



**AITKIN COUNTY HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES  
COUNTY BOARD MEETING MINUTES  
March 27, 2018**

### **Attendance**

The Aitkin County Board of Commissioners met this 27th day of March, 2018, at 9:04 a.m. as the Aitkin County Health & Human Services Board, with the following members present: Board Chair Anne Marcotte, Commissioners Laurie Westerlund, J. Mark Wedel, Don Niemi, and Bill Pratt. Others present included: County Administrator Jessica Seibert, Health & Human Services Director Cynthia Bennett, Accounting Supervisor Carli Goble, Financial Assistance Supervisor Jessi Goble, Public Health Supervisor Erin Melz, Social Services Supervisor-Adult Services Kim Larson, Social Services Supervisor-Children's Services Jessi Schultz, Health & Human Services Administrative Assistant Shawn Speed, and Guests: Roberta Elvecrog/H&HS Advisory Committee Member, Kari Paulsen/H&HS Advisory Committee Member, Brielle Bredsten/Aitkin Independent Age, and Bob Harwarth/Citizen.

### **Agenda**

Motion by Commissioner Pratt, seconded by Commissioner Westerlund and carried, all members voting yes to approve the March 27, 2018 Health & Human Services Board agenda.

### **Minutes**

Motion by Commissioner Wedel, seconded by Commissioner Niemi and carried, all members voting yes to approve the February 27, 2018 Health and Human Services Board minutes.

### **Bills**

Carli Goble, Fiscal Supervisor, presented the bills to the board and noted no significant changes or surprises.

Question from Commissioner Marcotte in regards to how much was left on the DHS bill, which was Carli answered that it was around \$288,000.

Question from Commissioner Marcotte about how many people the St. Peter bill was covering, and Carli answered that was for 3 people.

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

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

Cynthia gave recognition to the Accounting Department for commendation from DHS on their accounting reporting.

Recognition to Public Health for Home Visits third party billing and bringing in around \$22,000 that would not of been there had it not been started 4 years ago.

Recognition of National Social Worker month, Public Health Week April 2-8, and Administrative Assistant Day April 25<sup>th</sup>. In HHS we do one employee recognition day to recognize all employees at once, which is being held on April 25<sup>th</sup>.

Commissioner Marcotte recognized how much is expected of our Social workers, based on thier

4 page job description, and how exemplary of a job all of ours do.

Commissioner Wedel recognized that Social workers are very dedicated 24/7/365.

Commissioner Pratt noted the reviews he had heard from clients and how much they appreciate all that Social workers do.

Commissioner Niemi noted how his family has experienced working with our Social workers personally and how good they made him feel about it, even though it was a difficult time.

Commissioner Westerlund noted the how much respect is given to the clients from our Social workers.

Commissioner Marcotte discussed the handouts that were given to the commissioners for the AMC conference and how helpful they were and how exemplary and helpful they were to them at the conference.

Commissioner Wedel brought up HR1625 and its increase in funding for the Opioid epidemic of about \$2 Billion and Cynthia added that they are also looking at adding a 1 cent fee, per pill, that would be charged to manufacturers and will be used for grant opportunities and to fund child protection services more, as the opioid epidemic has created more demand for those services.

Commissioner Marcotte asked about Senate File 2545 and whether Cynthia knew more info about it. Cynthia had not seen it before and will get more information on it and forward that to the Board with a follow-up email.

Commissioner Niemi asked who was working with the tribal communities in regards to the Opioid epidemic. Cynthia discussed how the tribes are involved in their own formulations of plans to deal with it internally within the various tribes.

Cynthia talked about the proposal to add the work requirement for Medical assistance recipients and how it would only affect a small percentage of our population and how much more it would cost the Counties to run this new mandated/unfunded piece of the program. It would require counties to track this through case management, St. Louis County, for example, has 3800 individual that this would affect and would require them to hire 30 more staff to manage this for those people. For our county it would require 7-8 more staff with offices and everything that they would require for offices, etc.

MN Choices assessment is required annually and the State is looking at an abbreviated form for people who have not had any changes that is much shorter and less intensive than the original assessment.

