

**AITKIN COUNTY HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICE
ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES
Wednesday, October 2, 2013**

Committee Members Present: Jim Carlson
 Roberta Elvecrog
 Mickey Gault
 Kami Genz, CMCC
 Renee Larson
 David Leaf
 Bob Marcum
 Tricia Martin, ACCARE
 Cheryl Meld, Kids Plus
 Beverly Mensing, Red Cross
 Kari Paulsen, NEMOJT
 Jessica Seibert, HRA
 Jessi Schultz, AFSCME Union Rep
 Commissioner Anne Marcotte

Others Present: Sue Tange, SS Supervisor
 Eileen Foss, IM Supervisor
 Julie Lueck, Clerk to this Committee
 Aileen DeMenge, Workforce Center (AEOA)

Absent: Robert Lewis
 Katie Nelson, Riverwood HealthCare
 Michele Plagman, Aitkin High School
 Commissioner Laurie Westerlund

I. Approval of Agenda

Motion by Roberta Elvecrog, seconded by Tricia Martin, and carried; the vote was to approve the Agenda with the move of V. – B. to between II. And III.

II. Approval of Minutes of the September 4, 2013 Meeting

Motion by Roberta Elvecrog, seconded by Bev Mensing, and carried; the vote was to approve the September 4, 2013, minutes with corrections.

V. – B. – Eileen Foss, Kari Paulsen, and Aileen DeMenge discussed the question posed by Commissioner Napstad at the H&HS Board meeting last week relative to “Why do we have a population of “hard to serve” residents?” Eileen noted our current TANF (federal) and MFIP (State of Minnesota) programs have been in effect since 1997. She noted our caseload back in July 1997, there were 159 families receiving cash assistance every month and in June of this year we had 78 families. The majority of our MFIP families are on very short term. We have so many families with barriers/issues that no matter what support you can give them, they are not capable of working a job that would make them self-sufficient, i.e. MH issues, CD issues, education, transportation, and housing. We are dealing with some people that aren’t low functioning enough to be disabled under Social Security but cannot function well enough to hold jobs. Kari Paulsen (AEOA) and Aileen DeMenge (NEMOJT) both discussed some of the services they provide to assist folks in job search, preparing resumes, assisting with clothing for interviews and jobs, and transportation issues.

III. Task Force Reports/Updates:

- A. Corrections** - Cheryl Meld/Dave Leaf/Kami Genz – Discussed their recent meeting and reviewed the CMCC 2013 Organization Chart as well as the sheet reflecting the Facts about Community Corrections.
- B. Public Health** – Renee Larson / Bob Lewis / Bob Marcum / Katie Nelson – No recent meeting and it was discussed that Cynthia Bennett has resigned from the Public Health Supervisor position and will be employed by Riverwood HealthCare. In the interim, Tom Burke will be addressing questions in this area.
- C. Children’s Social Services/Mental Health** – Bev Mensing/Sue Tange – Sue noted that two additional Advisory members have expressed an interest in this Task Force and they are Katie Nelson and Michele Plagman. Bev discussed the extensive meeting she had with Sue Tange and noted there is still lots to learn.
- D. Adult Social Services/Mental Health** – Jessica Seibert / Tricia Martin / Bob Marcum – It was noted that this group has not yet met due to the absence of an Adult Social Services Supervisor.

IV. Budget Committee Report/Update – Jim Carlson / Jessica Seibert – Jim noted that they have not met recently but that Kathy Ryan was going to present the Preliminary 2014 Budget to the Board and that it would be finalized in December. (Julie clarified that the Budget Hearing which will be open to the public is scheduled for Tuesday, December 3rd at 6:05 p.m. in the County Board Room. If they anticipate a large attendance, it may be moved to the large Courtroom but that decision may not be made until closer to that date.)

V. Comments:

A. Comments from the Committee Members for the Commissioners relative to HHS – Nothing noted at this time.

B. Feedback from the Board Meetings – September 24 – Dave Leaf & Roberta Elvecrog

1. Discussion relative to the request from Commissioner Napstad for this committee to look into “Why do we have a population of “hard to serve” residents (meaning hard to get them employed)? What services are obstructing them from getting jobs? What services are they receiving from agencies that allow them to survive? What can be done to help them transition to jobs? See above.

C. Committee Members scheduled to attend upcoming Board Meetings in 2013 -

October 22	Jim Carlson	&	Roberta Elvecrog
November 26	Mickey Gault	&	Cheryl Meld
December 17	Renee Larson	&	Cheryl Meld

(Julie clarified the possible meeting date change for December and it was noted that no formal action has been taken to change the H&HS Board meeting date from the 17th to the 24th. We will plan to have Renee & Cheryl attend the December 17th meeting.)

VI. Miscellaneous Discussion

- A. Community Meal (Serving Monday, October 7th at First Lutheran, Aitkin)**
 1. **There is a need for someone to pick up the bread at the Aitkin Bakery that day.** A few changes and adjustments were made to the sign-up sheet and it was noted that Berta Elvecrog would pick up the bread at the bakery for Anne Marcotte. A new copy will be sent to all Advisory members and AFSCME staff.

VII. Adjourn

Motion by Jim Carlson, seconded by Cheryl Meld, and carried; the vote was to adjourn the meeting at 4:44 p.m.

Dave Leaf, 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 September 4, 2013, Advisory Committee Meeting
- Draft Copy of the September 24, 2013 Health & Human Services Board Meeting Minutes

DRAFT