



MARATHON COUNTY HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING

MINUTES

Wednesday, November 4, 2020 at 4:00 p.m.

Employee Resources Conference Room C-149, Courthouse, 500 Forest Street, Wausau WI
54403

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

Also Present: Lance Leonhard, Jason Hake, Toshia Ranallo, Mary Palmer, Kurt Gibbs

Via Web or Phone – Sandi Cihlar, Craig McEwen, Joan Theurer, Ruth Heinzl, Brian Kowalski, John Robinson, Vicki Tylka, Jill Geoffroy

1. **Call Meeting to Order**

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

2. **Public Comment:** None

3. **Approval of the September 30, 2020, Committee meeting minutes.**

MOTION BY KRAUSE; SECOND BY GONNERING, TO APPROVE THE SEPTEMBER 30, 2020, HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES. MOTION CARRIED.

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

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

A. **Resolution Declaring Every Third Thursday in November as Rural Health Day (November 19, 2020)**

Discussion:

Supervisor Sandi Cihlar gave the background on this initiative. She referenced an article on the stress and high rate of suicide of farmer, ranchers and agricultural workers. She commented that the fourth Whereas in the resolution needed modification for accuracy. It was changed to: *WHEREAS, the Wisconsin Office of Rural Health, the National Organization of State Offices of Rural Health, the Marathon County Farm Bureau, and the National Farm Medicine Center in Marshfield, UW-Madison Division Extension have joined together to acknowledge the assets of rural America while raising awareness of the unique health issues of rural America during National Rural Health Day on the Third Thursday of November.*

Action:

MOTION BY GONNERING; SECOND BY KRAUSE TO APPROVE THE RESOLUTION AS MODIFIED AND FORWARD TO COUNTY BOARD FOR FURTHER CONSIDERATION. MOTION CARRIED.

Follow up:

Send to County Board for consideration

6. **Educational Presentations and Committee Discussion**

A. Public Engagement Strategies for Local Communicable Disease Ordinance (Buttke)

1. Report from Chair Buttke on discussion evaluating next steps

Discussion:

The workgroup on public engagement strategies for a local communicable disease ordinance met to discuss setting a listening session. The workgroup is comprised of Supervisors John Robinson and Tim Buttke, Joan Theurer, Health Officer and Administrator Lance Leonhard. They also collaborated with Eric Giordano of the Wisconsin Institute of Public Policy Service (WIPPS), as he has experience leading dialogues with the community on tough subjects. He is putting together a proposal and will be taken to HR/Finance, possibly in December.

The listening session(s) will help each side understand the other side of the issues. One result could be behavior change. How do we drive behavior change? Consensus within the workgroup is that we need to do a better job as a county. There is another viewpoint of those that don't do anything. Can we accept this, if nothing changes? What if an ordinance passes? What's our next step? Enforcement is larger than we think. It includes not only law enforcement, but 911, attorneys, District Attorney, Corporation Counsel, Courts, etc.

The Wausau Area Chamber of Commerce does have a program asking businesses to sign on that they are carrying on best practices for staff and customers – a Safety Pledge. There is not uniformity across all businesses.

Let's gather information, let people know their opinions do matter, and develop an inquiring process.

Follow up:

No follow up needed.

B. Level III Health Department Certification Review by Department of Health Services

Discussion:

Health Officer, Joan Theurer, asked the committee if they remember nothing else about the health department is the 3 "P's" Prevention, Population and Partnership. This is what local health departments are about. They look into what is causing people to become ill, why do they die early and how can it be prevented. They are responsible for the jurisdiction they serve, which is their county. Local health departments are guided by State Administrative rule under Chapter DHS 140 and have a choice to be a level 1, 2 or 3. Most counties our size are level 2 or 3. Marathon County has been a level 3 since 1998. Portions of Chapter DHS 140 were reviewed explaining the different levels. A handout from the Public Health National Center for Innovations (PHNCI) was also reviewed.

COVID has had a great impact on public health. Awareness has been made on the disparities in the community. It created new opportunities for partnerships that wouldn't have otherwise been engaged, such as weekly meetings with municipalities.

The committee was asked to remember what the Health Department does, what's expected by State Statute and remember the three "P's".

Follow up:

No follow through needed.

C. Wisconsin Changes Policy relative to Medicaid Coverage for Incarcerated Individuals (Leonhard)

1. What does this mean for inmates? <https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/news/releases/101620.htm>

Discussion:

Supervisors have been working with the Wisconsin Counties Association (WCA) and National Association of Counties (NACo) to only suspend Medicaid for incarcerated individuals. States have the option to suspend or terminate benefits upon incarceration. Wisconsin has been a termination state. When inmates are released from custody, they need to reapply for those benefits. At Federal prisons, benefits are suspended and upon release benefits are restored without any additional paperwork. There were positions in the community helping people apply and reapply for benefits.

There were constant technology, cognitive issues, and no paperwork.

In early 2019 then Deputy Administrator Leonhard found a reference that individual counties could become a suspended county within a termination state and this was put on the Administration Work Plan. After several meetings with the state they were looking to move the state to become a suspension state. He was very happy to report that the state did make the change at the end of October, 2020.

Follow up:

No follow up needed.

D. The Strategic Plan and the Role of the Health & Human Services Committee

Discussion:

Vice-Chair McEwen is touching base with all standing committees on their leadership role in the Strategic Plan. We are about half way through the plan (2 ½ years). Has there been any progress made on objectives 3.3, 3.7 and 7.2, which Health & Human Services has the lead? He's reminding committee chairs that they should monitor these objectives and keep track of the progress. In September a template was developed to prioritize and keep track of the Environmental Resources Committee's objectives. Each committee should look at the objectives they are lead on and report the progress.

Follow up:

The Objectives Template will be shared with all committee members. This will be put on each agenda moving forward.

7. Next Meeting Logistics and Topics:

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

- Future items for discussion:
 - Update/Review Health & Human Services Committee's Lead Strategic Plan Objectives
 - John Shutske (Jason Hausler) Could provide a future presentation on Rural Health and/or Farm Stress
- Next meeting Wednesday, December 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 5:19 P.M.**

Minutes Prepared
By Mary Palmer