



MARATHON COUNTY HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING

MINUTES

Wednesday, June 3, 2020 at 4:00 p.m.

Courthouse Assembly room, 500 Forest Street, Wausau WI 54403

Attendance:	Present	Absent
Tim Buttke, Chair	X	
Michelle Van Krey, Vice Chair	W	
Dennis Gonnering	W	
William Harris	W	
Donna Krause	X	
Tom Seubert	W	
Romey Wagner	W	

Also Present: Lance Leonhard, Scott Corbett, Jennifer Soley, Joan Theurer, Mary Palmer; Craig McEwen (W), Troy Torgerson (W), Dave Mack (W), John Robinson (W), Sandi Cihlar (W), Peter Weinschenk (W)

1. Call Meeting to Order

Chair Tim Buttke called the meeting to order at 4:02 p.m.

2. Public Comment: The Public Comment portion of the agenda has been temporarily suspended, pursuant to Marathon County Resolution # R-18-20, dated March 17, 2020.

3. Approval of the May 6, 2020, Committee meeting minutes.

MOTION BY KRAUSE, SECOND BY SEUBERT, TO APPROVE THE MAY 6, 2020, HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES. MOTION CARRIED.

4. Policy Issues for Discussion and Possible Action:

A. Communicable Disease Ordinance Development

Discussion:

Joan Theurer, Health Officer, gave an update as to why Marathon County needs a local [Communicable Disease Ordinance](#) and how it was created. It is a reactive Ordinance rather than a proactive Ordinance. The Health Officer has the authority to isolate and/or quarantine individuals. Marathon County's philosophy is to gain voluntary compliance.

The attorney general didn't think that any health related order regarding communicable diseases should end up prosecuting offenders. Counties that have a Health Officer should have their own orders. There can be no order without some consequence. We have to explain what Marathon County will do, what the Health Department's purpose and intent are, why there is a need and justification of the ordinance. We are looking at 4 levels of possible enforcement:

The difference between isolation and quarantine was explained. Isolation is for someone who tested positive or has actual symptoms. Quarantine is for other people who had close contact with someone who has the virus and this is a preventative measure. This is not a safer at home ordinance for Marathon County residents. Rather it is targeted to individuals or situations who have COVID-19. The sweeping nature and vague nature of the Safer at Home state wide was out of proportion to what is happening.

The power of the Local Health Officer extends to the regulation of:

- Individuals, when they have tested positive for COVID-19, they are a probably case, or are suspected of being infected;
- Specific businesses and other organizations/entities, when multiple or a cluster of cases has

- been identified;
- Localities within Marathon County, when a localized outbreak has occurred; and
- County-wide, under the limited circumstances as described in the Ordinance.

The Health Officer has the power to issue orders, but no way to enforce them. It may be challenging to get some people to cooperate, but most people do not want to be sick or spread the virus so they will stay home. The Health Department will have daily contact with these people and make sure they have a safe place to live and that their basic needs are met.

All people are being asked to wear cloth face masks out in public, when you cannot social distance at least six feet, out of respect for others.

Strategies will continue to be developed for infected or exposed people who do not cooperate with isolation or quarantine.

[Initial Order #1](#) is being used to guide Marathon County moving forward.

The Greater Wausau Chamber of Commerce does not support the ordinance as written.

This committee has four choices about the ordinance:

- move this ordinance to the Executive Committee for consideration;
- postpone consideration of this ordinance;
- vote not to move it on, or
- make amendments to move it on and to continue engagement with other agencies.

The process to move this forward is to approve it here, send it to the Executive Committee and if approved there, then on to the full Board. If it gets tweaked at Executive or the Board it can be approved with the changes at either level or sent back to committee for further development, depending on the changes made.

Action:

MOTION BY WAGNER; SECOND BY VAN KREY TO APPROVE THE ORDINANCE AS PRESENTED AND MOVE IT ON TO THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE FOR FURTHER CONSIDERATION. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

The Board of Health supports the Ordinance, but had concerns about contacting community members that don't take the COVID 19 seriously.

Follow up:

Send to the Executive Committee.

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

- A. Appointment of Doug Machon, Representing Wood County, to the Aging & Disabilities Resource Center of Central Wisconsin Board

Discussion:

Appointing Doug Machon to the ADRC-CW Board was approved at their last Board meeting. Each member county must then approve the appointment – Langlade, Lincoln, Marathon and Wood.

Action:

MOTION BY WAGNER; SECOND BY KRAUSE TO APPROVE APPOINTING DOUG MACHON TO THE AGING & DISABILITIES RESOURCE CENTER BOARD. MOTION CARRIED.

Follow up:

Send to County Board.

