



MARATHON COUNTY HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING

MINUTES

Monday, October 9, 2017 – 4:00 p.m.

Courthouse Assembly Room (B-105), 500 Forest Street, Wausau WI 54403

Attendance:	Present	Absent
Matt Bootz, Chair	X	
John Robinson, Vice Chair	X	
Bill Miller	X	
Orval Quamme	X	
Katie Rosenberg	X	
Maynard Tremelling	X	
Todd Van Ryn	X	

Also Present: Brad Karger, Lance Leonhard, Kurt Gibbs, Ralph Illick, Mai Ger, Scott Corbett, Jeff Sargent, Brian Kowalski, Laura Scudiere, Joan Theurer, Michael Loy, Erin Dickinson, Kristin Baisch, Mary Palmer

1. **Call Meeting to Order**

The Health & Human Services meeting was called to order at 4:00 p.m. by Chair Matt Bootz

2. **Public Comment** - None

3. **Approval of the September 11, 2017 Meeting Minutes**

MOTION BY ROBERG; SECOND BY ROBINSON TO APPROVE THE SEPTEMBER 11, 2017 MEETING MINUTES AS MODIFIED. MOTION CARRIED.

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

A. Report on Progress of Mount View Care Center in Developing MVCC's Strategic Plan

Discussion:

The Mount View Care Center Committee continues to meet regularly. Options that have risen are to sell off buildings and land, invest in improvements, continue trying to keep capital costs in line. Some decisions need to be stalled until the master facility plan is done by NCHC and then develop a plan that addresses all capital needs rather than just the plan with the Committee. The master plan will be presented at another meeting. A recommendation should be made by the end of January. The committee charter will need to be amended to extend the time after they know when the master plan and facilities plan is ready.

Follow through:

None needed at this time.

B. United Way 2-1-1 Referral Services

Discussion:

Standing committees have been asked to review Quadrant 4 programs. This is a Quadrant 4 program because it is not mandated and it's a partnership. Marathon County United Way (MCUW) 2-1-1 is in that quadrant and that is why Mai Ger and Jeff Sargent are here to talk about this program. It is available to every resident in the county. When someone needs help and/or assistance this is a place for them to turn to. 2-1-1 provides information on almost everything - weather catastrophes, shootings, employers looking for resources. It also provides information on everyday basic needs of services – rental assistance, food resources, utility assistance, and who they need to contact. Recently many calls have been referred to the Health Department to assist with certain clients that are calling to receive assistance on early childhood development through Start Right. 2-1-1 and the Health Department are working on a memorandum of understanding to do warm transfers.

2016 Annual report – Over 8,000 calls were handled last year on housing assistance (rent, security deposit, community shelter), food pantry, clothing needs, gas assistance, etc. 82% were met with a referral. Mental Health needs are identified and if assistance is needed right away they notify law enforcement or Health Care Center. 2-1-1 potentially covers anything anyone can run into. Great resource! Without 2-1-1 those calls/individuals would be contacting various departments in the County.

Calls are answered at the United Way office. There is a contract with LaCrosse who covers after hours. MCUW hours are 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday, but are part of an eight county call center. Having a skilled person on the line helps drill down to get the appropriate services needed. They are a reporter for CPS (child protective services)

Follow through:

None needed.

5. Policy Issues Discussion and Committee Determination to the County Board for its Consideration

A. New Social Worker Positions

Discussion:

There is a wait list for children with disabilities and an additional two social workers will help with that case load. The positions are contingent upon 100% non-levy funding.

Action:

MOTION BY ROBINSON, SECOND BY ROSENBERG TO APPROVE THE REQUEST FOR TWO ADDITIONAL SOCIAL WORKER POSITIONS CONTINGENT UPON 100% FUNDING CONTINUED FROM OUTSIDE MARATHON COUNTY. MOTION CARRIED.

Follow through:

No follow through needed at this time.

B. Senior Center – Move to Library and Preliminary Estimates, Weight Restrictions

Discussion:

There are weight restrictions on the third floor of the Library which may remove it from consideration. When the Library was built the third floor was built with the least cost possible. A design would have to be approved. Parking and elevator are two issues that also need to be considered.

All restrictions need to be identified and understood going in to see if we could be used. Michael Lotter, Marathon County's Facilities and Capital Management Director, is taking the lead on this. Original code was designed for assembly or administration, 100 lbs. per square foot, not activities.

The Rib Mountain Senior Center is OK with this moving forward.

One supervisor asked why Wausau isn't involved in this. Most activity centers are sponsored in whole or in part by a city. The Marathon County Board should not be taking a lead on this. We can either drop it and walk away or move it forward.

Action:

No action taken.

Follow through:

No follow through required.

C. "We Are Losing the War on Drugs" – Possibility of Establishing a Task Force to Evaluate What We Are Doing Now, Plans In Place to Enhance Impact, Identify Future Opportunities and Create a Coordinated Plan for Moving Forward

Discussion:

Chair Bootz would like a task force created relating to the Opioid epidemic to include members from the Sheriff's Department, Social Services, Health Department, North Central Health Care, County Board members and other essential people/agencies, to coordinate what is already being done and what needs to be done. Questions arose on who would lead the task force and who

would staff it. A look at what other counties are doing will need to be done. This is a big project and will take a lot of time.

