognizant with the reduction in the number of licensed beds.

Nickel further explained the impact on retaining the 188 licensed beds while utilizing some for double occupancy and the ability to receive Medicaid reimbursement.

Supervisor Comments:

- Concerns over the potential ramifications of reducing the beds and the impact on the ability to service the increased demands of dementia/memory care to our aging population
- Concerns that NCHC is one of the few facilities that accepts memory care patients
- If we reduce the number of beds what is the process for expanding in the future?  
Nickel explained once the beds are given up there is no ability to get them back, the only way to get beds back would be to purchase them from another provider and that provider would have to be in our community or county or an adjacent county.
- Urge caution relative to the reduction in beds
- Suggest the county reach out to discharge planners from Marshfield and Aspirus to make sure they are comfortable with the reduction
- Having the capacity was one of the reasons for the remodeling of the nursing home and the recommendation for the larger number of beds

Nickel indicated there would not be a reduction on memory care beds only for long-term care beds.

NCHC hired CliftonLarsenAllen to complete a study (prior to the Covid-19 pandemic) related to the appropriate bed size for Marathon County and surrounding counties. The result was a recommendation to reduce the number of beds due to demand.

*Follow Up:*

Administrator Leonhard to meet with Nickel to gather more information to provide the committee for a future meeting.

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

- A. Next Scheduled Meeting: **November 3, 2021 at 4:00 p.m. Topics to include:**
1. Mount View Care Center Nursing Home Licensure
  2. Strategic Plan

**8. Adjournment**

**MOTION BY VAN KREY; SECOND BY GABOR TO ADJOURN THE MEETING AT 4:57 P.M. MOTION CARRIED**

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