

**AITKIN COUNTY HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES  
BOARD MEETING MINUTES  
June 23, 2015**

**I. Attendance**

The Aitkin County Board of Commissioners met this 23rd day of June, 2015, at 9:04 a.m. as the Aitkin County Health & Human Services Board, with the following members present: Chairperson Commissioner Mark Wedel; Commissioners, Anne Marcotte, Brian Napstad, Don Niemi, and Laurie Westerlund; and others present included: County Administrator Nathan Burkett; H&HS Staff Members Tom Burke, Director; Sue Tange & Ann Rivas, Social Service Supervisors; Erin Melz, Public Health Supervisor; Eileen Foss and Jessica Goble, Income Maintenance Supervisors; Kathy Ryan, Fiscal Supervisor; Julie Lueck, Clerk to the Health & Human Services Board; and guests; Adam Hoogenakker, Aitkin Independent Age; Holly Bray, Marlene Abear, and Roberta Elvecrog, H&HS Advisory Committee Members; and Amanda Ysen and Melissa Canfield, Support Within Reach.

**II. Approval of Health & Human Services Board Agenda**

*Motion by Commissioner Marcotte, seconded by Commissioner Niemi, and carried; the vote was to approve the Agenda.*

**III. Review May 26, 2015 Health & Human Service Board Minutes**

*Motion by Commissioner Westerlund, seconded by Commissioner Napstad, and carried; the vote was to approve the Minutes as mailed/posted.*

**IV. Review Bills**

*Motion by Commissioner Napstad, seconded by Commissioner Westerlund, and carried; the vote was to approve the Bills as presented this date.*

**V. General/Miscellaneous Information**

- A. Support Within Reach - Amanda Ysen / Melissa Canfield – Discussed the Support Within Reach Programs, their advocates, along with some statistical information and a new grant they received.
- B. Child Protection Legislative Updates – Tom Burke noted this information is an FYI as the Legislature takes the lead to determine the number of positions each county will need and the fact that by adding one worker in Aitkin County it will reduce caseloads, share the workload and reduce burn out.

**VI. Contracts / Resolutions**

- A. Warming / Cooling Center Site Agreement – LLCC - *Motion by Commissioner Napstad, seconded by Commissioner Westerlund, and carried; the vote was to approve the Warming/Cooling Center Site Agreement between Aitkin County Health & Human Services and the Long Lake Conservation Center.*
- B. Resolution – Ann Rivas updated the Board that she has been developing a plan to help reduce the number of people with mental illnesses in the jail and has been collaborating with Sheriff Turner to have voluntary services which would provide a social worker to assist with discharge planning. It was clarified that these services would be provided to the Aitkin County Residents only and the Resolution would reflect that change (from the word “Individuals” to “Aitkin County Residents” in the capitalized paragraph on page one of the Resolution). Following the discharge, the social worker will continue to work with the person for integration back into the community as well as with transportation and other issues.

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COMMISSIONER Marcotte offered the following resolution and moved for its adoption:

**RESOLUTION**

**Stepping Up Initiative Resolution**

**“Stepping Up Initiative to Reduce the Number of People with Mental Illnesses in Jails”**

**WHEREAS**, counties routinely provide treatment services to the estimated 2 million people with serious mental illnesses booked into jail each year; and

**WHEREAS**, prevalence rates of serious mental illnesses in jails are three to six times higher than for the general population; and

**WHEREAS**, almost three-quarters of adults with serious mental illnesses in jails have co-occurring substance use disorders; and

**WHEREAS**, adults with mental illnesses tend to stay longer in jail and upon release are at a higher risk of recidivism than people without these disorders; and

**WHEREAS**, county jails spend two to three times more on adults with mental illnesses that require interventions compared to those without these treatment needs; and

**WHEREAS**, without the appropriate treatment and services, people with mental illnesses continue to cycle through the criminal justice system, often resulting in tragic outcomes for these individuals and their families; and

**WHEREAS**, AITKIN COUNTY and all counties take pride in their responsibility to protect and enhance the health, welfare and safety of its residents in efficient and cost-effective ways; and

**WHEREAS, AITKIN COUNTY HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES IN COLLABORATION WITH THE AITKIN COUNTY SHERIFF DEPARTMENT WILL OFFER VOLUNTARY DISCHARGE PLANNING SERVICES TO INCARCERATED AITKIN COUNTY RESIDENTS WHO LIVE WITH MENTAL ILLNESS. THE GOAL IS TO SUPPORT INCARCERATED AITKIN COUNTY RESIDENTS TO INTERGRATE BACK INTO THE COMMUNITY AND RECEIVE ONGOING SUPPORT SERVICES.**

