

Aitkin County Health & Human Services

204 First St. NW
AITKIN, MINNESOTA 56431
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DATE: August 20, 2104
TO: Aitkin County Board of Commissioners
FROM: Tom Burke, Director
SUBJECT: NACO's Healthy Counties Initiative Advisory Board

As indicated in the attached letter from Riki Hokama (Hawaii) the newly appointed President of NACO, I have been appointed to the Healthy Counties Initiative Advisory Board. This presidential appointment will compliment my involvement on the Health Steering Committee. I have attached a brief summary of the Advisory Board as well as the membership list for 2014/15.

Many of the appointees to this committee are from metro counties from across the nation. I was asked to consider an appointment to this advisory board due to my involvement on the Health Steering Committee, my attendance at the Healthy Counties sessions and the fact I am from a rural county. Minnesota has two representatives from Ramsey County in Commissioners Jim McDonough and Toni Carter as well as Commissioner Randy Johnson from Hennepin County. I believe it is important to have a rural voice.

With the Board's support, I would be able to have input into how initiatives at NACO are planned for and implemented with county and private sector representatives. Over the past years I have been allowed to participate at the Legislative, Western, and Annual conferences. I would suggest replacing the Western Conference held in May (I have attended only two that I recall) with a Healthy Counties Conference held in January.

I would ask for the Board's support in this appointment and for me to participate in the out of state events as scheduled by NACO.



July 25, 2014

Mr. Thomas Burke
Health and Human Services Director
Aitkin County
204 1st St
Aitkin, MN 56431

Dear Thomas:

As president of the National Association of Counties, I have the honor and privilege of appointing NACO's leadership team. It is my pleasure to appoint you Member of the Healthy Counties Initiative Advisory Board. Thank you for agreeing to serve.

Committee participation at the National Level is a serious commitment and a big responsibility, even more so this year with a federal administration engaged in developing policy on a number of issues facing counties.

My goal is to build a committed leadership team for NACO. A great deal of NACO's strength is in its committees and that strength is reflected in the commitment and active participation revealed throughout our committee structure.

Your NACO committee liaison will follow-up with you and provide specific details and information regarding future meetings and the mission of the committee.

I hope you will participate in the various Transportation and Infrastructure activities surrounding my Presidential Initiative this year. With the reauthorization of MAP-21 and other related federal policy issues, we have a lot of work ahead of us, and we need to make sure Counties are telling their stories in Washington DC. This year promises to be an exciting one and I look forward to working closely with you to further the goals of NACO and the nation's counties.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Riki Hokama'. The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Riki Hokama
President

JUL 31 2014

HEALTHY COUNTIES INITIATIVE

OVERVIEW

Creating and Sustaining Healthy Counties by Engaging, Collaborating and Sharing Solutions

Recognizing counties play a critical role in the health of all those who live, work and play across the country, the Healthy Counties Initiative was launched in 2011 to actively support counties as they serve their residents and employees.



The Initiative focuses on enhancing public-private partnerships in local health delivery, improving individual and community health, and assisting counties to effectively implement the Affordable Care Act. With guidance from an Advisory Board comprised of county leaders who are health advocates at NACO and corporate partners, priorities are identified to ensure county leaders received timely information to make the appropriate decisions for their counties. Areas of interest include:

- Enhancing coverage, access to and coordination of care for vulnerable populations in the community, including health services in hospitals, community health centers and county jails, while focusing on cost-containment strategies; and
- Promoting community public health, prevention and wellness programs.

By addressing these areas and others, the Initiative envisions county leaders will be able to maximize their capacities to use best practices and foster public-private partnerships to promote healthy communities.

ACTIVITIES

To empower county leaders with resources for promoting and advancing health policies and programs that meet the needs of their residents and employees, NACO develops activities with input from the Advisory Board. Educational forums, workshops, webinars, blogposts, peer exchanges and publications are ways the Initiative engages counties and partners throughout the year to not only collaborate, but to also share efficient and effective solutions and build healthy counties. Counties can also explore the Healthy Counties Database, an online directory of strategies implemented by counties.



For more information, contact: **Emmanuelle St. Jean** | Health Program Manager
estjean@naco.org | 202.942.4267 | www.naco.org/healthycountiesinitiative

**Healthy Counties Initiative
Advisory Board Members
2014-2015**

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Health & Human Services Industry
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Esri

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Health and Human Services Director
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American Beverage Association

Taylor Tomczyszyn
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Joan Ralph
Group Vice President
Continuum of Care Services
Premier

Jim Rolfe
Partner
VMG Health



August 18, 2014

Mr. Thomas Burke
Health & Human Services Director
Aitkin County
204 1st St NW
Aitkin, MN 56431-1260

Dear Mr. Burke,

As President of the National Association of Counties (NACo), it is my pleasure to confirm your nomination as a member of the Health Steering Committee for the 2014-2015 term. We are excited to have you as part of our team!

Your NACo committee staff liaison is Paul Beddoe. Please feel free to reach out to Paul at 202.942.4234 or pbeddoe@naco.org. He will also be contacting you soon.

All steering committee members should plan to:

- Actively participate in steering committee work including conference calls, legislative strategy development and advocacy efforts
- Attend NACo's 2015 Legislative Conference in Washington, D.C. – February 21-25, 2015
- Attend NACo's 2015 Annual Conference in Charlotte, N.C. – July 10-13, 2015

NACo steering committee members play a critical role in advancing legislative and policy priorities important to the nation's counties. At the NACo legislative and annual conferences, the 10 policy steering committees meet to hear federal legislative and policy updates, discuss best practices and innovation, and advise the NACo Board of Directors and voting delegates who set NACo policy for the coming year.

As a member of a steering committee, you may introduce policy resolutions and platform changes and will vote on other proposed resolutions and platform changes within the jurisdiction of your committee. It is my hope that all steering committee members make the most of this opportunity and help create a dynamic and productive policy process.

Thank you for your willingness to serve in this capacity and I look forward to working with you this year and value your membership with NACo.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Riki Hokama". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Riki Hokama
President
National Association of Counties