

**AITKIN COUNTY HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES
BOARD MEETING MINUTES
September 23, 2014**

I. Attendance

The Aitkin County Board of Commissioners met this 23rd day of September, 2014, at 9:03 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 Nathan Burkett; H&HS Director Tom Burke; H&HS Staff Members Eileen Foss, Income Maintenance Supervisor; Erin Melz, Public Health Supervisor; Sue Tange & Ann Rivas, Social Service Supervisors; Kathy Ryan, Fiscal Supervisor; Julie Lueck, Clerk to the Health & Human Services Board; and guests; Brenda Butterfield, AFSCME Rep.: Nanci Sauerbrei, Aitkin Independent Age; Roberta Elvecrog, and Bob Harwarth, citizens.

II. Approval of Health & Human Services Board Agenda

Motion by Commissioner Marcotte, seconded by Commissioner Niemi, and carried; the vote was to approve the Agenda as mailed/posted

III. Review August 26, 2014 Health & Human Service Board Minutes

Motion by Commissioner Napstad, seconded by Commissioner Marcotte, and carried, the vote was to approve the August 26, 2014, Health & Human Services Board Meeting Minutes.

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. MN Choices Delay - Tom Burke noted that our staff are trained and ready but it has been delayed until further notice.

B. Tribal State Agreement (TSA) Update – Tom Burke discussed the recent meetings he has attended since May comprised of eight county directors and four county attorneys along with Tribal & DHS representatives. The TSA was put into place in 1997 and reviewed again in 2007 and now for the first time, counties are involved. Recently they went over the QEW (Qualified Expert Witness) and developed a definition of an Indian Child and an Indian Family. The document will be carried by DHS for legislation as the goal for the tribes is to take this from a policy and put it into legislation. Doing work within the TSA requirements are basically the same for us as they have been in the past with the focus on keeping children with their family of origin and /or tribe. There will be a Summit this Thursday, September 24th from 8:30-4:30 at Bois Forte where Tom has been asked to be on the Forum Panel addressing the Crisis of Indian Children. Currently the TSA addresses what happens after the child is pulled from the home. Tom would like to address early intervention and education, resources and services. He will also be encouraging funding from all sources including, counties, state, federal, and the tribes. Following the Summit the County and Tribal representatives will be meeting with DHS staff in St. Paul on Friday, September 26th at 10 a.m. to further discuss the TSA.

VI. Contracts

- A. **Purchase of Service Agreement for the period January 1, 2015 through December 31, 2015, between Aitkin County Health & Human Services and:**
1. **AEOA (Arrowhead Economic Opportunity Agency, Virginia)**
 2. **NEMOJT (NE Minnesota Office of Job Training, Virginia)**

Motion by Commissioner Westerlund, seconded by Commissioner Niemi, and carried, the vote was to approve and authorize the Board Chair to sign the Purchase of Service Agreement for the period January 1, 2015 through December 31, 2015, between Aitkin County Health & Human Services and:

1. *AEOA (Arrowhead Economic Opportunity Agency, Virginia)*
2. *NEMOJT (NE Minnesota Office of Job Training, Virginia)*

VII. Administrative Reports:

- A. **Financial & Transportation Reports** – Kathy Ryan noted the foster care costs are looking good and we will probably come in with a total of \$696,000 by year end. The budget is also doing well and may come in under what was originally expected.

VIII. Joint Powers Board Reports:

- A. **Tri-County Community Health Services Board (CHS) – Commissioner Westerlund / Tom Burke / Erin Melz– Aug. 14th, 2014 Meeting Minutes were included in the packet.** It was noted the next meeting is October 9th. The CHS Conference was held last week and there was a lot of energy around potential services. Consistency and funding is always a concern with new programs.

IX. Committee Reports from Commissioners

- A. **H&HS Advisory Committee – Commissioners Westerlund and/or Marcotte**
Meeting updates from Committee Members: It was noted that Jessi Schultz gave an overview of **Children's Mental Health.** Draft minutes of the September 3, 2014 meeting were in the packet.
- B. AEOA Committee Updates- Commissioner Niemi noted there has not been a meeting.
- C. NEMOJT Committee Updates – Commissioner Napstad noted their meeting was canceled due to a lack of quorum.
- D. CJI (Children's Justice Initiative) – Commissioner Westerlund / Sue Tange noted that the judge was unable to attend and the meeting was quite brief.
- E. Lakes & Pines Update – Commissioner Niemi noted he discussed service delivery issues with Bob Benes also discussing the need for low income housing development. It was also felt that weatherization funding was adequate. They felt suppliers of propane in Aitkin County were stocking up and there was hope that folks could pre-buy this year although very few will have the extra money to do that. Eileen Foss noted that staff are working with some folks on a budget plan and incorporating payments to propane providers every month. Commissioner Marcotte would like to know now many residents benefitted from the \$20 million legislation that was implemented.
- F. Child Protection Issues addressed by Governor Dayton – Sue Tange addressed the process taken by the County and then the State when a child dies unexpectedly. Governor Dayton is saying that Child Protection protocol needs to be reviewed. Sue noted the outcome will probably be a more structured response with more guidance and more Statutes. Tom noted if the volume of work increases with additional mandates, it will probably require additional staff to accomplish everything.

X. Break at 10:21 a.m. for 15 minutes

Next Meeting – October 28, 2014