



AITKIN COUNTY HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

204 First Street NW
Aitkin, MN 56431

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COUNTY BOARD MEETING MINUTES October 26, 2021

Attendance

The Aitkin County Board of Commissioners met this 26th day of October 2021, at 9:04 a.m. as the Aitkin County Health & Human Services Board, with the following members present: Commissioners Brian Napstad, J. Mark Wedel, Don Niemi and Laurie Westerlund. Others present included: Health & Human Services Director Cynthia Bennett, Administrative Assistant to the H&HS Director Paula Arimborgo, Accounting Supervisor Carli Goble, County Administrator Jessica Seibert, Assistant to the County Administrator Brittany Searle, Public Health Supervisor Erin Melz and Paul Vold, Jennifer Eisenbart, Child Support Supervisor Jessie Goble, Economic Development Coordinator Mark Jeffers (VIA WEBEX).

Agenda

Motion by Commissioner Westerlund, seconded by Commissioner Niemi and carried, all members present voting yes to approve the October 26, 2021 Health & Human Services Board agenda as presented.

Minutes

Motion by Commissioner Napstad, seconded by Commissioner Niemi and carried, all members present voting yes to approve the September 28, 2021 Health & Human Services Board minutes.

Bills

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

Director Update

Cynthia noted that effective October 18th the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) extended the Federal COVID-19 public health emergency. This allows continuation of some of the HHS waivers including but not limited to targeted case management, WIC remote or virtual abilities, MA will remain open for anyone that is validly enrolled with no renewal requirement and E-SNAP can continue as long as the PH emergency is in place. Cynthia relayed that HHS departments continue to work on fine-tuning the legislative positions for the upcoming 2022 session. Lastly, she reported that Carli, Jim Bright and she met with the architect last week to discuss concepts of interest in the physical space and should have a preliminary draft with budget estimates in a couple of weeks. Some discussion ensued regarding specifics of remote work.



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Carli Goble

Carli presented the Q3 2021 Fiscal Report with discussion regarding ICWA costs, cost differences between placements for adults, and where homeless were sheltered during COVID. Commissioner Wedel praised Carli for a job well done with her excellent report and synopsis.

Contract

Aitkin Transportation Agreement

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

DHS Service Agreement Plan

MFIP BSA Plan

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

Committee Updates

H&HS Advisory Committee – Commissioner Wedel, did not meet in September. Next meeting is Nov 4 via WebEx

CHS Joint Powers Board Update – Commissioner Westerlund acknowledge Erin and her staff for the reward they received. Meeting consisted of routine business and discussion regarding activities each county PH department is conducting in their communities.

AEOA Committee Update – Commissioner Westerlund stated they have 6 retirements coming up, they purchased a couple new buses, went through annual reports with head start person Skip Harris, covered CNA board training and election of officers – there was no change.

CARE Board – Commissioner Westerlund stated Lynn was doing a fabulous job. It would be nice if she could do a presentation at an upcoming County Board. Cynthia will coordinate with Lynn about presenting at the Board. Commissioner Wedel would like an update with an all-encompassing presentation.

Children's Justice Initiative – Commissioner Westerlund, no update

NEMOJT Committee Update- Commissioner Niemi, no update, did not meet

Lakes & Pines Update. – Commissioner Niemi, no update, did not meet

Open Discussion included conversation around housing and job availability in AC, updates from the recent AMC Meeting, Tribal Relations Meeting, and ICWA.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:55 a.m.

Next Meeting – November 23, 2021