

**AITKIN COUNTY HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES
BOARD MEETING MINUTES
March 26, 2013**

I. Attendance

The Aitkin County Board of Commissioners met this 26th day of March, 2013, 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 Patrick Wussow; H&HS Director Tom Burke; Staff Members Susan Cebelinski and Sue Tange, Social Services Supervisors; Kathleen Ryan, Fiscal Supervisor; Cynthia Bennett, Public Health Supervisor; Eileen Foss, Income Maintenance Supervisor; Julie Lueck, Clerk to the Health & Human Services Board; and guests; Roberta Elvecrog, DAC & HHS Advisory; Bob Lewis, HHS Advisory Member; Janet Hatfield, County Financial Worker; and Jeanne Schram, Aitkin Independent Age.

II. Approval of Health & Human Services Board Agenda

Motion by Commissioner Westerlund, seconded by Commissioner Marcotte, and carried; the vote was to approve the agenda as amended with the addition of a Resolution under V.-B.

III. Review February 26, 2013 Health & Human Service Board Minutes

Motion by Commissioner Westerlund, seconded by Commissioner Marcotte, and carried; the vote was to approve the February 26, 2013 Health & Human Services Board Meeting Minutes as mailed/posted.

IV. Review Bills

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

V. General/Miscellaneous Information

A. NACO Update – Tom Burke reviewed the ‘Why Counties Matter’ handout as well as the four Policy Briefs which included: 1- Protect the Federal-State-Local Partnership for Medicaid, 2- Fund the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, 3-Protect the Prevention and Public Health Fund, 4-Extend Health Benefit Coverage to Pre-Trial Jail Inmates.

B. AMC Policy for Human Services Update - Tom Burke updated the Board on the Human Services Technology Investment of \$29 million in the Governor’s Budget for this project.

RESOLUTION - # 032613-035

**Request Governor of Minnesota to Maintain Budgeted
\$29 Million for Human Services Technology**

WHEREAS, The Association of Minnesota Counties (AMC) and the Minnesota Association of County Social Service Administrators (MACSSA) both believe Human Services Technology Modernization is a top priority for this legislative session; and

WHEREAS, The House and Senate both set budget targets last week which include reductions in the area of health and human services, which will put this county priority in stiff competition with other budget items.

WHEREAS, Many state programs are running on antiquated DOS based systems developed in the 1980s, and

WHEREAS, There is high risk of system failure if the state does not replace old systems thereby noting we can either invest now or spend significantly more money later; and

WHEREAS, This is not just a State and County administrative problem, as clients will get better, more timely services if we have more efficient technology systems; and

WHEREAS, We have a golden opportunity to leverage federal financial participation via the Affordable Care Act with a relatively small state investment; and

WHEREAS, Failure to invest now will result in a significantly higher state investment later; and

WHEREAS, Better systems are needed because most counties won't be able to add staff, despite a growing workload from the Medical Assistance expansion.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Aitkin County Board of Commissioners requests that the Governor maintain \$29 million in his budget for Human Services Technology.

Commissioner Marcotte moved the adoption of the resolution, seconded by Commissioner Niemi, and it was declared adopted upon the following vote:

Members Present: 5 ALL MEMBERS VOTING "Yes"

VI. Administrative Reports:

A. **Financial & Transportation Reports** – Kathy Ryan, Fiscal Supervisor, noted there were no significant changes to report.

VII. Joint Powers Board Reports:

Tri-County Community Health Services Board (CHS) – Commissioner Westerlund introduced Cynthia Bennett as the new CHS Administrator. Cynthia noted at the most recent meeting, they were reviewing the minutes from the last CHS meeting and the budget was not approved because there needed to be some minor changes.

VIII. Committee Reports from Commissioners

- A. AEOA / NEMOJT Committee Updates – Commissioner Napstad noted that neither committee has met since our last Board meeting.
- B. CJI (Children’s Justice Initiative) – Sue Tange updated the Board that they had a very good discussion regarding truancy and the need for uniform responses.

IX. Break at 10:02 a.m. for 10 minutes

Next Meeting – April 23, 2013