

**BAYFIELD COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES  
FAMILY SERVICES ADVISORY COMMITTEE (FSAC) MEETING NOTES**

Minutes are subject to change before approval at next FSAC meeting

Courthouse Conference Room A & Remote  
Wednesday, January 12<sup>th</sup>, 2023, at 4:30 pm

**Committee Members Present:** Mary Dougherty (via Teams), Bev Lindell & Nancy & Dale Johnson (via telephone)

**Committee Members Absent:** Bev Patterson, Lona Schmidt.

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

**Introductions and Call to order:** Skulan ran the meeting as Chairman Schmidt was absent.

**Minute Approval:** Skulan asked if there were changes or a motion to approve the 7/13/22 FSAC meeting minutes. Dougherty made the motion and D Johnson seconded. Motion carried.

Skulan asked if there were any changes needed to the 10/12/22 meeting notes from the last FSAC meeting where there was not a quorum. No one had changes so the notes were put on file.

**Public Comment Opportunity:** No public comment.

**New Committee Member Recruitment:** Anich asked if anyone had any suggestions to fill the two vacancies on the Family Services Advisory Committee. If so, please direct them to complete the application for Citizen Committee Member on the Bayfield County website under employment <https://www.governmentjobs.com/careers/bayfieldco>.

**Staffing Updates:** Anich noted two Case Manager hires since the last meeting: Michelle Arganbright and Alice Wilson. Arganbright has been working on Youth Justice referrals and Wilson on Child Welfare/Child Protective Services. Both are doing very well.

Recruitment continues for a Youth Justice and a Child Protective Services worker.

**Program reports:** Anich gave an overview and description of the Youth Justice numbers from 2011-2022. Cases went from 113 in 2011 down to 42 in 2022. Anich believes Law Enforcement is not referring all situations they come across any longer, and the robust job of the Indian Child Welfare workers going on at Red Cliff to assist families at younger ages may keep children out of the system.

Once a referral comes into Family Services, staff has 40 days to research the situation, meet with the family, and develop a plan to address the delinquent act. Many times this is a Deferred Prosecution Agreement (DPA) that includes meeting stipulations within six months to avoid the case being referred to Court. The stipulations may be an apology, restitution,

learning, or other related actions to teach the child why what they did was wrong, and to correct it. The DA reviews all DPAs and could disagree with the case manager's decision, but has not yet.

**Informational Items:**

Anich explained that Family Services received temporary Safe and Stable Funds of \$40,000 to address creating safety plans/safe places for children to be placed. Anich said this is not a need very often in our area, so they will have to work at spending it properly.

Praise was given to employees Briana Aldaba, Marne Belanger, and Val Gurske-Westlund for their work on recruiting foster homes in Bayfield County and helping Red Cliff with their foster care program.

Anich relayed that Gretchen Morris, the Director of Red Cliff Indian Child Welfare has left and there is an Interim Director in her place now. Anich stated they had their monthly meeting with Red Cliff just that morning.

**Future Meetings:** Meetings will continue quarterly on the second Wednesday of the month: April 12, July 12, and October 11, 2023

**Adjournment:** Skulan adjourned the meeting at 5:07 pm.

Minutes respectfully submitted by,

*Nina Bucher*

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