- B. World Elder Abuse Awareness Day (WEAAD) Proclamation (attachment)

Discussion:

Administrator Leonhard gave a brief background on this World Elder Abuse Awareness Day [Proclamation](#), which was supported in 2019. .

Action:

MOTION BY HARRIS; SECOND BY VAN KREY TO ACCEPT THE WORLD ELDER ABUSE AWARENESS DAY PROCLAMATION AND MOVE IT TO COUNTY BOARD FOR APPROVAL. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Follow up:

Send to County Board.

6. Educational Presentations and Committee Discussion

A. Status Report on Warm Water Therapy Pool and NCHC (Troy Torgerson)

Discussion:

Troy Torgerson, Facilities & Capital Management, is the Project Manager for the Therapy Pool and the North Central Health Care project. He has some short videos and pictures that he will forward to the Committee to review on their own time. The Warm Water Therapy Pool opened this past Monday, June 1. He went through a Power Point presentation on the various stages for the pool and NCHC. The Grand Opening is July 16. The Community Based Residential Facility (CBRF) and Hospital will be completed a bit ahead of schedule. Most areas are coming in under budget.

Follow up:

Additional information shared by Troy Torgerson, Project Manager – see below:

<https://www.norcen.org/services/aquatic-therapy-center/> Aquatic Therapy Pool Opening Video.
<https://www.norcen.org/about-us/renovations/live-stream-video/> Live Stream Video.

B. Broad Overview of the Transportation Coordinating Committee and their Relationship with Health and Human Services (Dave Mack)

Discussion:

Dave Mack, is one of the Conservation, Planning & Zoning Department, Program Manager working with Planning, GIS computer mapping and Surveyors. He is also the Director of the Metro Planning Organization (MPO). That's why Conservation, Planning and Zoning ((CPZ) is connected with the Transportation Coordinating Committee, which is created in the State Statutes Administrative Code. All counties have a committee to take care of specialized transportation for elderly and disabled.

[Chapter 2.05\(11\)](#) explains the Transportation Coordinating Committee (TCC) under the Marathon County Code of Ordinances. Members represent multiple areas of the community as directed by Statute. The committee has eleven Duties and Responsibilities. In 2020 TCC received \$362,000 which needs a match of 20% or an additional \$72,000. Those funds get distributed to Metro Ride through the City of Wausau for Paratransit services and North Central Health Care has a transportation system throughout the whole county for the elderly and disabled. Most funds go to NCHC. There is a fare for services – Paratransit is twice the normal fee or about \$2.74 each way and the County-Wide system for Elderly and Disabled is \$6.00 per ride each way.

TCC Will be doing a study of needs assessment later this summer and wrapping up in early 2021. The study will find community needs county-wide and are services being provided where there is need. The North Central Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission (NCWRPC) will assist on the project.

TCC also prepares the application for the 85.21 grant funds. It takes several months to complete the application, there must be a public hearing, then needs to be approved by the Health and Human Services Committee before going to the County Board for approval. This committee also monitors providers on how the money is being spent and are the services we hire them for being provided.

Increasing services in the City is handled by the City Metro Ride and the Transit Commission. We

are members and have input. Bus shelters are also governed by the Transit Commission. That is being discussed with Metro Ride along with Island Place and routes.

Follow up:

None needed.

C. Update on COVID-19 issues

Discussion:

Joan Theurer, Health Officer, explained that in the next couple of months the focus will be on:

- Harm reduction to keep ourselves safe – provide information, education, and reduce exposure
- Surveillance – take the data we have and analyze it. Who is impacted and what's contributing to the spread.
- What are trigger points, what additional measures need to be taken in a defined area in the county or multiple places in the county and we need to continue supporting state measures.
- Use the Box In strategy – or mitigation – now we are boxing in the virus instead of people.
- We test, isolate, and do contact tracing. We contact those individuals who have been exposed or tested positive and ask them to quarantine.
- The State of Wisconsin is supposed to do 85,000 tests per week, with 1,981 per week for Marathon County. So far Marathon County has not reached those numbers.
- Anyone who is symptomatic gets a test, paying particular attending to any out beaks in nursing home, work and any long term care facilities including jails.
- We will be working with health care systems partners when we no longer have the National Guard to help with testing.
- Westphal staffing is handling the hiring of contact tracers.

Follow up:

None needed.

7. Next Meeting Logistics and Topics:

A. Committee members are asked to bring ideas for future discussion

- Future items for discussion:
- Next meeting Wednesday, July 1, 2020, at 4:00 p.m.

8. Announcements: None were given

9. Adjournment

There being no further business to discuss, **CHAIR BUTTKE ADJOURNED THE MEETING AT 5:53 P.M.**

Minutes Prepared
By Mary Palmer