

**AITKIN COUNTY HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES
BOARD MEETING MINUTES
February 28, 2012**

I. Call to Order

The Aitkin County Board of Commissioners met this 28th day of January, 2012, at 9:03 a.m. as the Aitkin County Health & Human Services Board, beginning with the Pledge of Allegiance, with the following members present: Chairperson Commissioner Mark Wedel; Commissioners Ann Marcotte, Brian Napstad, Don Niemi and Laurie Westerlund; and others present included: County Administrator Patrick Wussow; H&HS Director Tom Burke; Staff Members Sue Tange and Susan Cebelinski, Social Service Supervisors; Eileen Foss, Income Maintenance Supervisor; Kathy Ryan, Fiscal Supervisor; Cynthia Bennett, Public Health Supervisor; Julie Lueck, Clerk to the Health & Human Services Board; and guests; Roberta Elvecrog, DAC & HHS Advisory; Bob Lewis & Dave Leaf, HHS Advisory Committee Members; Nanci Sauerbrei, Aitkin Independent Age; Beth Leaf, Aitkin County CARE; and Georgia Johnson, Citizen.

II. Pledge of Allegiance

III. Approval of Agenda

Motion by Commissioner Westerlund, seconded by Commissioner Marcotte, and carried; the vote was to approve the agenda as mailed.

IV. Review January 24, 2012 Health & Human Service Board Minutes

Motion by Commissioner Napstad, seconded by Commissioner Marcotte, and carried; the vote was to approve the January 24, 2012 Health & Human Services Board Meeting Minutes as mailed.

V. Review Bills

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

VI. General/Miscellaneous Information

A. Emergency General Assistance Plan – FYI – Tom Burke / Eileen Foss noted that this Plan was developed by the state which told us what our guidelines were for Emergency General Assistance. This year each county had to have its own plan so it was worked on as a region for consistency, altho it doesn't vary a lot from what we have done in the past. The State allocation for Aitkin County is generally around \$14,000 per year. Before, we had two separate allocations between Emergency MSA and Emergency General Assistance which together were about \$17,000-18,000. There is no Emergency MSA any longer as it has been combined with Emergency General Assistance and has been reduced. We have never expended county funds when we run out of the State Allocation. We research and seek community resources to assist. (Emergency General Assistance is for single adults with no children.)

B. Elder Abuse Investigation Training Update – PowerPoint – Susan Cebelinski updated the Board on the recent Elder Abuse Investigation Training that was held January 26th & 27th in Duluth which was attended by Commissioner Marcotte; Steve Cook, Deputy Sheriff Investigator; Sara Winge, Assistance County Attorney; Kathy Carlson, Public Health Nurse; Carol Eibes-Rollins, Adult Protection Social Worker; and Susan Cebelinski, Adult Services Supervisor. This training was presented by the St. Paul Police Department which included a long term investigator, a county prosecutor and victim advocate. There is a law presented to our

legislators which we hope will pass, as currently some of the penalties for abusing elders are misdemeanors and are very, very minimal and right now the state is looking at passing a law to make some of these offenses felonies. See attached printed PowerPoint slides.

- C. **Regional Redesign Meeting 1/31/12 Update – Tom Burke** updated the Board that they met on the 31st with respect to the electronic system within Income Maintenance and discussed what to do next. They are looking at regionalization in the area of Child Support and try to do a Pilot in Region III but the counties would still maintain Child Support. Whereas in Region 10 which has about 12 counties signing on, they are looking at turning that program over to the State to run Child Support and make the comparison of the pilots to see if we could do it as well if not better. They discussed the possibility of using ITV for some hearings so folks working in the city with a child support case in another county could go to a local site with an ITV for the hearing and then be able to return right back to work without having to miss an entire day of work. We have to figure out if the various judicial districts involved would have an impact on how this will work.
- D. **Commissioner Wedel distributed copies of a letter from Lucinda Jesson, State Commissioner of DHS**, commending the staff of Aitkin County Health & Human Services for perfect performance in meeting DHS Human Service financial reporting requirements for calendar year 2011. Commissioner Wedel expressed the County Board's appreciation and commend Tom Burke, Kathy Ryan and HHS staff for this achievement.

