



## MARATHON COUNTY HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING

### MINUTES

Wednesday, August 5, 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		X

**Also Present:** Lance Leonhard, Joan Theurer, Vicki Tylka, Mary Palmer  
**Via Web** – Dave Mack, Kathi Zoern, John Robinson

1. **Call Meeting to Order**

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

2. **Public Comment:**

3. **Approval of the July 1, 2020, Committee meeting minutes.**

**MOTION BY DONNERING; SECOND BY HARRIS, TO APPROVE THE JULY 1, 2020, HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES, AS CORRECTED. MOTION CARRIED.**

***CORRECTION to July 1<sup>st</sup> Minutes – Supervisor Donna Krause was not present.***

4. **Policy Issues for Discussion and Possible Action:** - None

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

A. **Committee Request for Metro Ride to evaluate a Potential Route to serve River Drive**

**Discussion:**

The Transit Commission for the City of Wausau has been asked to place a bus stop on River Drive by Island Place. At the August 20<sup>th</sup> Transit Commission meeting they will evaluate and finalize the route. A letter of support is requested from the County. There will be a public hearing prior to the vote to approve the route change.

**Action:**

No action taken.

**Follow up:**

Draft a letter of support.

B. **Committee Request for Metro Ride to evaluate a Pilot Weekly Bus Route to Rib Mountain**

**Discussion:**

The Transit Commission would like to do a pilot study on whether to have a weekly bus route from the transit center downtown Wausau to the Rib Mountain shopping area. It could look like six – one hour routes between 10:00 am and 2:00 pm. on Fridays. Some entity needs to provide a local share of the cost to move out of the City of Wausau to another municipality. It could be a public or private source. The annual cost share would be just under \$4,000. The rest of the funding would come from state and federal share which the City can obtain. Total cost estimate for the pilot is \$16,972.94.

Committee members want more information, a concrete plan, and how long will the pilot last? Right

now information is being gathered. Looking for Rib Mountains support the pilot, but not funding.

**Action:**

No Action taken.

**Follow up:**

Bring back in September and invite Supervisor Johnson to bring a resolution to move to the Board. Also invite Greg Seubert from Wausau Metro Ride.

C. Creation of two, 1.0 FTE Social Service Specialist positions (funded by existing Base-County Allocation) in the Marathon County Department of Social Services

**Discussion:**

Vicki Tylka, Social Services Director, introduced herself. She explained the reason for the request of the two positions is due to a federal law changes and the reduction of funds for out of home placements. It's supposed to be an incentive for children to stay at home or return home faster from out of home placements. It is mandated by the state that we are legally responsible to protect those children who are abused or neglected, but keep kids at home, if it's safe

These social services specialist positions will support the work of social workers. They will work with high risk families of out of home placements and those under 17 that could be a danger to the community. No tax levy would be used for these positions. As a larger department they have flexibility to move staff around if funding disappears.

Administration supports these positions to be created as soon as possible in 2020. This is an investment to keep children in their homes.

**Action:**

**MOTION BY HARRIS; SECOND BY GONNERING TO APPROVE THE CREATIONS OF TWO, 1.0 FTE SOCIAL SERVICE SPECIALIST POSITIONS (FUNDED BY EXISTING BASE-COUNTY ALLOCATION) IN THE MARATHON COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES AND MOVE THEM FORWARD TO HUMAN RESOURCES, FINANCE AND PROPERTY COMMITTEE. MOTION CARRIED.**

**Follow up:**

Send to HR, Finance & Property

**6. Educational Presentations and Committee Discussion**

A. Discussion on Potential Value of Legislation Authorizing the Creation of a Regional Transit Authority (RTA)

**Discussion:**

Dave Mack, Conservation, Planning & Zoning, staffs the Transportation Coordinating Committee (TCC). This committee provides leadership for coordination and evaluation of transportation needs for Marathon County's specialized populations.

Counties that have RTA's can develop a funding stream. Locally we are looking at what we would like the state to do. The conversation that took place at the TCC was explained, that we are just asking legislators to allow the creation of the RTA or discuss it for this area. Currently there are no drawbacks. It just gives the authority to begin the discussions.

Supervisor Harris believes the future is expanding transportation and create cooperation, resources and funding. Thinks it's the way of the future. Look at future riders, not just now.

**Follow up:**

Put on the September agenda for action and bring resolution forward.

B. Update on State funding to local Health Department to Carry Out Pandemic Related Work

**Discussion:**

Joan Theurer, Health Officer, explained that health departments have received a number of grants.

The total dollar amount to be recouped is about \$1.5 million. The funds are used in part for the following:

- Contact tracing: 1) initial notifications; 2) provide education and make sure they are safe and 3) monitoring functions, by phone initiate daily calls or use an app to report self-monitoring. Full costs will not be recouped.
- Testing Coordinator Position to ensure a coordinated effort related to testing with various contiguous counties. Start looking at what are creative alternative ways to do testing such as the National Guard and what systems can we put in place.
- Update emergency preparedness plan eligible up to \$32,000 but we don't have staff with expertise or capacity to spend all those funds.
- Money that could be moved forward must be spent by year end
- A public health person is working full time with public and private school districts on schools openings. We are not advising what policies the schools should put in place, but are providing information and making recommendations.

Staff and residents of nursing homes have all been tested for baseline. Some nursing homes can do it every 2 weeks, but some do not have enough supplies to do it that often. Also regular testing is happening in correctional settings (more at state level). Would it be good to go into our schools and test before an outbreak in our schools? Some universities would like to see this happen, but because of limited testing supplies testing students aren't priorities right now.

One case report can result up to 30 or 40 contacts.

**Follow up:**

No follow through needed.

C. Provision of Masks to Guests at County Buildings

**Discussion:**

Marathon County is providing masks to the public at each building. Using the strategy method, the public will be provided cloth (reusable) face coverings. We are partnering with Boys and Girls Club to put together a bag with a cloth mask and information on how to put on, take off and how to take care of the mask.

Court Security estimates that about 95% of individuals coming into the courthouse are wearing masks. Over all good compliance with the public.

**Follow up:**

No follow through needed.

D. Update on the work of the Wisconsin Counties' Association Workgroup on County Communicable Disease Ordinance Best Practices

**Discussion:**

The WCA work group is close to issuing their final document and anticipate that it will be released the week of August 17<sup>th</sup>. The document will be a white paper with an overview of public health officer authority and will break out types of orders with quarantine and general large scale outbreaks.

Health Department authority is clear in the statutes, but enforcement is not clear. Orders need to be limited and time and oversight of issuing an order. There will be good information and clarity for policy boards (county/municipalities) and where the gaps are.

WCA has put together a tool that provides COVID-19 data by County. Go to [forward-analytics.net](http://forward-analytics.net). You can see a variety of data and do comparisons by county.

If Marathon County would move forward with a new ordinance, we would need to have public input. The first steps would be to find out what WCA's recommendations are and what are the implications to

the county? Most people are unaware of the authority of the health department. The public, committee and county board members need to be educated.

Early on the Health Department had staff resources to monitor those quarantined. One out ten needed coaxing. As of July with increase in cases, monitoring stopped. Now people are contacted by sending a letter in the mail and provide them expectations. We do not have enough staff for one-on-one monitoring with the increase in cases.

**Follow up:**

No follow through 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, September 2, 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 5:34 P.M.**

Minutes Prepared  
By Mary Palmer