After we get an understanding of Marathon County's services and the meaning of response, we may consider working with other counties and create a multi-county task force. Every county has unique situations and the coordination needs to happen in Marathon County first. Identifying best practices and where the gaps are would be a good place to start. Incarceration of offenders doesn't work and treatment is very expensive.

Identify the problem, what resources do we have in the community and what are the best management practices adopted by others.

Are there opportunities for an intern to do a lot of the leg work? Prioritization of a work plan for time and investment. We can't afford to not do it

Judge Morgan invited any Board member to sit on the bench with him on intake next week.

Action:

MOTION BY ROBINSON; SECOND BY ROSENBERG FOR COUNTY ADMINISTRATION TO DEVELOP A CHARTER RELATIVE TO THE TASK FORCE ON COMMUNITY RESPONSE TO DRUG USE AND APPROPRIATE ORGANIZATION STRUCTURE AND LEVELS. MOTION CARRIED.

Follow through:

The County Administrator will start the charter and identify who will take the lead and staff it.

D. Possible Lawsuit by Wisconsin Counties Against Pharmaceutical Companies to Recover Costs to Counties from the Opioid Epidemic (Referral from Executive Committee)

Discussion:

Whitefish Bay attorneys Erin Dickinson and Kristin Baisch from Crueger Dickinson are working with von Briesen & Roper and the Wisconsin Counties Association (WCA) on litigation relating to a possible lawsuit by Wisconsin Counties against pharmaceutical companies to recover costs to counties from the opioid epidemic.

There will be no initial investment from the county, but there will be an investment of people's time to gather information as the lawsuit moves forward. Various departments will be involved such as Sheriff's, Social Services, Clerk of Courts, Health Department, etc. The attorneys will have a team working with our departments when gathering the information.

The basic reason pharmaceutical companies are responsible is that about 10 years ago pharmaceutical companies were making misstatements. This resulted in a settlement in a wrongful death.

General statements about opioids are not covered by the FDA. The cases are state law cases and done state by state.

The FDA doesn't do their own testing. False information from the manufacturers on opioids was given to FDA.

Currently counties are acting independently. Counties claims are independent of the Attorney General. And as right now the Wisconsin Attorney General has not filed any claims.

The counties are filing separate from the state because when the state went after the tobacco companies the counties didn't receive any money.

The attorneys are prepared to go all the way as long as it takes. This is what they do.

There has been a lot of discussion among Corporation Counsels. The vast majority are supporting the lawsuit. The concerns among the minority of Corporation Counsels are cost of man hours to quantify the damages. The overload caused by this is real and it is something to be able to quantify. There is a link between the time, causation and action these companies took plus the

marketing for long term use. They believe they will be able to prove it.

There will be a uniform set of questions. The attorneys have engaged a service to come in and do data collection. They will have a very organized set of information and statistics that they will need. There will be man hours to identify where the data lies. There will be document asks, depositions and appropriate witnesses and a point person.

Committee members were encouraged to read through the timeline in the Complaint. Exhibit A to the Complaint really tells the story of the conspiracy and how deep it went. They can differentiate between opioids, meth and heroine.

Timeframes:

Filing depositions, what's best case and worst case scenario?

Next couple of months – anyone that wants to get in on this will get in.

There will be consolidation of cases in the federal courts in the next couple months. If you are not in suit by then you can be added, but will be less of a leader.

Step 2 – It will be a multiyear litigation. It could be longer than 4 years. No way to predict.

There are four counties on board already and another waive starting October 17th. About 33 counties are verbally committed.

Since NCHC is a 3 county entity that provides our treatment – we provide some level of tax support and they draw down additional resources, will they have to be part of the lawsuit? Scott Corbett thinks Marathon County will be able to quantify. Lincoln County is already involved and not sure of Langlade.

Under the Procurement Policy there is no policy on funds coming in.

Action:

MOTION BY ROBINSON; SECOND BY QUAMME TO RECOMMEND TO THE COUNTY BOARD TO PARTICIPATE IN THE LAWSUIT AND COORDINATION TO DO DISCOVERY WITH THE TASK FORCE AND DESIGNATE THE COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR TO SIGN THE ENGAGEMENT AGREEMENT AND AUTHORIZE EXECUTION OF THE ENGAGEMENT LETTER. UPON SETTLEMENT OF THE CLAIM THE MONEY BE ESCROWED INTO A FUND WITH THE USE TO BE DETERMINED BY THE COUNTY BOARD IN PLACE AT THAT TIME. MOTION CARRIED.

Chair Gibbs expressed concern that we are trying to tie the hands of a future board by this motion.

Follow through:

Send to County Board.

6. Next Meeting Logistics and Topics:

- A. Committee members are asked to bring ideas for future discussion
- B. Next Scheduled Meetings: Monday, November 13, 2017 at 4:00 p.m.

6. Announcements:

- Mount View Care Center Committee is meeting next Monday at 7:30 p.m.
- Kurt Gibbs reminded everyone to see his e-mail and follow up with our legislators

8. Adjournment

There being no further business to discuss, **MOTION BY ROBINSON; SECOND BY ROSENBERG; TO ADJOURN THE HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING. MOTION CARRIED.** Meeting adjourned at 5:40 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted
by Mary Palmer