



**AITKIN COUNTY HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES
COUNTY BOARD MEETING MINUTES
September 26, 2017**

Attendance

The Aitkin County Board of Commissioners met this 26th day of September, 2017 at 9:03 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, and Bill Pratt. Others present included: County Administrator Jessica Seibert, Health & Human Services Director Cynthia Bennett, Financial Services Technician Carli Goble, Social Services Supervisor-Children's Services Jessi Schultz, Social Services Supervisor-Adult Services Kim Larson, Health & Human Services Administrative Assistant Shawn Speed, and Guests: Carole Holten/H&HS Advisory Committee Member, 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 September 26, 2017 Health & Human Services Board agenda.

Minutes

Motion by Commissioner Pratt, seconded by Commissioner Niemi and carried, all members voting yes to approve the August 22, 2017 Health and Human Services Board minutes.

Bills

Carli Goble, Financial Services Technician, was introduced by Cynthia Bennett as the HHS Representative that will be presenting the bills and financial reports to the Board in the absence of a Financial Services Supervisor.

Was mentioned that there was a payment to McGregor Schools for \$15,000.00 to help pay for a guidance counselor from the Local Collaborative Time Study (LCTS). We act as fiscal agent for the LCTS and these dollars are pass through monies for this program.

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

Health & Human Services Director Reports

Legislative Updates – Cynthia Bennett, H&HS Director reported that there has been some momentum around paying for people in Regional Treatment Centers (RTC) and all of the Commissioners have been very supportive of the changes that need to be addressed on a state level with this issue. AMC is getting behind the necessary changes and there will be more discussions regarding this in the upcoming development of legislative platforms for 2018. The Mental Health Initiative is working on hiring an individual to focus on community resource development and utilization. This person will assist with discharge planning and coordinate efforts for Region 5 counties to help facilitate discharges from the RTC to a community placement.

The Director developed pamphlet for Commissioner Marcotte, who is currently in Washington D.C., Commissioner Marcotte will relay the information that outlines how the proposed changes to the Affordable Healthcare Act will impact the state of MN and ultimately counties. If the proposed changes are made and the Prevention and Public Health fund is eliminated there will be no funding for the Local Public Health Grant that currently provides ACH&HS with \$57,986.00.

DHS Child Safety & Permanency Report Update – Cynthia reported getting a call from DHS complimenting H&HS on the great job the Child Welfare team has done on meeting these indicators. Congratulations were expressed to Supervisor Jessi Schultz and the entire Child Welfare team.

Redesign Committee Update – Cynthia reported that the committee had decided on a color palette for the offices and lobby. Funding for the lobby remake project is coming from incentive dollars from DHS. The usage of these dollars are restricted and must be used to enhance services for the individuals on the SNAP program. That the committee is looking at creating a more calming and relaxed environment in our lobby through the use of color choices, furniture styles, and possibly adding an aquarium. HHS has received a donation of a computer stand for clients to have access to a computer that might be utilized to email their worker or to fill out required forms.

– In addition to the physical environment Cynthia reported that HHS continues to work on building a positive work culture. Staff morale, attitudes and engagement are key to a healthy and productive setting. This includes finding ways to build leadership capacity and provide the tools necessary for staff to be successful in their positions. Outside resources for staff development are cost prohibitive so efforts have been made to find other ways to accomplish this. Cynthia reported that she has found a leadership development train the trainer course. She would complete the training and through this venue would be able to conduct staff development training within the HHS agency. These resources would also be available for all county departments if they were interested. In addition this could be offered as a service to our community partners such as CARE, or ANGELS. This is a good opportunity for the county and will put us in a nice position to offer further support to our partners in the community. Cynthia reported she is working with Administrator Jessica S. to develop a more detailed plan to move forward with this option.

Financial Reports

Carli Goble reviewed the financial statement for the board-

- 1) We are on budget overall.
- 2) Foster Care still a high cost.
- 3) Fund Balance has been decreasing over the course of the last few years.
- 4) We are where we should be for this time of year.

Contracts

WIC Agreement between McGregor School District and ACH&HS-

Motion by Commissioner Pratt, seconded by Commissioner Niemi and carried, all members voting yes to approve the agreement.

WIC Agreement between Hill City Assembly of God Church and ACH&HS-

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

Committee Reports

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

- 1) Committee member Carole Holten and Roberta Elvecrog provided details of their last meeting, held September 6, 2017.
 - a. Explained that they were given a briefing by Jessi Goble, Financial Services Supervisor, about the cost of Medical Assistance when going into a nursing home or assisted living complex. Was a very informative briefing and Jessi has agreed to work with the Advisory Board to present it to more community members.
 - b. McGregor will be having a Health Fair on the evening of September 27th in their Community Center that involved a lot of collaboration between McGregor, ACH&HS, and Riverwood.

- c. Cynthia mentioned that Riverwood Health Care Center applauded Brea Hamdorf and Hannah Colby from Public Health for their great work and noted how outstanding they had been to work with on the McGregor Health Fair.
- d. Looking at setting up a community meal in the McGrath area possibly once a quarter.

NEMOJT Update – Commissioner Niemi

- 1) Discussion on meeting with employers in your area and finding out what skills are needed with the aim of some of our young adults staying and working here instead of leaving the area. Looking at meeting with schools to provide more job skill training.
- 2) Workforce Center may have a few less computers due to lack of funding.

Lakes and Pines – Commissioner Niemi

- 1) Funding for Fuel Assistance looks to be in good shape. Meeting in October to determine how it stands.
- 2) Ross is looking into working with them to do a windshield survey for the Small Cities Development Grant.

BEACON Meeting – Commissioner Westerlund

- 1) Was held at Long Lake Conservation Center September 19, 2017.
- 2) Stands for Building Effective and Collaborative Organizational Networks.
- 3) Meeting of all area agencies that provide community services to network and provide each other with information about what each other does.
- 4) Was very informative and well attended.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:40a.m.

Next Meeting – October 24, 2017