

**BAYFIELD COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
FAMILY SERVICES ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES**

Minutes are subject to change before approval at next FSAC meeting

Courthouse Conference Room A & remote
Wednesday, January 12th, 2022 at 4:30 pm

Committee Members Present via telephone: Lona Schmidt, Kylie Vadnais, Bev Lindell, Dale and Nancy Johnson, Wayne Crozier, Mary Dougherty and Bev Patterson.

Others Present: Mary Anich (Family Services Section Manager), Elizabeth Skulan-Peppy (Human Services Director) and Nina Bucher (Support Staff).

Introductions and Call to order: Lona called the meeting to order at 4:30.

Minute Approval: Wayne made a motion to approve the October 13th, 2021 FSAC meeting minutes as written. Dale seconded the motion and the motion passed.

Public Comment Opportunity: No public comment.

Staffing Update: Mary A. relayed details of new hires and vacancies. In addition to one employee being out on family medical leave, the current openings are for a Foster Care Case Manager/Social Worker and the second Behavioral Health Case Manager/Social Worker. Family Services staff are all pitching in to cover during the worker shortage.

When asked if anything had been learned from the exiting employees, Mary A. explained the main reasons for leaving were due to schooling or moving out of the area.

Program reports: Referrals for Youth Justice and Child Protective Services are up, and there have been an increasing number of calls to the on call staff nights, holidays and on the weekends.

The Behavioral Health worker is helping two residents who are looking for MH/AODA rehab placements.

Area schools have noticed an increase in behavioral health needs with long waiting lists to see local providers. Since the start of the pandemic, in person providers have seen an increase in clients seeking assistance. Telehealth availability has also increased. However there does not appear to be enough providers available to meet demand.

Informational Items: Bayfield County has funding set aside for therapy and educational services after an "Operating While Intoxicated" violation. A meeting was held with NorthLakes Community Clinic to confer on usage.

Discussion was had on ways to get the word out on therapeutic and other services available in the area and online, without breaking confidences or stepping on toes.

Future Meetings: Meetings will continue quarterly on the second Wednesday of the month with the 2022 meetings falling on April 13th, July 13th, and October 12th.

Adjournment: Lona adjourned the meeting at at 4:55 pm.

Minutes respectfully submitted by,

Nina Bucher

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