



AITKIN COUNTY HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

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AITKIN COUNTY HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES BOARD September 24, 2024 H&HS Board Minutes

Attendance

The Aitkin County Board of Commissioners met this 24th day of September 2024, at 9:00 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, Health & Human Services Director Sarah Pratt, and Administrative Assistant Paula Arimborgo. Others present included: H&HS Supervisors Jessi Schultz & Erin Melz, H&HS Licensing Social Worker Brenda Butterfield; ACHHS Advisory Committee member representative Cindy Chuhanic. Joining via WebEx: Administrative Assistant April Kellerman, AC Economic Development Coordinator Mark Jeffers.

1.A Approval of the Agenda

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

1.B Approval of the August 27, 2024, Minutes

Motion by Commissioner Westerlund, seconded by Commissioner Sample and carried, all members present voting yes to approve the August 27, 2024, Health & Human Services minutes.

1.C Approval of Bills

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

2.A Director Updates

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

- Update on 3 RFPs
 - Drop-in Center RFP: RFP is now closed, and provider has been chosen.
 - A set amount of funding will be provided through our Adult Mental Health Initiative.
 - Center will be up and running approximately January 2025.
 - Child 1-2 Bed Setting RFP: due back on October 3rd
 - Adult 1-2 Bed Setting RFP: due back on October 30th
- AMC update – starting to draft legislative positions for both LPHA and MACSSA priorities. There was a lot of discuss on how cross over between public health and social services could benefit counties with future legislation. For instance, when discussing MAAFPFA, how can we utilize public health and public health funding to assist in

preventative efforts. Many counties discussing ways to enhance prevention efforts due to the new requirements of the new legislation.

- Minnesota African American Family Preservation and Child Welfare Disproportionality Act, phased approach for Hennepin and Ramsey effective January 2025 and for the rest of the counties January 1, 2027.
- Definition of a Disproportionality is quite broad and could affect a majority of our cases.
- Need to provide active vs. reasonable efforts similar to ICWA, i.e., instead of mailing a letter, driving the letter out to the client's home.
- Must continuously involve an African American family and the African American Welfare Oversight Council in all services for the family, including case planning and choosing services and providers, and inform the family of the ability to request a case review by the commissioner under section 260.694.
- Section 4 (adds Minn. Stat. § 260.64) This section establishes requirements for responsible social services agencies to prevent the out-of-home placement of an African American or disproportionately represented child, including providing active efforts and developing a safety plan. Prohibits a court from ordering foster care or permanent out-of-home placement unless the court finds by clear and convincing evidence that the child would be at risk of serious emotional damage or serious physical damage.
- When a responsible social services agency makes a maltreatment determination involving an African American child or places an African American child in a foster care placement, the agency shall, within seven days of making a maltreatment determination or initiating the child's foster care placement, notify the commissioner of the maltreatment determination or foster care placement and of the steps that the agency has taken to investigate and remedy the conditions that led to the maltreatment determination or foster care placement.
- Each responsible social services agency shall conduct a review of all child protection cases handled by the agency every 24 months, after establishing a 2023 baseline. The responsible social services agency shall report the agency's findings to the county board, related child welfare committees, the Children's Justice Initiative team, the African American Child Welfare Oversight Council, the commissioner, and community stakeholders within six months of gathering the relevant case data. For situations in which the case review consists of fewer than five cases, the responsible social services agency must only report the case data to the African American Child Welfare Oversight Council. The case review must include:
 - Subdivision 1. Applicability. The commissioner of human services shall work with the Children's Justice Initiative to ensure that African American Cultural competency training is given to individuals working in the child welfare system, including child welfare workers, supervisors, attorneys, juvenile court judges, and family law judges.
- LPHA Strategic Planning for 2024-2029
 - Increased understanding of the overlap between MACSSA and LPHA, and each organization's roles.
 - Healthy working relationships between the two organizations
 - Increased impact by leveraging collective power
 - Strategic Actions
 - Explore relationship building with MACSSA
 - Host a shared training or event with MACSSA on an annual basis
 - Approach MACSSA with a proposal to create a joint networking event

- where both organizations' members can participate
- Work with MACSSA staff for shared legislative advocacy opportunities on topics relevant to both organizations i.e., mental health, Family First Prevention Service Act, and opioid prevention

3.A Foster Care Licensing & Adoption Presentation

Brenda Butterfield, H&HS Licenser, presented to the board Foster Care Licensing & Adoptions to include:

- What Foster Care is
- Types of Care
- 2023 Foster Care Statistics for Minnesota
- Aitkin County HHS Out of Home Placement Data from 9/4/23-9/4/24
- Aitkin County Homes
- What is needed to be a Foster Care Provider
- Foster Care Licensing Process
- Disqualifications for Licensing
- Basic Monthly Foster Care Rates
- Adoption
- County Services around Adoption

4.A Committee Updates

The Board discussed the H&HS Advisory Committee, CARE Board, and ARDC.

Adjourn

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

Next Meeting – October 22, 2024