

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

Minutes are subject to change before approval at next FSAC meeting

Courthouse Conference Room A & remote
Wednesday, April 13th, 2022 at 4:30 pm

Committee Members Present: Mary Dougherty, via telephone; Lona Schmidt, Kylie Vadnais, Wayne Crozier.

Committee Members Absent: Bev Patterson, Nancy & Dale Johnson, Bev Lindell (excused).

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: Lona made a motion to approve the January 12th, 2022, FSAC meeting minutes as written. Wayne seconded the motion and the motion passed.

Public Comment Opportunity: No public comment.

Staffing Update: Mary A. relayed details of staff changes since the last meeting: Val Gurske-Westlund is the new Family Specialist; Briana Aldaba is the new Kinship/Foster Care Coordinator; Evan Maki is the new Behavioral Health Case Manager; and August Gordon has transitioned to the Youth Justice position vacated when Traci Olson returned to Probation and Parole. This leaves just one vacancy for a second Behavioral Health Social Worker/Case Manager. All are doing very well!

Program reports: YASI (Youth Assessment and Screening Instrument) is a new youth justice initiative that has been phased in to provide consistency throughout the state. Screening tools are used on youth referred to Bayfield County who have allegedly violated the law. The goal of the assessment is to identify low-risk youth offenders who could benefit more from reformative action versus the justice system and treat them accordingly. Bayfield County is in the last wave of counties to implement the tool and just starting to apply YASI now.

Informational Items: Mary A. said that she, Richard Kamm, and Melissa Huempfer had applied and been selected to participate in a six month "Applied Learning Community" focused on Child Protective Services (CPS) danger threats. This is an intensely enhanced discussion amongst participating counties (includes Ashland, Douglas and Sawyer Counties in our area) on: screening CPS cases; how to better utilize/apply laws, rules, and assessments; and identify danger threats and threshold.

Anich reported Red Cliff and Bayfield County have different legal opinions on how CPS investigations that include tribal children living on the reservation must be conducted.

Corporation Counsel has requested a legal opinion from the Wisconsin Department of Children and Families (DCF) to resolve the issue.

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

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

Minutes respectfully submitted by,

Nina Bucher

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