

**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, July 13<sup>th</sup>, 2022, at 4:30 pm

**Committee Members Present:** Mary Dougherty, Lona Schmidt, Bev Patterson, Nancy & Dale Johnson, Bev Lindell (all via telephone)

**Committee Members Absent:** Wayne Crozier

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

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

**Minute Approval:** Schmidt made a motion to approve the April 13<sup>th</sup>, 2022, FSAC meeting minutes as written. Lindell seconded the motion and the motion passed.

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

**New Committee Member/Recruitment/Resignation:** Committee member vacancy remains open due to Kylie Vadnais' resignation. Human Services is working on advertising for the position. Application for Citizen Committee Member can be found on the Bayfield County website under employment <https://www.governmentjobs.com/careers/bayfieldco>. Opportunities on how to spread the word about the vacancy were discussed.

**Staffing Updates:** Anich noted that Tom Croteau, as of July 1<sup>st</sup>, has taken over supervision of both Behavioral Health Case Manager positions. One position is filled by Evan Maki and the other Behavioral Health Case Manager position has been posted, as August Gordon has transitioned from Behavioral Health Case Manager to the Youth Justice Case Manager. Anich and Croteau have been co-supervising since 2021 and will continue to work closely as the behavioral health staff offices remain in the Family Services section; services provided by both sections continue to overlap; and on-call and youth intake rotation will still be a part of the behavioral health position duties.

Recruitment continues for vacant Child Protective Services Case Manager position.

Anich stated that Bayfield County is fortunate to have valued and quality staff who continue to grow in skill and knowledge of these complex programs.

**Program reports:** Anich reports there is an uptick in challenging cases and behaviors, especially with one youth. Resources are sparse and have proven even more so with complex cases which results in frustrations with both clients and staff. Ashley Miller, August Gordon and Anich met with the Resources Connection team through Wisconsin Association of Family and

Children's Agencies to present the difficulty in placing a difficult youth case and to ask for help in finding other resources.

Foster homes are currently at capacity in Bayfield County which is making placement difficult. Briana Aldaba, Foster/Kinship Coordinator is working on securing additional foster homes in our area.

There will be a foster care recruitment meet and greet from 3-7 p.m. on July 28<sup>th</sup> at Moon Lake Campground pavilions. Interested folks can just drop by for information. Patterson stated she would help spread the word about the foster home event and need for homes at her church.

Anich and Briana Aldaba met with Red Cliff Indian Child Welfare (ICW) for monthly joint staffing of out of home cases where Bayfield County serves as fiscal agent for a large portion of Red Cliff's placements. This also includes gathering information on new and ongoing cases and adhering to state and federal documentation and requirements for out of home placements. Red Cliff and Bayfield County continue to have different legal opinions on how Child Protective Services (CPS) investigations that include tribal children living on the reservation must be conducted. However, Red Cliff continues to do an excellent job of taking care of their community and both organizations end goals remain the same.

Youth Justice court referrals are down. Many cases are now being handled without court involvement.

### **Informational Items:**

Anich and Richard Kamm continue to attend "Applied Learning Communities" training focused on CPS danger threats. Training helps to identify and examine present and impending danger while screening child protective services reports.

Schmidt inquired if the new Youth Assessment and Screening Instrument (YASI) software was working well. Anich reported that Kamm has only been able to use it for one case, but it is hopeful that it will be much better than the previous screening document.

Lindell inquired about extra money for mental health in the wake of all of the school shootings. Skulan reported that the Wisconsin County Association is lobbying the State for more money for mental health needs, highly geared toward youth participants.

Family Services section will have a unit retreat on Friday, July 15.

**Future Meetings:** Meetings will continue quarterly on the second Wednesday of the month with the last 2022 meeting falling on October 12<sup>th</sup>.

**Adjournment:** Schmidt adjourned the meeting at 4:59 pm.

Minutes respectfully submitted by,

*Sarah Traaholt*

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