**WHEREAS**, through the *Stepping Up* initiative, the National Association of Counties, the Council of State Governments Justice Center and the American Psychiatric Foundation are encouraging public, private and nonprofit partners to reduce the number of people with mental illnesses in jails;

**NOW, THEREFORE, LET IT BE RESOLVED, THAT I, J. MARK WEDEL, CHAIR, AITKIN COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**, do hereby sign on to the Call to Action to reduce the number of people with mental illnesses in our county jail, commit to sharing lessons learned with other counties in my state and across the country to support a national initiative and encourage all county officials, employees and residents to participate in *Stepping Up*. We resolve to utilize the comprehensive resources available through *Stepping Up* to:

- Convene or draw on a diverse team of leaders and decision makers from multiple agencies committed to safely reducing the number of people with mental illnesses in jails.
- Collect and review prevalence numbers and assess individuals' needs to better identify adults entering jails with mental illnesses and their recidivism risk, and use that baseline information to guide decision making.
- Examine treatment and service capacity to determine which programs and services are available in the county for people with mental illnesses and co-occurring substance use disorders, and identify state and local policy and funding barriers to minimizing contact with the justice system and providing treatment and supports in the community.
- Develop a plan with measurable outcomes that draws on the needs and prevalence assessment data and examination of available treatment and service capacity, while considering identified barriers.
- Implement research-based approaches that advance the plan.
- Create a process to track progress using data and information systems, and to report on successes.

**WHICH RESOLUTION**, Being seconded by Commissioner Niemi, and it was declared adopted upon the following vote:

Commissioners present: 5      Vote results: All Members Voting      “Yes”

(Attest)

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Mark Wedel, Chairperson, Aitkin County Board of Commissioners

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Anne Marcotte, Aitkin County Commissioner

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Brian Napstad, Aitkin County Commissioner

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Don Niemi, Aitkin County Commissioner

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Laurie Westerlund, Aitkin County Commissioner

Dated at Aitkin, Minnesota, the 23rd day of June 2015.

I, Kirk Peysar, County Auditor of Aitkin County, Minnesota, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of the Stepping Up Initiative Resolution by the County Board of Aitkin County, Minnesota, at the regular meeting held on the 23rd day of June 2015.

Kirk Peysar

County Auditor, Aitkin County, Minnesota

Dated: June 23, 2015

#### **VII. Administrative Reports:**

- A. Financial & Transportation Reports – Kathy Ryan informed the Board that as of July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2015 we will receive the \$60,000 of the Governor’s Task Force money which cannot supplant any existing worker or program. We will receive an additional \$15,000 in February of 2016 based on our outcomes with a new worker.

#### **VIII. Joint Powers Board Reports:**

- A. Tri-County Community Health Services Board (CHS)  
Commissioner Westerlund / Erin Melz / Tom Burke noted that they have had several meetings recently and conducted interviews of five candidates for the Community Health Planner with the hopes of having the person start on July 6<sup>th</sup>. It was also noted that the Koochiching County Public Health Supervisor resigned.

#### **IX. Committee Reports from Commissioners**

- A. H&HS Advisory Committee – Commissioners Westerlund and/or Marcotte  
Meeting updates from Committee Members: Holly Bray, Roberta Elvecrog, & Marlene Abear  
Marlene Abear discussed the interview & hiring practices. The Board was updated on the recent Technology discussion at the meeting and the security measures in place which protects the clients we serve noting that the county IT department is involved with the purchasing of all our equipment which includes I-phones and I-pads.
- B. AEOA Committee Update – Commissioner Westerlund updated the Board that they met last week and reviewed their \$34 million budget and discussed the Meals on Wheels program, and signed and approved contracts.
- C. NEMOJT Committee Update – Commissioner Napstad updated the Board that due to the layoffs on the Iron Range they are looking for emergency grants for these displaced workers.
- D. CJI (Children’s Justice Initiative) – Commissioner Westerlund noted there was no meeting.
- E. Lakes & Pines Update – Commissioner Niemi noted there was no meeting

Tom Burke reminded the Board that Eileen Foss’ last day of work with Aitkin County is this Friday, June 26<sup>th</sup>. Tom also introduced Eileen’s replacement, Jessica Goble to the Board. Eileen expressed her thanks to the Board for allowing her the opportunity to work with Jess for this past month before her departure. Jess also expressed appreciation for that to happen to make the transition much smoother for everyone.

**X. Break at 10:42 a.m. for 15 minutes**

**Next Meeting – July 28, 2015**