State is looking at eliminating the Child Protection holdback. We currently get 80% of our allocation in July and we receive the other 20% when we have shown that we meet all of the criteria we are required to meet at 90% or better and they are looking at removing that requirement and giving counties their full allocation all at once, but they had no idea how that would look or how it would be managed.

Erin Melz talked about her time down at the Capital for Local Public Health Day.

- She met with Senator Rudd and Representative Lueck.
- Focused on the Local Public Health Grant.
- Handout that was given out is attached to these minutes.
- Touched on Healthcare Access Fund and how the Provider Tax that funds it is scheduled to expire in December 2019 and how if it goes away there would be many programs at risk.

## Approval of Contracts

Motion by Commissioner Westerlund, seconded by Commissioner Niemi and carried, all members voting yes to approve the renewal of the NEMOJT MFIP Contract.

Motion by Commissioner Pratt, seconded by Commissioner Niemi and carried, all members voting yes to approve the renewal of the Compass Counseling Partners POS.

## Mental Health Awareness Event Info

Kim Larson shared that the local advisory council for mental health in Aitkin County is putting together an event on May 15<sup>th</sup> to raise awareness on mental health issues. It will be held at the Beanery from 530-730 pm and will include comedian and author who created a children's book called "When the World Goes Dark".

## Community Health Assessment Info

Erin Melz talked about the purpose of the Community Health Assessment.

- Required by State every 5 years.
- Helps identify what our current assets are.
- Identify what our problem areas are and where we should put our focus for the next 5 years.
- Out of the assessment comes the Community Health Improvement Plan.
- Are distributing surveys in paper form and through an online survey provider.
- Have place survey collection boxes in various locations around the County.
- Stakeholders meeting on May 17<sup>th</sup> from 11- 130 at Members COOP Credit Union meeting room.
- There they will narrow it down to no more than 10 priority areas.
- They will take those 10 to the County Fair for the fair goers to help narrow those down to a Top 3 priorities that will be sent to the state.

## Financial Reports

Carli Goble reviewed the financial statement for the board-

1. Reported on March 2018.
2. Foster Care is considerably less so far this year \$113,573, compared to the same time last year when we were at \$235,000.
  - a. Commissioner Marcotte inquired what is different this year as compared to last, to which Carli noted that we do not have as many foster children in residential treatment center this year.
3. Reviewed residential treatment center costs for the various centers we use.
  - a. Commissioner Marcotte asked about the percentages that we pay for and Carli will be sending her a follow up email with the rules for what percentages we pay.
4. HHS spending for total budget should be at around 25% of our budget at this time and we are currently at about 22% right now.

## Committee Reports

**H&HS Advisory Committee** – Commissioner Wedel and/or Pratt

1. Committee member Kari Paulsen and Roberta Elvecrog provided details of their last meeting, held March 7, 2018.
  - a. Kari discussed that the Advisory Committee volunteered to serve the Community meal in McGregor last week and that it was a huge success.

- b. Roberta inquired to what door people will use for visiting the various offices that will be moving to the HHS basement and was told that unless they are handicapped and need the elevator they will use the North Door into HHS and go down those stairs.

**AEOA – Commissioner Westerlund**

1. Did not meet but mentioned that they are planning to spend \$200,000 on a new food shelf building in Virginia and will have more information on it after their meeting.

**Lakes & Pines Update – Commissioner Niemi**

1. Noted the seven housing rehab applicants that were located in Wagner and Williams Townships and that he had asked who made the final decision on who gets those and it was told it was the state that made those decisions.
2. Talked about their audit and that they did fine on it.
3. Commissioner Marcotte noted that she had seen where the Federal Government had increased the low income heating assistance by an additional \$250 million.
4. Commissioner Wedel inquired whether or not air conditioning qualifies in the southern states for that assistance and Jessica Goble informed him it was.

**TRIAD Meeting Notes – Commissioner Marcotte**

1. Talked about Bone Builders coming to Hill City on April 23<sup>rd</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> to see how much participation they get.

**Hill City Health Fair Notes – Commissioner Marcotte**

1. Noted that they had 220 people attend it.
2. Noted that they are giving kids yoga in the school to help kids deal with their stress and emotions.
3. Was a great turn out and had a lot of information available.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:21 a.m.

Next Meeting – April 24, 2018