



# MARATHON COUNTY HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING

## MINUTES

Tuesday, September 17, 2019 at 6:15 p.m.

Employee Resources Conference Room, 500 Forest Street, Wausau WI 54403

Attendance:	Present	Absent
Matt Bootz, Chair	X	
Tim Buttke, Vice Chair	X	
Bill Miller		X
Donna Krause		X
Katie Rosenberg	X	
Maynard Tremelling	X	
Mary Ann Crosby	X	

**Also Present:** Kurt Gibbs, Rick Seefeldt, Tammy Felix, Lance Leonhard

**1. Call Meeting to Order**

Chair Bootz called the meeting to order at 6:15 p.m.

**2. Public Comment: None.**

**3. Approval of the August 26, 2019, Committee meeting minutes.**

**MOTION BY BUTTKE, SECOND BY CROSBY, TO APPROVE THE AUGUST 26, 2019 HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES. MOTION CARRIED.**

**4. Policy Issues for Discussion and Possible Action:**

A. Resolution Declaring September as National Suicide Prevention Awareness Month in Marathon County

**Discussion:**

Chair Bootz explains to the committee that a similar resolution was brought before this committee and the full county board in 2018. Bootz further notes that the resolution has been modified to provide for an annual recognition of September as National Suicide Prevention Awareness Month. A member of the committee expresses support, not only for the resolution, but, for taking action to the next step to make policy changes aimed at improving suicide prevention efforts.

**Action:**

**MOTION BY ROSENBERG, SECOND BY BUTTKE, TO FORWARD THE RESOLUTION TO THE COUNTY BOARD FOR CONSIDERATION. MOTION CARRIED.**

**Follow up:**

Resolution to be moved forward for consideration to the County Board

B. Resolution approving the Cooperation Agreement for Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program

**Discussion:**

Deputy Administrator Leonhard provides a brief factual summary of the Community Development Block Grant program in the State of Wisconsin, explaining that Marathon County is not an "entitlement community" and participates in the regional consortia program as administered by the State of Wisconsin. Supervisor Seefeldt appears before the committee and explains that he currently serves as the county's representative on the Central Housing Region Community Block Grant Program. Seefeldt explains the work of the Central Housing Region and expresses the need for the county to better advertise the programs and services offered through the consortia. Seefeldt indicates that he is currently working with the staff member that administrates the regional consortia program to arrange for an educational presentation to the full county board on the programs and services offered through the regional consortia.

A supervisor expresses that this topic may be appropriate for examination within the County Newsletter.

**Action:**

**MOTION BY ROSENBERG, SECOND BY TREMELLING, TO FORWARD THE COOPERATION AGREEMENT FOR COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT PROGRAM PARTICIPATION. MOTION CARRIED.**

**Follow up:**

Resolution to be forwarded to the full County Board for consideration.

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

6. **Educational Presentations and Committee Discussion**

A. Update on Marathon County's efforts to pursue a policy suspension, as opposed to termination, of Medicaid benefits for individuals incarcerated in the Marathon County Jail.

**Discussion:**

County Board Vice Chair McEwen explains his ask of the committee relative to the Strategic Plan Annual Report, specifically requesting that each committee review its respective agendas since the adoption of the Strategic Plan and identify those discussion topics and actions taken by the Committee that directly relate to the objectives within the Strategic Plan that were assigned to the Health & Human Services Committee.

One committee member notes that the committee would benefit from "being more intentional" with respect to the Strategic Plan objectives, both in noting them on meeting agendas and in discussion.

**Follow up:**

Chair Bootz will put together a draft outline of the information sought by the Vice Chair for the committee review at the next meeting.

B. Medicaid Benefits for Incarcerated Individuals: Termination vs. Suspension and efforts of staff to learn more

**Discussion**

Deputy Administrator Leonhard provides a general overview of the difference between policies that provide for the termination of Medicaid benefits upon incarceration and policies that provide for the suspension of Medicaid benefits upon incarceration explaining why these policies have significant impact on individuals upon their release from the county jail.

Leonhard explains that in conducting research requested by Chair Bootz and Supervisor Rosenberg, he learned that a mechanism appears to exist whereby counties can enter into direct intergovernmental agreements with the State Office of Medicaid to operate as a "suspension county" despite the fact that the State of Wisconsin is a "termination state." Leonhard indicates that based on the information that he learned, he is convening a small work group to learn more about this potential and to engage the State in discussion to evaluate the feasibility of such an intergovernmental agreement. Leonhard answers questions from committee members. Consensus emerges amongst members that the county should move forward with learning more.

**Follow up:**

Deputy Administrator Leonhard to update the committee as appropriate.

7. **Next Meeting Logistics and Topics:**

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

8. **Announcements:**

9. **Adjournment**

There being no further business to discuss, **MOTION BY BUTTKE, SECOND BY ROSENBERG, TO ADJOURN THE HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING. MOTION CARRIED, MEETING ADJOURNED AT 6:36 p.m.**

Minutes Prepared  
By Lance Leonhard  
on August 26, 2019.