



**AITKIN COUNTY HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES  
COUNTY BOARD MEETING MINUTES  
August 22, 2017**

### Attendance

The Aitkin County Board of Commissioners met this 22nd day of August, 2017 at 9:04 a.m. as the Aitkin County Health & Human Services Board, with the following members present: Board Chair J. Mark Wedel, Commissioners Laurie Westerlund, Don Niemi, Bill Pratt, and Anne Marcotte. Others present included: County Administrator Jessica Seibert, Health & Human Services Director Cynthia Bennett who was delayed due to car problems, Fiscal Supervisor Kathleen Ryan, Financial Services Supervisor Jessi Goble, Social Services Supervisor-Children's Services Jessi Schultz, Social Services Supervisor-Adult Services Kim Larson, Public Health Supervisor Erin Melz, Fiscal Worker Carli Goble, Health & Human Services Administrative Assistant Shawn Speed, Maggie Rothstein/Aitkin-Itasca-Koochiching Community Health Board Public Health Planner, and Guests: Roberta Elvecrog/H&HS Advisory Committee Member, Brielle Bredsten/Aitkin Independent Age, and Bob Harwarth/Citizen.

### Agenda

Motion by Commissioner Westerlund, seconded by Commissioner Niemi and carried, all members voting yes to approve the August 22, 2017 Health & Human Services Board agenda with the addition of Item VII.f. CHB Reports from Commissioner Westerlund.

### Minutes

Motion by Commissioner Westerlund, seconded by Commissioner Pratt and carried, all members voting yes to approve the July 25, 2017 Health and Human Services Board minutes.

### Bills

Motion by Commissioner Marcotte, seconded by Commissioner Westerlund and carried, all members voting yes to approve the bills.

### Introduction

Erin Melz, Public Health Supervisor, introduced Maggie Rothstein a Public Health Planner for the Aitkin-Itasca-Koochiching Community Health Board.

### Financial Reports

Kathleen Ryan reviewed the financial statement for the board.

- 1) We are on budget overall.
- 2) Foster care is running high.

### Committee Reports

**H&HS Advisory Committee** – Commissioner Westerlund and/or Pratt

- 1) Committee member Roberta Elvecrog provided details of their last meeting, held August 2, 2017.
  - a. Explained that they were given a briefing by Kathleen Ryan on the upcoming budget presentation for H&HS and how they had many questions for her on it and were extremely satisfied with the answers they were given.
  - b. There was a question for Kathleen Ryan on the payments for sex offenders, by Commissioner Marcotte, which was answered to her satisfaction and indicated that the county share for sex offender's residential treatment is either 20% or 25%. This will be added to the list of items to bring to the legislature for discussion.

**AEOA Committee Update** – Commissioner Westerlund

- 1) Discussed her tour of Ivy Manor in Virginia, MN.
  - a. AEOA is taking over running it.
  - b. It is a \$7.5 million, income based housing unit, located in two historical buildings, with 41-42 units for people that have mental health issues, are homeless, etc.

c. 24/7 mental health staff coverage at the facility.

2) Talked about Arrowhead transit getting 8-10 new buses.

**CJI (Children's Justice Initiative)** – Commissioner Westerlund

1) Jessi Schultz, Social Services Supervisor-Children's Services, went over the highlights of the meeting they had concerning attorneys for 10 years old and up and how they are showing the "Best Interest of the Child" video.

**CHB (Community Health Board)** – Commissioner Westerlund

1) Commissioner Westerlund went over the meeting that was held in International Falls for strategic planning of the Walk-On.

General discussion between all of the commissioners on the new Lakes and Pines brochure and how thorough it was and the direction that Lakes and Pines is going by Commissioner Niemi.

**Resignation**

Cynthia Bennett, Health & Human Services Director, briefed the Board on Kathleen Ryan's resignation, effective September 1, 2017.

- 1) Thanked Kathleen for all of her hard work and dedication over the years for Health & Human Services and the County.
- 2) Commissioner Wedel and the Board thanked Kathleen for her service and the great job she did.

**Legislative Update**

Cynthia Bennett, Health & Human Services Director, briefed the Board on recent legislative changes and areas of concern for the County.

- 1) The administrative team has given Cynthia and Jessica updates on what areas they see as critical areas for discussion with the legislature to lessen the burden that has tipped more to funding from the County and less from the State, like out of home placement costs, regional treatment center costs, and sex offender costs.

Kim Larson, Social Services Supervisor-Adult Services, briefed the Board on MHI (Mental Health Initiative).

- 1) Lakes and Pines recently received a grant in the amount of around \$200,000 to help in developing housing for people with mental health diagnosis.
- 2) Region 5+ Initiative is considering hiring two different positions, which are-
  - a. Mental Health Housing Planner that would help develop more housing options for persons with mental health issues.
  - b. Discharge Planner that would help individuals locate appropriate housing after discharge from the various treatment facilities.
  - c. Region 3, St. Louis County, has a person who strictly does resource development.
  - d. Question and comments from Commissioner Marcotte about possibly seeking help from Northern Pines as to whether they can or would be willing to provide the Discharge planner aspect of it all. Kim replied that we are considering all options and Lakes and Pines is a part of that.

**Working Agreement Update**

Cynthia Bennett, Health & Human Services Director, briefed the Board on new requirements from HRA.

- 1) HRA is now required to be in contact with anyone under the age of 6 that live in HRA facilities and maybe exposed to lead through various sources. HRA will notify public health to follow up with the family regarding resources including testing and mitigation that can be done to prevent residual issues from lead exposure.
- 2) Erin Melz, Public Health Supervisor, then went over the procedures for testing children and when our agency would become involved. She also went over how they might determine where and how the child is coming into contact with the lead and the mitigation options that parents have to keep the child exposure as minimal as possible.

- 3) There was discussion about how there are no funding sources available to families to pay for any of the mitigation options, but that there are ways to do it that has very minimal costs to the parents.
- 4) There was discussion about problems that occur in the children that are exposed to lead, such as learning disabilities and behavior problems.

Commissioner Niemi had a question on rates for sexual offenders and what the current percentage is that we pay for them. Kathleen Ryan provided the information 20% or 25% to the Commissioners satisfaction.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:47a.m.

Next Meeting – September 26, 2017