



**AITKIN COUNTY HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES  
COUNTY BOARD MEETING MINUTES  
March 26, 2019**

## **Attendance**

The Aitkin County Board of Commissioners met this 26th day of March, 2019, at 9:03 a.m. as the Aitkin County Health & Human Services Board, with the following members present: Commissioners Anne Marcotte, J. Mark Wedel, Don Niemi, and Bill Pratt. Others present included: County Administrator Jessica Seibert, Cynthia Bennett ACH&HS Director, Accounting Supervisor Carli Goble, Children's Social Services Supervisor Jessi Schultz, Financial Services Supervisor Jessi Goble, Assistant to the County Administrator Sue Bingham, Shawn Speed, H&HS Executive Assistant, and Guests: Joy Janzen/H&HS Advisory Committee Member, Joel Hoppe/H&HS Advisory Committee Member, Robert Marcum, and Lynn Mizner/Aitkin Independent Age.

## **Agenda**

Motion by Commissioner Wedel, seconded by Commissioner Pratt and carried, all members voting yes to approve the March 26, 2019 Health & Human Services Board agenda with the change.

## **Minutes**

Motion by Commissioner Wedel, seconded by Commissioner Niemi and carried, all members voting yes to approve the February 26, 2019 Health and Human Services Board minutes.

## **Bills**

Carli Goble noted that there were no notable bills this past month.

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

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

Cynthia started by stating that she had received a congratulatory letter from the DHS Commissioner In regards to the Fiscal Unit having perfect performance during the past year and that all of their reports were submitted on time without errors.

Cynthia moved into some legislative updates as follows-

Last week the house passed HF400. HF400 creates an opioid stewardship program which will generate 20 million in annual fees from pharmaceutical companies and distributors. 8.2 million will be directed to the Department of Human Services – 30% of that will go to social services for children in out of home placement and at least 10% will go to county boards for prevention and tx services. Includes what Public Health is already doing related to Opioids within the County. Commissioner Wedel questioned the aggregate amount that the 10% would be based on and if there was a timeline for fund distribution. Cynthia relayed that there is not a timeline at this time and that the bill update language was not clear regarding the aggregate number. Cynthia will reach out to MACSSA to clarify this information.

The House also passed HF679, the bill that extends state funding to cover the cost of care at children's residential treatment facilities. This bill extends the authorized funding that was to expire in April and there is a separate bill and a proposal in the Governor's budget that would support funds for on-going services and to cover funding lost due to the Families First Act that removed federal

fiscal support for children in residential facilities. Commissioner Marcotte asked if there was any further news regarding the child care fraud situation that had hit the news recently. There is no updated information on this topic.

This week the House Finance HHS Policy Committee will look at HF1867 which allows counties to appeal the cost of care for individuals in state operated regional treatment facilities including discrepancies in level of care determination, discharge plan approvals, timeliness of discharge and incomplete paperwork. Right now the Counties have no means to disagree with decisions made by the state and this process would allow for Counties to have a voice in the decisions that are being made.

Also, the House Finance HHS Policy Committee will hear a proposal to create a task force to study the issues around competency restoration (how to improve response to increased numbers of individuals deemed incompetent to stand trial and addressing the “who is responsible” for competency restoration question). The task force will ultimately provide recommendations to improve processes around this issue.

Topics we continue to track – there was no updated information related to

1. Substance Use Disorder - SUD reforms
2. Healthcare access fund – Local Public Health Association noted that this was still in the Governor’s budget and would continue to be talked about until the end of the session. Cynthia has spoken with the CEO and CFO from Riverwood Healthcare Center and both concurred that they supported the stance of the Minnesota Hospital Association in relation to repealing the provider tax sunset in 2019.

She moved on to mention that she would be conducting 1 on 1 meetings with all of the H&HS employees that will last from 20-30 minutes and will cover topics such as:

1. What’s working well here?
2. Where are our opportunities for improvement?
3. If we could wave a magic wand and fix one thing what would that one thing be?
4. How do you like to be shown that you are valued?
5. What do I need to do to be a successful leader?
6. What is it you love/like about the work you do here? / What keeps you coming back here every day?

Lastly she mentioned that H&HS will be holding their annual employee appreciation day April 24<sup>th</sup> and this year’s theme is “Thank You for Raising the Bar!” Supervisors provide the food and gifts for this event they will be serving a salad bar for lunch and dessert bar in the afternoon to show their appreciation for all of our team members.

## **Review Approval of Contracts/Agreements/Appointments/Policies**

### **Approve appointment of Terri Mathis to the Health & Human Service Advisory Committee.**

Motion by Commissioner Wedel, seconded by Commissioner Pratt and carried, all members voting yes to approve the appointment of Terri Mathis to the Health & Human Services Advisory Committee.

### **Approve County Burial Assistance Policy.**

Motion by Commissioner Wedel, seconded by Commissioner Pratt and carried, all members voting yes to approve the County Burial Assistance Policy

## **Child Protection Presentation, Jessi Schultz**

Jessi went through her handout summarizing Child Protection Services. *(Shawn please attach a copy of the handout Jessi gave to commissioners)*

## **Committee Reports**

### **H&HS Advisory Committee Update**

Joy briefed the Board for the Advisory Committee and that they had received the Child Protection Presentation from Jessi Schultz also and that it was very eye opening to them all and that the Advisory members were very appreciative of all of the hard work that Jessi's staff does with such a sensitive subject.

### **Lakes & Pines Update**

Commissioner Niemi reported that they had received the ESP Grant in the amount of \$260,000 and that it was used for 433 homeless individuals and families to offer them hotel stays, for up to three nights to provide them with a warm bed and roof over their heads.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:57 a.m.

Next Meeting – April 23, 2019