

AGENDA

VII. – A.

March 13, 2015

Meeting with ACH&HS Administrative Staff, Senator Carrie Ruud and Representative Dale Lueck

I. Funding Concerns

- A. **Anoka** – when a Sex Offender is deemed eligible to dismiss, but is still held in Anoka, the county is responsible for 100% of the cost.
- B. **Detox** – Counties are responsible to pay the Detox center and then collect from the clients. There is no State Share. There should be.
- C. **Tribal Foster Care** – Seeking assistance to relieve counties of foster care for ICWA (Indian Child Welfare Act) child placements.
- D. **Mental Health - MOE (Maintenance of Effort)** – Should it be reformulated?
- E. **State IT (Information Technology) issue.**
 - 1. Example: MAXIS (Minnesota Statewide Automated Eligibility System) being outdated.
 - 2. Example: MNSURE issues.
- F. **SHIP/Transportation Funding**—Communities that have implemented programs such as Complete Streets and Safe Routes to School make it safer and easier to walk and bike to nearby places, while helping increase physical activity among kids. Studies show that children who walk or bike to school are more physically active, have less body fat, lower obesity levels and are more likely to meet physical activity guidelines than students who are drive or bused to school. SHIP Coordinators are broadening their base of involvement in their coalitions to include the integration of communities partners supporting all age and ability ranges, including the Senior population. Creating pedestrian and bicycle infrastructure is proven to positively impact economic development in MN. Studies have shown that for every dollar invested in building pedestrian and bike infrastructure, nearly \$3 can be saved in health-care costs associated with physical activity.
- G. **Restoring Funding to the Local Public Health Grant**—In 2014 the Local Public Health Grant (LPHG) made up less than 7% of all local public health expenditures and according to a recent national report, MN's investment in public health ranks 45th in the nation. Increasing the state's investment will strengthen our local public health system, helping community health boards and tribes address 21st century public health issues, such as changing demographics, health disparities, mental health issues and increased complexity of cases and families served.

II. New Funding Areas

- A. **Governor's Task Force on Child Protection** – Task Force recommendations are coming out at the end of this month after fall and winter regional meetings by the Task Force with social service agencies, community stakeholders and citizens. In December the Task Force published initial recommendations, obviously foreshadowing what is to come from the final report. December's recommendations acknowledge that Minnesota's child protection pendulum has swung from "forensic-focused" in the '90's to "family engagement" in the new millennium. "Forensic-focused" could have been at odds with communities and families, and "family engagement" can sometimes be at odds with child safety. The Task Force's recommendations will encompass screening decisions, transparency, family assessment mode, **adequacy of resources**, and training and supervision. As we digest the preliminary recommendations, we have not seen anything that will dramatically change child protection/welfare practice in Aitkin County. However, we do have concerns that final recommendations could affect staffing patterns and child protection funding.

III. Services/Programs we are implementing by reinvesting existing funds

- A. **Consumer Support Program (CSP)** - Jail/Mental Health – ACHHS is hiring a new Social Worker to assist with Mental Health needs in the jail and discharge planning of residents from jail as well as to assist with Mental Health needs in the community.
- B. **Lakes & Pines** - “School Readiness Wrap-Around Program” - Aitkin County is contracting with Lakes & Pines to augment their ability to work with parents of the children. It is the hope that this investment will allow more time to assist parents in being more prepared to assist in their child’s learning.
- C. **Cohort** – ACHHS has a Nurse and Social Worker going through the University of Minnesota Education Program focusing on Mental Health for children ages 0-5 years. It is hoped this Cohort will be able to intervene with children and parents prior to the child entering school.
- D. **Early Intervention PHN**— With the addition of an early intervention/family home visiting Public Health Nurse, the ability to continue Universal Home Visiting while offering more focused and intense home visiting for some families through an evidence-based model, such as Healthy Families America, would become available. Studies of evidence-based home visiting programs document the following outcomes: reduced child maltreatment, increased utilization of prenatal care and decreased pre-term, low weight babies, improved parent-child interaction and school readiness, decreased dependency on welfare or other social services, increased access to primary care medical services and increased immunization rates. In addition, children who have emotionally available caregivers develop secure attachments, school readiness, healthy emotional development, strong problem solving skills and emotional regulation.
- E. **Volunteer Initiative Program (VIP)**—A program in development, the Aitkin County Volunteer Initiative Program (ACVIP) will be comprised of volunteers who seek to share their professional expertise and have a high level of commitment and dedication to improving the quality of life for people who work, live and play in Aitkin County. This unique, high-impact program allows volunteers to directly apply their skills and expertise through volunteering at events, one-on-one mentoring and presenting workshops in townships and communities throughout the County. Volunteers contribute to the health and well-being in our county, having a direct impact on chronic disease, eating habits, emergency preparedness, gardening, healthy start for children and adolescents, mental health and wellbeing, nutrition, obesity, parenting and family systems, physical activity, senior citizen health, and tribal health and wellness. All areas of expertise will be considered from carpenters and sales associates to doctors and pharmacists. VIP’s will be helping the community, helping themselves and making a difference!
- F. **Aging in Aitkin County**—With initiation and funding through Northland Foundation, Aitkin County agencies and representatives, including staff from Aitkin County Health and Human Services, have embarked on an initiative which has identified the following vision *“Aitkin County seniors receiving caring and effective solutions to safely age in place.”* With the ever increasing population of the retired, aging and elderly populations in Aitkin County, the intent is to assess, coordinate and collaborate with all services and agencies providing resources to this population ensuring that services are adequate, meeting needs and are proving a safe, economical way for citizens to age in place in Aitkin County.