VII. Contracts

- A. **Home and Community-Based Waiver services Contract between ACHHS and Mystic Meadow Homes, Inc., Aitkin for the period January 1, 2012 through December 31, 2014.** *Motion by Commissioner Westerlund, seconded by Commissioner Napstad, and carried, the vote was to approve and authorize the Board Chair to sign the Home and Community-Based Waiver services Contract between ACHHS and Mystic Meadow Homes, Inc., Aitkin for the period January 1, 2012 through December 31, 2014.*

VIII. Administrative Reports:

- A. **Caseload Update & Graph** – Eileen Foss, Income Maintenance Supervisor, discussed the report with the Board noting that the MNCare caseload numbers are going down due to the new MA Expansion Program and also noted that this is not our total caseload for Aitkin County, but only the cases we administer.
 - 1. Food Support ME Exit –E-mail from Bobbe Granmoe, DHS- Eileen Foss updated the Board with respect to the e-mail regarding the program advisory review of the Food Support Program which is done every three years in the form of a management evaluation and client surveys that were distributed noting that with the surveys returned we received an A+ rating.
- B. **Financial & Transportation Reports** – Kathy Ryan, Fiscal Supervisor, noted we are running on schedule for the year.

IX. Joint Powers Board Reports:

- A. **Tri-County Community Health Services Board (CHS) – Cynthia Bennett /Tom Burke / Commissioner Westerlund**

Cynthia noted that we have included Talking Points from the Community Health Board along with the draft meeting summary for commissioner review. It was also noted that they have a new member on the Board, Dr. Shara Pehl who is a physician from Itasca County and currently the Medical Director for Itasca Medical Care who will serve as the Medical Consultant/Representative to the CHS Board. Cynthia also discussed the Health Standard Ranking in Minnesota which looks at various indicators that includes binge drinking and Pertussis. Also discussed the supreme court justice ruling of the newborn screening program (blood spots) noting the outcome is that MDH will be allowed to continue to conduct newborn

screening with an opt out option versus an opt in option. An explanation will be provided to the new parents along with the opt out form, noting that with the proper information and the whole story, folks will be more apt to approve and cooperate.

Discussion with respect to “What is SCHSAC?” noting it is the State Community Health Services Advisory Committee which advises, consults with, and makes recommendations to the Commissioner of Health on matters relating to the development, funding and evaluation of community health services in Minnesota. It is a very unique partnership between the Commissioner of Health and local government. It gives local government the opportunity to have input into what this State Agency is doing. There are 52 CHS Boards in Minnesota with a representative from each CHS Board on the SCHSAC committee. Our CHS Joint Powers Agreement is with Aitkin, Itasca and Koochiching counties.

X. Committee Reports from Commissioners

- A. **H&HS Advisory Committee** - Commissioners Westerlund and/or Marcotte
Meeting updates from Committee Members: Bob Lewis, Dave Leaf, Roberta Elvecrog –
See attached minutes from the February 1, 2012 meeting. Commissioner Westerlund noted that Jenny Quade gave a report to the committee on the HeadStart Program. There were responses from AEOA and it was noted that the home meals program has moved from Paulbeck’s to Rossalini’s and that Kelly’s Kitchen in Palisade is no longer involved with senior dining. (It was noted that Palisade Café is currently serving senior dining meals.) There was an Operation Christmas update. AEOA has distributed their new bus schedule. New Pathways was discussed at the Advisory meeting and Roberta gave an update since that meeting.
- B. AEOA / NEMOJT Committee Updates – Commissioner Napstad noted there has been no meetings recently and he will report next month on the NEMOJT meeting scheduled for this Thursday.
- C. CJJ (Children’s Justice Initiative) – Commissioner Westerlund noted that Deb Tuper, SW, and Sue Tange, Supervisor, gave a presentation on safety and the tools the social workers are using when they talk to children and families.

XI. Adjournment: Next Meeting – March 27, 2012

Motion by Commissioner Marcotte, seconded by Commissioner Westerlund, and carried; the vote was to adjourn the meeting at 10:20 a.m.

Mark Wedel, Chairperson

Tom Burke, Director
Aitkin County Health & Human Services

Julie Lueck, Clerk to Aitkin County Health & Human Services Board

**The Statistical Reports for the fourth quarter of 2011
for Income Maintenance, Social Services and Public Health were included in the packet.**