

## Marathon County Board of Health

**Meeting Date/Time:** Tuesday, September 14, 2021 at 7:45 AM

**Meeting Location:** Marathon County Courthouse  
Assembly Room  
500 Forest Street  
Wausau, WI 54403  
[Also via Zoom]

Present (in person): John Robinson, Sandi Cihlar

Present (via Zoom): Kue Her, Dean Danner, Tiffany Lee, Corrie Norrbom

MCHD Staff: Laura Scudiere, Amanda Ostrowski, Aaron Ruff, Hannah Schommer,  
Kim Wieloch, Jonathan Schmunk, Kang Chu Yang, Laura Fischer, Jenna Flynn

Others via Zoom: Tim Buttke, Becky Turpin, Erin Wells, Jennifer Smith, Katie Dively

### **1. Call to Order**

John Robinson called the meeting to order at 7:48 AM.

### **2. Public Comment Period (Limit to 15 Minutes)**

No public comments were made.

### **3. Approval of the Minutes of the August 10, 2021 Board of Health Meeting**

**Motion to approve the minutes of the August 10, 2021 Board of Health meeting made by Kue Her. Second by Corrie Norrbom. Motion approved.**

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

A. None

### **5. Policy Discussion and Possible Action**

A. COVID-19 Response and Recovery Funding for Local and Tribal Health Departments

Laura Scudiere provided a review of three new COVID-related grants: American Recovery Plan Act grant funding, Immunization & Vaccine grant funds, and Public Health Crisis Response grant funding. She shared that the Health Department is now in its nineteenth month of COVID response, and without additional financial support, the services that they are required to provide per DHS 140 will continue to erode, as all programs within the Health Department are contributing to COVID response efforts. There was discussion about how this funding will affect relationships with community partners; Laura responded that this funding gives the Health Department the ability to approach COVID response as a long-term strategy by building infrastructure, and that hiring additional staff dedicated solely to COVID will allow other staff to be freed up and more responsive to partners. There was

additional discussion about the development of dashboards to measure outcomes of initiatives funded by these grants; DHS may include specific dashboard measurements in their grant requirements. John Robinson requested that dashboard development be addressed at a future meeting, as dashboards monitored by the Board of Health adds ownership of investments and priorities by its members.

**Motion to accept funding made by Sandi Cihlar. Second by Dean Danner. Motion approved.**

**6. Educational Presentations/Outcome Monitoring Reports**

A. Introduction to Laura Scudiere, Health Officer

John Robinson formally welcomed Laura Scudiere as Marathon County's new Health Officer. He shared that Laura has served on the Board of Health in the past and in several high-profile roles related to health in the community. Laura Scudiere shared her background in public health indicated that her focus moving forward is rebuilding after COVID and development of strategies, not just response, to public health crises.

B. Update on COVID-19 pandemic response efforts

Laura Scudiere shared an overview of the COVID-19 Delta variant; it is more contagious and causes more serious adverse effects in the unvaccinated. Research has shown that vaccinated individuals who contract COVID spread the disease for a shorter period and less likely to have severe symptoms. We are seeing an increase in post-COVID health conditions, indicating that COVID has long-term effects. She encourages community members to check out the Health Department's COVID-19 dashboard measurements on website. Laura also noted that the Health Department is also tracking other respiratory issues, like RSV and influenza. She indicated that focus needs to be brought back to other health conditions, especially immunizations in children. There was discussion by the group about difficulties in reaching marginalized populations and strategies to overcome these barriers. Additional discussion followed concerning if the Health Department will have any responsibility for enforcement of vaccination mandates; this is not likely. John Robinson noted that law firms are doing research around this topic, and the Board should explore this in a future meeting once there is more clarity.

Laura shared the Department of Health Services (DHS) Guidelines for the Prevention, Investigation, and Control of COVID-19 Outbreaks in K-12 Schools in Wisconsin, which the health department has been using as guidance for schools in Marathon County. There was a discussion about the integration of mitigation efforts in area schools. Laura shared that the Health Department hopes to implement JotNotes as a way of quickly disseminating information to parents and others in the community when someone is notified as a close contact.

C. Update on actions being taken to address human health hazards identified at the Northern Mobile Home Park

Marathon County continues to work with the City of Schofield, Judicare, and NCCAP to mitigate the human health hazards identified at the mobile home park. On September 7, a judge ordered Sustainable Resources (the mobile home park owner) that residents have 60 days to move from the park. NCCAP and Judicare are assisting the residents.

- D. Report from the Health & Human Services Committee September 9 meeting on policy issues impacting public health

Tim Buttke reported that the HHS Committee approved acceptance of grant funds; the proposal now goes to Finance committee. The Committee also reviewed the cooperation agreement for a community development block grant and approved a resolution to make October Domestic Violence Awareness Month.

**7. Announcements**

None.

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

- A. Determine “indicators” for the Community Health Priority Substance Misuse

Amanda facilitated a discussion with the group, with the goal to select the result for Mental Health Priority: what is the end condition of well-being that we want for Marathon County residents and their mental health. The group selected “All Marathon County residents meet their highest potential of mental health” as the desired result. Next steps will be for the Substance Misuse and Mental Health Indicators to move into Turn the Curve development.

Hannah Schommer shared information around depression in youth.

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

- A. Confirm October 12, 2021 meeting date and determine agenda topics
  - i. Update on Marathon County Start Right program evaluation

**10. Adjourn**

**Motion to adjourn made by Sandi Cihlar; second by Kue Her. Motion approved. Meeting was adjourned at 9:49 AM.**

Respectfully submitted,

Kue Her, Secretary  
Kim Wieloch, Recorder