Marathon County DSS Community Response (CR) Program
Case Services and Outcomes June 2016

The following information reflects data collected from September, 2008 to June 2016.

1. **Numbers Served:**

Total Program Referrals: 421 families

- 64 not offered CR services due to being at capacity
  (When cases are placed on the program wait list longer than three months they are not offered services).
- 357 families Offered services

Families that participated in program services: 222

- 62% participation rate

Marathon County’s rate exceeds state average program participation rate of 54% (2012)

Adults and Children served by Community Response:

- 305 adults
- 441 children Total: 746

Age ranges of children served: 0-2= 211; 3-5= 124; 6-8= 68; 9-11=20; 12+= 18

Average Participation length: 5 months
Average # home visits completed per family: 9

2. **Recidivism data:**

The following information reflects how many families have been referred back to the formal Child Protective Service (CPS) system after being referred to the Marathon County Community Response Program:

Families referred back to CPS that had ACCEPTED program services:

Of 222 participating families: *It should be noted that these are cases which have been opened to CR throughout the lifespan of CR.*

- 28 cases or 13% were substantiated abuse and neglect (13 cases referred by CR worker during program involvement, 6 were substantiated )
  - Average time between CR services and substantiated abuse/neglect= 25 months
- 3 cases screened in as Alternative Response had identified service needs
- 25 cases or 11% resulted in Out of Home placements (Three families voluntarily placed children in care while participating in Community Response)
- 30 cases or 14% opened for court ordered ongoing services
- 32 families received multiple screened-in reports (three or more reports)
Families referred back to CPS that DECLINED (135) / NOT OFFERED (64) program services: Of 199 non-participating families:

- **47 cases or 24%** were substantiated child abuse and neglect
- **6 cases** screened in as alternative response had identified service needs
- **42 cases or 21%** resulted in Out of Home Placements
- **49 cases or 25%** opened for court ordered ongoing services
- **42 families** received multiple screened-in reports (three or more reports)

3. **Flex Fund Use:**

The Community Response Program has flexible funds that can be used on families toward a household expense that will help meet an immediate need and/or reach an identified program goal.

187 families were approved to use program funds; the average amount spent per family is $500.

- **Utilities:** 67 families
- **Rent/Security Deposit:** 83 families
- **Car Repairs:** 16 families
- **Guardianship filing fees:** 5
- **Child care co-payments:** 6
- **Other:** 28 families (Y memberships, cleaning service, phone bill, vehicle down payment, employment uniform clothing, license renewal/driver exam fee, driving classes, AODA assessment, respite care, C.N.A. course and exam fee, taxi cab license fee, baby items, home safety supplies, medical lock box, home organization items, van seats)

In addition to flex fund use families also received:

- **Gas card:** 123 families received one or more
- **Walmart Card:** 164 families received one or more
- **Bus Passes:** 64 families
- **Bus tokens:** 40 families
4. **Community Services Provided During CR Program Involvement:**

The following information reflects the various resources and services that families have been connected to in the course of program involvement:

**Family Team Meetings:** 73 (family meetings held with identified formal and informal supports to discuss and work on family goals and needs)

**Start Right Program Referrals:**
- 44 families involved prior to CR involvement
- 69 referred by Community Response Worker or Public Health Nurse during program involvement

**Public Health Nurse**
- 45 families received services from Marathon Co. Public Health during CR involvement

**Counseling/Support Groups/Mental Health Services:**
- 37 families involved in counseling prior to program participation
- 68 families referred by CR worker

**Domestic Violence/Sexual Assault Services:**
- 55 families referred to support groups, shelter, advocacy, safety planning

**Food Pantries:**
- 82 families referred or transported by CR worker

**Employment:**
- 133 families referred to Job Center, provided with job postings, were assisted with locating employment online and/or filling out applications, or received other employment assistance
- 18 families referred to FSET program (employment program reopened April 2015) *only for those not on W2
- 74 families referred to the Wisconsin Works program

**Clothing:**
- 118 families referred to Rebecca’s Closet by CR worker
- 119 families given Goodwill vouchers by CR worker

**WIC:**
- 45 families referred/transported by CR worker

**Education:**
- 30 Families had college application fees waived or paid for
- 68 families referred to GED/HSED, college level, or C.N.A classes

