

**MARATHON COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
April 13, 2021

Present (Via Zoom): Sandi Cihlar, John Robinson, Craig McEwen, Dean Danner, Kue Her, Tim Buttke, Corrie Norrbom

Healthy Marathon County Alliance (Via Zoom): Debi Traeder, Ciara Schultz, Jennifer Smith, Brooke Davis, Jeff Sargent, Tara Draeger, Erin Wells, JoAnna Bernklau, Katie Dively,

MCHD Staff: Chris Weisgram, Dale Grosskurth, Joan Theurer, Laura Scudiere, Judy Burrows, Melissa Moore, Eileen Eckardt, Aaron Ruff, Hannah Schommer, Jenna Flynn

Others Present: Tim Buttke

**1. Call to Order**

John Robinson called the meeting to order at 7:46 a.m.

**2. Public Comment Period**

None

**3. Approval of the Minutes of the March 9, 2021 Board of Health Meeting**

**Motion to approve the March 9, 2021 meeting minutes made by Dean Danner. Seconded by Kue Her. Motion approved.**

**4. Operational Functions Required by Statute, Ordinance, or Resolution**

A. None

**5. Policy Discussion and Possible Action**

A. Update on Governor Evers 2021-23 Biennial Budget Proposal

- i. Determine public health priorities based on the *Governor Evers 2021-23 Biennial Budget Proposal Initial Analysis for WALHDAB & WPHA* document
- ii. Update on priorities being discussed by Marathon County Standing Committees

Joan Theurer asked if there were any specific areas the Board of Health would like more information on the proposed State budget.

John Robinson shared that County Board Members were asked to look at how the Governor's budget priorities would affect citizens in the County.

Discussion on how Medicaid expansion would free up other general funds to cover program costs in several areas of need. The Board asked Joan Theurer to see if county specific information could be made available in terms of the impact of Medicaid expansion.

John Robinson asked if there are other issues related to the budget proposal that members want to weigh in on. Discussion will continue at the May meeting.

- B. Policy updates from the Wisconsin Association of Local Health Departments and Boards (WALHDAB) and WI Department of Health Services (standing agenda item)
  - i. Overview of LRB-0792 limiting the use of emergency powers during emergencies
  - ii. Other

Joan Theurer provided an overview of the analysis of LRB-0792, which proposes limiting the use of emergency powers during emergencies, specifically prohibiting a health officer's ability to close a business, unless action taken is uniform for all businesses. In addition, LRB-0792 outlines requirements for a local health officer to order the confinement of an individual who has or is suspected of having a communicable disease, including a requirement to petition the court if confinement is longer than 72 hours. The proposed language is keeping with current state statutes for the confinement due to tuberculosis. Current state statutes allows public health officer to confine individuals to their homes through isolation or quarantine to control the spread of disease.

**Dean Danner motioned to oppose the proposed legislation contained in LRB-0792. Seconded by Corrie Norrbom. Motion approved.**

John Robinson will discuss with Tim Buttke and Lance Leonhard about how to move this forward to the Health and Human Services Committee.

- C. Update of COVID-19 response efforts at a local and state level
  - i. Overview of vaccination efforts in Marathon County
  - ii. Other

Judy Burrows provided an update on work being done in the community, including the H2N Collaborative group providing outreach to Hispanic and Hmong communities. Work continues to look at how to connect with vulnerable populations in the County.

Discussion on what percentage of minority populations have received vaccine, and how demographic data is being collected for these groups of the population.

Discussion on status of variants of the COVID-19 virus that are present in Marathon County.

- D. Report from the Health & Human Services Committee March 31, 2021 meeting on policy issues impacting public health

Tim Buttke provided an update on recent activity at the Health & Human Services Committee.

- Potential grant opportunity to serve transient populations in the County
- NCHC building projects update and strategic goals updates
- Reviewed County's strategic plan as they relate to the committee

- E. Update on the Start Right UniverCity program evaluation

Joan Theurer shared a retired faculty member was identified who specialized in evaluation of program services, and clarification questions have been responded to. Within the next week or two, it should be known if the individual will be interested in taking on the review of the Start Right program.

**6. Educational Presentations/Outcome Monitoring Reports (as time permits)**

A. Highlights from the 2021 County Health Rankings

Joan Theurer shared an overview of 2021 County Health Rankings, pointing out strengths and opportunities for improvement. Joan Theurer also walked through specific areas that would be addressed by the new health priorities for 2022-2025.

B. Update on Staffing

Joan Theurer shared Isabel Mandli who was offered a public health nursing position, was not able to accept the role, and will continue to work as a casual nurse. Recruitment for that position continues. Tammy Borchardt, public health nurse has submitted her resignation.

**7. Announcements**

None

**8. Policy Discussion and Possible Action (resume 8:30 AM)**

A. Development of the 2022-2025 Community Health Priorities

Amanda Ostrowski facilitated discussion with members of the Board of Health and Healthy Marathon County for clarification of definitions for the 2022-2025 health priorities: Substance Misuse, Mental Health, and Health Equity.

Discussion on how work continues to be done to address current health priorities, however in a different format. The effect of the COVID-19 pandemic has been to further amplify the needs in the community.

Participants completed a rank ordering of three definition options for each identified health priority. Amanda Ostrowski shared the purpose of selecting a definition was to create boundaries for defining local conditions which will serve as Marathon County's definition. The majority of participants selected the following definitions as a place to begin:

Health Equity – Everyone has a fair and just opportunity to be as healthy as possible. This requires removing obstacles to health such as poverty, discrimination, and their consequences, including powerlessness and lack of access to good jobs with fair pay, quality education and housing, safe environments, and health care. (Source: Robert Wood Johnson Foundation: <https://www.rwjf.org/en/library/research/2017/05/what-is-health-equity-.html>)

Mental Health – Mental health is defined as a state of well-being in which every individual realizes his or her own potential, can cope with normal stresses of life, can work productively and fruitfully, and is able to make a contribution to his or her community. (Source: World Health Organization: [https://www.who.int/mental\\_health/media/investing\\_mnh.pdf](https://www.who.int/mental_health/media/investing_mnh.pdf))

Substance Misuse – Substance use disorders occur when the recurrent use of alcohol and/or drugs causes clinically significant impairment, including health problems, disability, and failure to meet major responsibilities at work, school, or home. The great majority of substance-related health and social problems occur among those who are not addicted. (Source: SAMHSA: Mental Health and Substance Use Disorders, National Institutes of Health)

Amanda shared the Community Health Improvement team will begin taking the definitions and incorporating them into results based accountability framework. Next steps include: 1) creating a local, Marathon County definition of the condition of well-being, population, and geographic location for each health priority; and 2) selecting indicators to measure success once the local definition has been created.

**9. Next Meeting Date & Time, Location, Future Agenda Items:**

- A. Confirm May 11, 2021 meeting date and determine agenda topics
  - i. Healthy Marathon County to join for the second half of the meeting to further the development of the 2022-2025 Community Health Priorities

**10. Adjourn**

**Motion to adjourn by Craig McEwen. Seconded by Kue Her. The meeting adjourned at 9:23 a.m.**

Respectfully submitted,

Lori Shepherd, Secretary  
Chris Weisgram, Recorder