



AITKIN COUNTY HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

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AITKIN COUNTY HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES BOARD June 25, 2024 H&HS Board Minutes

Attendance

The Aitkin County Board of Commissioners met this 25th day of June 2024, at 9:05 a.m. as the Aitkin County Health & Human Services Board with the following members present: Board Chair, Commissioner J. Mark Wedel, Commissioners Laurie Westerlund, Travis Leiviska, Bret Sample and Michael Kearney. County Administrator Jessica Seibert and Health & Human Services Director Sarah Pratt. Others present included: H&HS Supervisor Erin Melz, Stacey Durgin-Smith HHS Public Health Educator, ACHHS Advisory Committee member representative Cindy Chuhanic, Jeanne Schram Aitkin Age, and other public guests.

1.A Approval of the Agenda

Motion by Commissioner Westerlund, seconded by Commissioner Leiviska and carried, all members present voting yes to approve the June 24, 2024 Health & Human Services agenda.

1.B Approval of the May 28, 2024 Minutes

Motion by Commissioner Leiviska, seconded by Commissioner Sample and carried, all members present voting yes to approve May 28, 2024 Health & Human Services minutes.

1.C Approval of Bills

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

1.D Approval of Advisory Committee Appointment

Motion by Commissioner Westerlund, seconded by Commissioner Leiviska and carried, all members present voting yes to approve the appointment of Alissa Boser as a Union representative to the Aitkin County Health & Human Services Advisory Committee replacing Jon Moen.

2.A Director Updates

Sarah Pratt, H&HS Director updated the board on the following:

- 2023 End of Year Report
 - Shared 2021 End of Year Report to show comparison
 - Plan to create this End of Year Report annually
 - Highlighted the changes from 2021 to 2023
- Legislative Updates
 - \$10million for SSIS but a complete replacement would be between \$80-100million
 - African American Preservation Act – in affect in 2025 for only Ramsey and

Hennepin Counties, they received \$5million for the pilot project. The rest of the state will roll out in 2027. This is protecting the best interest of African American children and it will look very different for our Child Protection staff. They will have to provide active efforts versus reasonable efforts and there will be an increase in the number of services we will need to provide. It will cause extra work for our staff and it could affect 80% of our cases.

- MNChoices Assessments – Extends the validity of the assessment from 60 to 365, we wouldn't have to redo assessments as often. Increase initial contact from 20 calendar days to 20 working days which will help our assessors. We did not get the simplified reassessment that we wanted but there will be ongoing discussion this next session regarding that.
- Federal 1115 Medicaid Waiver, there will be some pilots offered across the state, we are hoping that the Region V+ Adult Mental Health Initiatives will be one of those pilots.
- CaseWorks – The new EDMS, we are working with Financial and Child Support and rolling that out and they will go live the end of September. Social Services will start the planning process this week and they will go live the end of October. By the end of year, we will have our new system up and running and hopefully start to see the efficiencies that will bring.
- Staffing updates – Child protection staff came on board. We hired a replacement for our HCBS position and are hiring for a new HCBS position.

3.A CAPS Presentation

Stacey Durgin-Smith, H&HS Public Health Educator, gave a presentation on CAPS – Committee for the Awareness & Prevention of Suicide to include:

- History on CAPS
- MN Student Survey 2007-2019
- 20 Years of Aitkin County Data 1999-2019
- 2016-2020 rates by County in MN – Aitkin has the highest rate
- Campaign – Getting the Word Out: Suicide Prevention/Crisis Lines
- COVID Pause and Implications of COVID-19 for Mental Health & Substance Use
- 2022 County Fair Community Thoughts
- Funding Transition
- 2023 Outreach & Education events
- 2023 County Fair Community knowledge
- Access to Mental Health Resources & Suicide Prevention Education
- 2024 Continuing to increase access
- Men's Campaign
- STAY Walk, Run, & Rally July 20th 8:30-9:30 AM
- Funding sunset

4.A Committee Updates

The Board discussed the H&HS Advisory Committee, AEOA, ARDC, Tri-County Community Health Services and CARE Board.

Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 10:02 a.m.

Next Meeting – July 23, 2024