**Housing:**
- 100 families referred to Section 8/Low Income housing or had assistance locating housing
Energy Assistance:
86 families referred by CR worker

North Central Community Action Program/Emergency Assistance at Job Center (rent assistance)
70 families referred by CR worker

Childcare:
57 families provided information on licensed or certified childcare providers

Catholic Charities:
55 families were referred to Catholic Charities for assistance programs

Head Start:
24 families referred by CR worker
16 families enrolled prior to CR participation

Budgeting Class:
54 families referred to class at UW-extension

Alcohol and Drug related services:
29 families referred by CR worker
15 referred by other agency

Safelink Wireless telephone:
53 families referred by CR worker
27 families previously enrolled

Legal Assistance:
57 families referred to Judicare or other legal advocacy by CR worker

Parenting classes at the Family Resource Center or other parenting support:
119 families previously participated and/or referred by CR worker

Holiday baskets/gift sponsorship:
35 families referred by CR worker

Project Step-up:
14 families referred by CR worker
4 families involved prior to CR involvement

North Central Health Care/ Comprehensive Community Services
10 involved in program
16 referred by CR worker

Wheels to Work:
46 families referred
Transportation:
72 families provided with transportation to and from medical or other appointments

Birth to Three:
28 families participating or referred by CR worker

Habitat for Humanity:
3 families referred

Social Security Disability (SSI):
49 families receiving benefits prior to CR participation or referred by this worker

Lutheran Social Services/ Pregnancy and Adoption Services:
5 families referred

Neighbor’s Place:
58 families received referrals for household items by CR worker

Other Donations: 35 families received donations from helplink, Women in Action, church groups, etc.
RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF INCREASED FUNDING IN THE CHILDREN AND FAMILY AIDS ALLOCATION

WHEREAS, the Department of Children and Families provides funding to counties through the Children and Family Aids allocation for the provision of child abuse and neglect services, including prevention, investigation, treatment, and out-of-home placement costs; and

WHEREAS, base funding for child welfare services has not increased since the Department of Children and Families was created in 2009; and

WHEREAS, over the past few years, the child welfare workload has increased for the State including Marathon County; and

WHEREAS, the number of child protective services (CPS) referrals for the State has increased by 30 percent since 2007 from 55,895 referrals in 2007 to 72,698 in 2014. In Marathon County, referrals have increased 6 percent from 1,174 in 2006 to 1,250 in 2015; and

WHEREAS, the number of children in out-of-home care has increased for the State from 7,653 in 2011 to 8,258 in 2015. In Marathon County, the number of children in out-of-home care has increased from 219 in 2011 to 287 in 2015; and

WHEREAS, the number of screened-in CPS reports has increased for the State from 18,706 in 2011 to 20,384 in 2015. In Marathon County, the number of screened-in reports has increased from 368 in 2011 to 585 in 2015. This is a 59 percent increase in screened in reports that require a social worker response; and

WHEREAS, the number of Children in Need of Protection and Services (CHIPS) petitions filed with the court for the State has increased 12.5 percent from 2008 to 2015. In Marathon County the number of CHIPS petitions filed with the court has increased 67 percent from 2007 to 2015; and

WHEREAS, counties in Wisconsin are struggling to recruit and retain child welfare workers due to high work load volumes; and many experienced child welfare workers are leaving the profession; and

WHEREAS, the leading cause of these increases is the use of heroin, opiates, and methamphetamines; and

WHEREAS, it is critical that counties have the resources necessary to ensure the safety of children in every corner of the state; and
WHEREAS, counties are struggling to identify resources to increase child welfare staff, especially given the significant overmatch counties already put in the human services system.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Marathon County Board of Supervisors does hereby request that the state of Wisconsin, in its 2017-19 state biennial budget, increase funding to counties in the Children and Family Aids allocation to assist counties in serving the increasing number of children and families in the child welfare system; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be sent to Governor Scott Walker, Department of Children and Families Secretary Eloise Anderson, Department of Administration Secretary Scott Neitzel, area legislators, and the Wisconsin Counties Association.
CONTACT INFORMATION

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