

**MARATHON COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
February 25, 2019

Present: John Robinson, Kue Her, Laura Scudiere, Dean Danner, Lori Shepherd, Mary Ann Crosby, Sandi Cihlar (via telephone)

MCHD Staff: Sam Pinzl, Judy Burrows, Joan Theurer, Dale Grosskurth, Jenna Flynn, Eileen Eckardt

Guests: Sen. Jerry Petrowski, Rep. Pat Snyder, Rep. James Edming

**1. Call to Order**

John Robinson called the meeting to order at 8:01 a.m.

**2. Public Comment Period**

John Robinson thanked the legislators in attendance for joining the meeting. John also shared there will be a training at a joint Health & Human Services and Public Safety Committee meeting focused on ACEs this afternoon.

**3. Policy Discussion and Possible Action**

John Robinson shared an overview of the economic impact of the issues of Adverse Childhood Experiences, Behavioral Health, and Substance Abuse on the health of the County.

A. Investing in Health of Our Communities

Joan Theurer walked through current investments in public health, and revenue sources that support the work of the health department in Marathon County.

B. Community Health Priorities for Marathon County – Share and discuss three health priorities in terms of what is the impact on residents, what is happening to reduce impacts, and resources needed to close gaps

i. Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs)

Lori Shepherd presented with Samantha Pinzl regarding Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs), providing information on the effect adverse childhood experiences have on health outcomes and life expectancy. Lori shared how common ACEs are in the population, and how they affect people through behavior and physical and mental health problems. The single most important way to prevent ACEs is to have a caring adult in a child's life. Lori shared data for Wisconsin, showing that the age group of 18-34 has been impacted more in the last 10 years.

Samantha Pinzl shared initiatives underway in Marathon County to address issues around ACEs. Work has been done in the last few years to educate what ACEs are, and how they impact the community. Home visiting as a form of prevention has proven to be effective in reducing ACEs, rather than interventions later in a child's development.

Lori Shepherd that funding for family visiting programs, and continued funding for early childhood education programs will be beneficial in addressing the issues around ACEs.

ii. Behavioral Health

Laura Scudiere presented on the impacts of behavioral health in Marathon County. Efforts underway in Marathon County include the Marathon County School-Based Counseling Consortium, and the Crisis Assessment Response Team (CART).

Judy Burrows shared that through data collected by the Youth Risk Behavior Survey, 30% of youth in Marathon County schools are dealing with behavioral health issues. The School-Based Counseling Consortium provides for access to behavioral health care providers while attending school.

John Robinson shared that 5% of the students being served are receiving good results, but not all students who could benefit are receiving services due to limited access to care, insurance costs, and lack of support from family.

Judy Burrows shared that additional funding for behavioral health going to schools would be useful in being able to train teachers and other school staff.

Laura Scudiere shared that increasing the amount of time for youth crisis stabilization services would be beneficial. Additionally, allowing for easier reinstatement of benefits, such as Badgercare, would be helpful for those returning to the population after incarceration.

iii. Substance Abuse

Laura Scudiere shared an overview of issues faced in Marathon County including an increase in usage of methamphetamines. Things that can be done to help address substance abuse issues in Marathon County include more support for community based prevention programs, greater flexibility in applying funding to address substances, and learning about and considering the impacts of new marijuana legislation in other states when considering legislation in Wisconsin.

John Robinson shared the appreciation for the legislators attending and their willingness to learn about the issues in Marathon County.

Joan Theurer shared that all of the issues around substance abuse and behavioral health come back to ACEs.

**The meeting adjourned at 9:19 a.m.**

Respectfully submitted,

Lori Shepherd, Secretary  
Chris Weisgram, Recorder