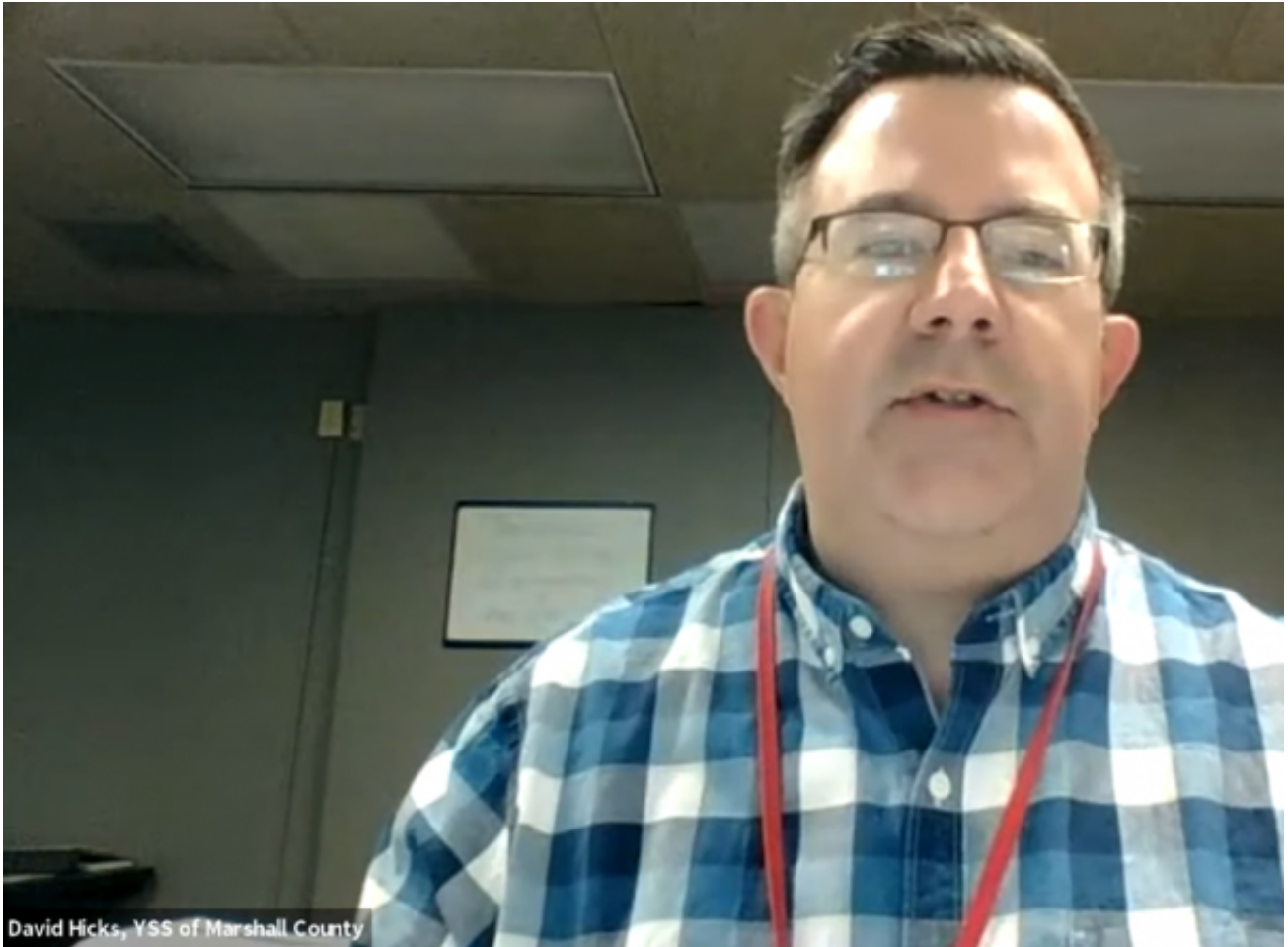


# Times-Republican

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## Supervisors updated on use of YSS funds



David Hicks, YSS of Marshall County

contributed photo YSS of Marshall County Director David Hicks gives a report to the Marshall County Board of Supervisors.

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Youth Shelter Services (YSS) of Marshall County has had a busy year with more clients stepping through the doors.

The organization's director, David Hicks, gave a report to the supervisors on how the county's \$11,000 annual allocation to YSS is used.

*"We are actively working with a lot more people this year than last year," Hicks said. "Certainly, coming out of the derecho and hopefully working towards the end of the pandemic, we're just seeing mental health cases on the rise, and that's both with adults and children."*

Funds from the county are specifically used for walk-ins and crisis calls for those ages 18 and under.

*"We aren't providing any ongoing mental health care with these dollars," Hicks said. "This just provides that time that we put into those walk-ins, or if we're out in the field and we encounter somebody with a concern."*

By ramping up staff, YSS has been able to see more clients in Marshall County, performing 48 crisis and early interventions so far in the first quarter. Hicks said that the number is substantially higher than it was last year, with 10 youths served at this point in 2020 and 22 youths served at this point in 2021.

*"We attribute that to having a full-time therapist right now that we did not have last year," Hicks said. "We also have two part-time therapists and two interns, so we've just ramped up our mental health care and our mental health treatment both citywide and countywide. We're just seeing more kids coming through our doors, and more adults as well."*

YSS has also recently partnered with Rapha Reins in Marshall County for equine therapy.

*“So those young people and adults, mostly young people, who do not thrive in an office environment when they are working with a mental health therapist, this gets them outside and working with the horses with a trained equine therapist,” Hicks said. “It provides just a different environment and a different opportunity to work on those skills that are often not met in a sterile office environment.”*

### **In other business...**

The board discussed the renewal of insurance with EMC Insurance Company. According to Marshall County Auditor Nan Benson, the cost of cyber insurance has tripled to around \$13,000 to \$14,000 total due to increased cybersecurity concerns with Ransomware attacks such as this year’s cyber attack at JBS. Benson explained that the cost of cyber insurance has become more expensive around the world. *“It’s a big number and a big deal,”* Benson said.

The supervisors also discussed future tours of the courthouse and annex buildings. While the courthouse remains a construction zone, tours could still be conducted in the county’s newly renovated annex building. Privacy, however, could be an issue with the public health, veteran’s affairs, mental health and Department of Human Services offices based out of the annex. *“We’ve got some policies that I think we’re going to have to put in place to make sure that we don’t have any issues with providing that policy and stay within the bounds,”* supervisor Dave Thompson said.

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Contact Trevor Babcock

at 641-753-6611 or

[tbabcock@timesrepublican.com](mailto:tbabcock@timesrepublican.com)

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