



**AITKIN COUNTY HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES
COUNTY BOARD MEETING MINUTES
January 22, 2019**

Item II

Attendance

The Aitkin County Board of Commissioners met this 22nd day of January, 2019, at 9:01 a.m. as the Aitkin County Health & Human Services Board, with the following members present: Commissioners Anne Marcotte, Laurie Westerlund, J. Mark Wedel, Don Niemi, and Bill Pratt. Others present included: County Administrator Jessica Seibert, Cynthia Bennett ACH&HS Director, Accounting Supervisor Carli Goble, Public Health Supervisor Erin Melz., Child Social Services Supervisor Jessi Schultz, Assistant to the County Administrator Sue Bingham, Shawn Speed, H&HS Executive Assistant, and Guests: Bob Marcum and Kristine Layne/H&HS Advisory Committee Members, and Brielle Bredsten/Aitkin Independent Age.

Agenda

Motion by Commissioner Wedel, seconded by Commissioner Westerlund and carried, all members voting yes to approve the January 22, 2019 Health & Human Services Board agenda.

Minutes

Motion by Commissioner Niemi, seconded by Commissioner Wedel and carried, all members voting yes to approve the December 18, 2018 Health and Human Services Board minutes.

Bills

Carli Goble noted there were no notable items in the bills.

Commissioner Marcotte asked what maintenance of effort was and Carli answered that it is the portion of money Aitkin is required to pay related to chemical dependency treatment.

Motion by Commissioner Wedel, seconded by Commissioner Westerlund and carried, all members voting yes to approve the bills.

Health & Human Services Director Report, Cynthia Bennett, ACH&HS Director

Cynthia talked about how the legislative session opened January 8th. They spent the first couple of weeks getting up to date on items that were carried over from last year and learning what the priorities were for the various associations.

She went on to highlight a few of the Health & Human Services issues as follows-

1. The Health Care Access Fund (HCAF) –

Key points in this area

The HCAF is a 2% tax on healthcare providers that is used to supplement Medical Assistance, MN Care, and provides funding for the SHIP program. It is due to sunset the end of 2019. Without this funding source there would be a huge gap in the state budget and we could see more costs shift from the State to the Counties. She said all of the major associations such as AMC LPHA and MACSSA are supporting appeal of the sun setting of the Health Care Access Fund.

2. Behavioral Health

Key points in this area include:

Regional Treatment Centers (RTC) - including the need for counties to have more input during

discharge planning, the right for counties to appeal RTC determinations that a patient is no longer meeting criteria for hospital level of care, clarification of who is responsible for competency restoration Substance Use Disorder (SUD) reform which includes addressing the qualifications required for assessors, ability to provide care coordination, and removal of county share from the Consolidated Chemical Dependency Treatment Fund if not able to participate as an assessor.
Reimbursement for utilizing telepresence

3. Children's Welfare

Key points in this area include:

Developing strategies to address monetary losses of federal reimbursement due to the Families First Act, removal of the funding withholds based on performance measures in child protection and requests for DHS to develop a training system to better prepare workers for county child protection roles.

Jessi Goble, Financial Assistance Supervisor, highlighted the effect of the Federal Government shutdown had on the SNAP program and how her staff processed 128 recertification's for the program after only being given a three day notice so that those in the program received their February benefits and that they were able to finalize all but 17 cases.

Review Approval of Contracts/Agreements/Appointments

Approve re-appointment of current and new members to the Health & Human Services Advisory Committee as follows:

Current Members-

- Kevin Insley - Comm. Dist. #1
- Penny Olson - Comm. Dist. #4
- Joell Miranda - Comm. Dist. #5

Motion by Commissioner Wedel, seconded by Commissioner Pratt and carried, all members voting yes to approve re-appointment of the current members.

New Members-

- Lori Chenevert - Union Representative
- Cindy Chuhanic - Comm. Dist. #2
- Joel Hoppe - Comm. Dist. #3
- Cheri Danielson - Comm. Dist. #3

Motion by Commissioner Westerlund, seconded by Commissioner Niemi and carried, all members voting yes to approve appointment of the new members.

Service Agreement for January 1, 2019 through December 31, 2019 between Aitkin County and McGregor Ambulance Service.

Motion by Commissioner Wedel, seconded by Commissioner Pratt and carried, all members voting yes to approve the contract.

Service Agreement for January 1, 2019 through December 31, 2019 between ACH&HS & Access North Center.

Motion by Commissioner Westerlund, seconded by Commissioner Niemi and carried, all members voting yes to approve the contract.

Ambulance Service Contract for January 1, 2019 through December 31, 2019 between ACH&HS and Nystrom & Associates.

Motion by Commissioner Westerlund, seconded by Commissioner Pratt and carried, all members voting yes to approve the contract.

Ambulance Service Contract for January 1, 2019 through December 31, 2019 between ACH&HS and Presbyterian Family Foundation.

Motion by Commissioner Westerlund, seconded by Commissioner Wedel and carried, all members voting yes to approve the contract.

Service Agreement for January 1, 2019 through December 31, 2019 between ACH&HS & Arrowhead Economic Opportunity Agency (AEOA).

Motion by Commissioner Westerlund, seconded by Commissioner Niemi and carried, all members voting yes to approve the contract.

Approval of Children's Mental Health Screening Grant for 2019.

Motion by Commissioner Wedel, seconded by Commissioner Pratt and carried, all members voting yes to approve the contract.

Service Agreement for January 1, 2019 through December 31, 2019 between ACH&HS & Lakes and Pines, CAC.

Motion by Commissioner Pratt, seconded by Commissioner Niemi and carried, all members voting yes to approve the contract.

Financial Report – Carli Goble

Carli reported that the Health & Human Services fund balance was at \$3.9 million, near what it was in 2017.

There was a significant decrease in foster care expenses as no children were placed in an institution or treatment center which led to out-of-home placement costs decreasing \$342,051.

The total budget for 2018 should come in around 94%.

Committee Reports

There were no committee meetings held, up to now, this month.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:00 a.m.

Next Meeting – February 26, 2019