



# MARATHON COUNTY HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING

## MINUTES

Monday, October 28, 2019 at 4:00 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, Joan Theurer, Eileen Eckhart, Laura Scudiere, Lance Leonhard

**1. Call Meeting to Order**

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

**2. Public Comment:** None.

**3. Approval of the September 17, 2019, Committee meeting minutes.**

**MOTION BY BUTTKE, SECOND BY ROSENBERG, TO APPROVE THE SEPTEMBER 17, 2019, HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES. MOTION CARRIED.**

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

A. County Board Annual Budget – Discussions Relative to Start Right Program Budget

**Discussion:**

Chair Bootz explains to the committee that he was informed of a conversation that occurred at the HR Finance and Property Committee relative to the potential that funding be diverted from Start Right to the District Attorney’s Office. Consensus emerges amongst committee members that Start Right is a valuable program offered by Marathon County and that taking resources from Start Right is not appropriate. Members express that Public Safety is the appropriate venue for the conversation relative to prioritizing the request of the District Attorney and the request from the Sheriff’s Office relative to opening a radio channel. Members express understanding of the significant workload issues within the District Attorney’s Office; however, several members express that they are unable to support allocating county resources to “subsidize” a state responsibility. Supervisors also reference the importance of studying the judicial system as an entire system, as opposed to individual departments, particularly in light of the potential that Marathon County may receive an additional Circuit Court Judgeship, which would also require county resources for staff support.

Joan Theurer explains that a reduction of \$160,000 would likely result in a 0.8 FTE reduction and service reductions to post-partum mothers in several locations. Based on conversations with Children’s Hospital, Theurer explains that reductions in services would take place in the rural areas and that preliminary estimates indicate that services would be eliminated to approximately 20 families. Theurer explains that Start Right has, in response to “flat budgets” over the last several years, already made targeted choices with respect to the families that it serves and staffing. Theurer explains that the proposed reduction in county funding for the program may also lead to a reduction in available Medicaid funding or foundation support, which could compound the staffing and service cuts.

**Action:** None taken.

**Follow up:** None necessary at this time.

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

6. Educational Presentations and Committee Discussion

A. Update from Retained County Authority (“RCA”) Committee representatives on recent work of committee and upcoming issues for RCA Committee consideration

1. Revision of the Tri-County Agreement – overview of some areas of potential revision, are there areas that the committee believes need to be revised?

**Discussion:**

Deputy Administrator Leonhard provides a brief background relative to the Retained County Authority Committee’s responsibility with respect to the revision of the Tri-County Agreement, explaining that the members of the RCA have elected to start the discussion surrounding revision of the agreement earlier than required to engage each of the respective county boards during this term. Leonhard indicates that based on conversations at the RCA meetings and conversations with NCHC CEO Michael Loy, he expects the following issues to be discussed when considering revisions to the agreement:

- How legal services are provided to NCHC
- Makeup of the NCHC Board
  - Specifically, whether county representation is determined by tax levy contribution, population, or some other mechanism; whether a residency requirement should continue to exist; and whether the agreement should expressly provide for a competency driven selection process.
- Structure of the RCA and the NCHC Board
  - Specifically, whether the RCA should remain separate from the board or be incorporated within the NCHC Board, and whether the RCA should codify its current makeup (staff centric).
- Process for consideration whether to expand the partnership or deliver services beyond member counties

Leonhard explains that he will provide committee members an electronic copy of the current Tri-County Agreement and will seek further input from members at future meetings. Members offer initial observations, including that the RCA being comprised of staff representatives of the Chief Administrative Officer of each member county has proven effective and should continue. Members also express the importance of developing a framework for considering the expansion of the partnership and/or the delivery of services outside of the member counties. Leonhard indicates that he and Loy will be engaging the NCHC Board in a similar discussion later this week.

**Follow up:**

Conversations to continue at future meetings.

B. Recently proposed federal legislation to protect health benefits for pre-trial incarcerated offenders – what is the potential impact for Marathon County and what, if anything, does the committee wish to do in response to the proposals?

\* see NACo article summarizing the proposals at <https://www.naco.org/blog/legislation-introduced-protect-federal-health-benefits-pre-trial-individuals>

**Discussion:**

Leonhard provides a brief background on the current impact of pretrial incarceration on individual Medicaid benefits and the potential impact of the proposed federal legislation. Leonhard references that the proposed 2020 County Budget allocates \$1,030,375 for inmate medical and dental expenses. Committee members express support for the change in federal law. Chair Gibbs expresses that the National Association of Counties has been advocating for this change in the law and has suggested that individual counties reach out to their local representatives to express support. Gibbs suggests that we draft a resolution to local to federal representations

**Follow up:**

Gibbs to obtain a draft resolution expressing support for the legislation to bring to the committee and Leonhard to get additional information relative to the impact of inmate medical and dental

expenses on the county budget.

C. Dissemination of the Outline of Discussion Topics and Actions Taken by this Committee that are Directly Related to the Objectives of the Strategic Plan – prepared by Chair Bootz

**Discussion:**

Committee Chair Bootz explains that included within the packet was the document that he prepared categorizing the various agenda topics with respect to the specific strategic plan objectives that the committee is charged with leading that this committee has discussed during this term. Committee members are encouraged to contact Committee Chair Bootz if they have suggested modifications or additions to the document.

**Follow up:** None at this time.

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

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

- Future items for discussion: consideration of a resolution supporting federal legislation aimed at eliminating the termination of Medicaid benefits for individuals incarcerated in jail pretrial and further discussion relative to revising the Tri-County Agreement.

**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 5:08 p.m.**

Minutes Prepared  
By Lance Leonhard  
on October 28, 2019.