

**AITKIN COUNTY HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICE
ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
Wednesday, February 1, 2012**

Committee Members Present:

Kathy Barker
Jim Carlson
Roberta Elvecrog
Mickey Gault
Kami Genz, CMCC
Renee Larson
David Leaf
Robert Lewis
Tricia Martin, ACCare
Sara Math, AFSCME Union Rep
Cheryl Meld
Michele Plagman
Commissioner Anne Marcotte
Commissioner Laurie Westerlund

Others Present:

Tom Burke, Director
Julie Lueck, Clerk to this Committee
Sue Tange, Social Service Supervisor
Eileen Foss, Income Maintenance Supervisor
Jenny Quade, Lakes & Pines HeadStart Program

Absent:

Vernon Awes

I. Approval of Agenda

Motion by Renee Larson, seconded by Mickey Gault, and carried; the vote was to approve the Agenda as mailed.

II. Approval of Minutes of the January 4, 2012 Meeting

Motion by Cheryl Meld, seconded by Commissioner Laurie Westerlund, and carried, the vote was to approve the January 4, 2012, minutes as mailed.

III. Lakes & Pines HeadStart Program – Jenny Quade (Family Advocate)

Jenny explained that the HeadStart program is an income based program where teachers work with not only the child but also the parent in various capacities. They offer Home-Based services, Informal Child Care, Child Care Partnerships, a Homeless Program and a 0-3 Home Based option. The Home visits are parent focused, with an emphasis on socialization with the parents and children together, with literacy integrated throughout the whole HeadStart program. They require Health and Nutrition components and they assist with screenings to determine how the child is developing. (Please review the handout and brochure that was distributed at the meeting.)

Sue Tange noted that HeadStart is not a part of our agency but Jenny makes referrals to our agency and we make referrals to them. It is a very good resource for folks we work with. Their staff provides additional professional eyes and ears in the homes for helping us determine needs for the family. They are mandated reporters as they are working with children in the State of Minnesota.

* Roberta noted that Sandy Silver has resigned from the committee due to health issues at this time. Also introduced Michele Plagman as a new member to the committee and went around the table to do introductions of the committee members to Michele.

IV. Responses to Questions from AEOA:

- A. With respect to Meals on Wheels - (Marilyn Ocepek)** – Discussion relative to the questions and answers Marilyn Ocepek responded to on the printed handout.
- B. With respect to the Blue Bus Schedule – (Pam Smith)** – Tricia Martin distributed copies of the Bus Schedule. Roberta Elvecrog volunteered to get the transportation information/schedules to the local newspapers and radio station for free advertising.

V. Hot Topics for Discussion

- A. A few topics were noted for future discussions including:**
 - 1. Drug situation in the county** with respect to “bath salts”, “gummy bears soaked in alcohol/vodka, etc.”, and “smokeless tobacco.” (Michelle Plagman)
 - 2. Presentation on “synthetic drugs”.** Kami Genz noted that Probation is looking into a presentation for school staff, H&HS Staff and Probation staff and will include an invitation to Advisory Committee members when that is set up.
 - 3. Gang Activity** – Sue Tange noted that the Sheriff’s Department is being asked to make a presentation to H&HS Staff and could possibly provide a fact sheet for the Advisory Committee members.

VI. Comments:

- A. Comments from the Committee Members for the Commissioners relative to HHS**
- B. Feedback from the Board Meeting – Roberta Elvecrog, Bob Lewis and Jim Carlson**
- C. Committee Members to attend Board Meetings the first six months in 2012 –**

FEBRUARY 28	Bob Lewis	Dave Leaf
MARCH 27	Sara Math	Roberta Elvecrog
APRIL 24	Bob Lewis	Roberta Elvecrog
MAY 22	Kathy Barker	Dave Leaf
JUNE 26	Jim Carlson	Michele Plagman
JULY 24	Roberta Elvecrog	Vern Awes

VII. Community Recognition

- A. Review Community Recognition Criteria** - Tabled until the March meeting.

VIII. Miscellaneous Discussion

- A. Shaping Minnesota’s Human Services Future – (A MACSSA Policy Vision) Tom Burke** updated the committee about how we are going to begin looking at Health & Human Services differently by possibly merging not only departments but possibly counties and one of our examples is the electronic service in the Income Maintenance area and then Child Support regionally.

B. Operation Christmas Update – Jim Carlson / Cheryl Meld

Jim Carlson hasn't gotten the final numbers from Molly Dox yet, but noted there were a number of "no shows" this year.

Cheryl Meld noted that Kids Plus coordinated the giving with the recipients noting there were 28 families with a total of 52 adults and 65 children. 20 families received food &/or gifts, 6 received food only; 14 families received gifts & food; and 8 families received gifts only.

C. Local Provider for New Pathways in Aitkin & McGregor Area?

It was noted **New Pathways** is located in Brainerd and only works with families, not single people. Churches and volunteers provide sleeping accommodations, meals, hospitality as it is not one big facility providing those services. Families can be there for a month and leave and then they can participate in follow-up counseling. **Hope House** is a program run by Lutheran Social Service in Brainerd and you need to be a Crow Wing, Morrison or Todd county resident who has been evicted and have proof of that and you must accept three months of follow-up. **Bridges of Hope** is a faith based program and you must have children to participate. The question came up as to whether Aitkin County is big enough to look into and support a program like these unless a church would be willing to take it on. Another question arose as to whether there is somewhere for single adults or married adults without children.

IX. Adjourn

Motion by Commissioner Laurie Westerlund, seconded by Kathy Barker, and carried; the vote was to adjourn the meeting at 4:59 p.m.

Roberta Elvecrog, Chairperson

Julie Lueck, Clerk to
Aitkin County Health & Human Services Advisory Committee

The following documents were included in the packet of information sent to members for review prior to the meeting or distributed at the meeting:

- Draft copy of the Minutes of the January 4, 2012, Advisory Committee Meeting
- Draft copy of the January 24, 2012, Health & Human Services Board Meeting Minutes
- Shaping Minnesota's Future (A MACSSA Policy Vision)
- Community Recognition Criteria (and sample Certificate)
- AEOA – Meals on Wheels & Senior Nutrition Services Information
- Lakes & Pines HeadStart Program Description of Services & Brochure