



# Board of County Commissioners Agenda Request

3B  
Agenda Item #

**Requested Meeting Date:** May 8, 2018

**Title of Item:** Aitkin County CARE

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> REGULAR AGENDA	<b>Action Requested:</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Direction Requested
<input type="checkbox"/> CONSENT AGENDA		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Discussion Item
<input type="checkbox"/> INFORMATION ONLY		<input type="checkbox"/> Hold Public Hearing* <i>*provide copy of hearing notice that was published</i>
<input type="checkbox"/> Approve/Deny Motion		
<input type="checkbox"/> Adopt Resolution (attach draft)		

<b>Submitted by:</b>	<b>Department:</b>
----------------------	--------------------

<b>Presenter (Name and Title):</b> Maureen Mishler	<b>Estimated Time Needed:</b>
---	-------------------------------

**Summary of Issue:**

Maureen Mishler will be present to provide an update of Aitkin County Care

**Alternatives, Options, Effects on Others/Comments:**

**Recommended Action/Motion:**

**Financial Impact:**

Is there a cost associated with this request?  Yes  No

What is the total cost, with tax and shipping? \$

Is this budgeted?  Yes  No *Please Explain:*



May 3, 2018

To: Madam Chairwoman Anne Marcotte & Commissioners Mark Wedel, Laurie Westerlund, Don Niemi & Bill Pratt

Aitkin County CARE, Inc. is just over seven years old as a nonprofit service organization. During its infancy, CARE struggled a bit in identifying and fulfilling the needs of our aging and disabled adult population to enable those people to live at home with supports needed for the individuals and their caregivers. As an organization, we either directly provide those essential services or Coordinate Area Resources Effectively (CARE). The attached graphs identify some of those services, but are by no means all inclusive.

Our mission is to enhance and promote the independence, dignity, value and well-being of older and disabled adults and those who care for them. Our mission guides us, (the staff of CARE and the board of directors) in every action we take regarding new and current services. I like to say that we operate CARE with "*a business head and a service heart.*" We look at what want for our county/community and then evaluate if we find the funding sources to meet the need and then evaluate will the program/service be sustainable once the funding is no longer available.

There are programs and services that are essential to helping people stay in their homes that we take a financial loss on, for example, Meals on Wheels. Our reimbursement for administrative costs of coordinating and reporting meal delivery is inadequate and the funding organization is unwilling or unable to increase our reimbursement rates due to program funding cuts. We cannot let seniors go without nutritional meals, so we absorb the costs and use county funds to supplement the cost of providing the services.

For aging adults and their caregivers, the lack of accessibility to essential services makes all the difference in the world to whether a person is able to continue to live at home or needs care in another setting such as an Assisted Living or Nursing Home.

According to the Minnesota DHS site, the cost of long term care in MN is, on average, \$90,000 a year. Assisted living averages \$48,000 (without additional services and fees). I am certain that CARE is providing services that allow aging and disabled adults to continue to live at home as the families/caregivers tell us so. Our services provide a great cost savings to both the individuals and the ultimately the county for those who eventually run out of their savings.

On behalf of Aitkin County CARE, Inc. and the people we serve, I thank you for your support and ask you to continue to support the programs and services vital to keeping aging and disabled adults living safely and independently in their homes. After all, isn't that what we all would like...to live in our own homes as long as possible?

Respectfully submitted,

Maureen M. Mishler, Executive Director



May 3, 2018

To: Madam Chairwoman Anne Marcotte & Commissioners Mark Wedel, Laurie Westerlund, Don Niemi & Bill Pratt

Aitkin County CARE, Inc. is just over seven years old as a nonprofit service organization. During its infancy, CARE struggled a bit in identifying and fulfilling the needs of our aging and disabled adult population to enable those people to live at home with supports needed for the individuals and their caregivers. As an organization, we either directly provide those essential services or Coordinate Area Resources Effectively (CARE). The attached graphs identify some of those services, but are by no means all inclusive.

Our mission is to enhance and promote the independence, dignity, value and well-being of older and disabled adults and those who care for them. Our mission guides us, (the staff of CARE and the board of directors) in every action we take regarding new and current services. I like to say that we operate CARE with "*a business head and a service heart.*" We look at what want for our county/community and then evaluate if we find the funding sources to meet the need and then evaluate will the program/service be sustainable once the funding is no longer available.

There are programs and services that are essential to helping people stay in their homes that we take a financial loss on, for example, Meals on Wheels. Our reimbursement for administrative costs of coordinating and reporting meal delivery is inadequate and the funding organization is unwilling or unable to increase our reimbursement rates due to program funding cuts. We cannot let seniors go without nutritional meals, so we absorb the costs and use county funds to supplement the cost of providing the services.

For aging adults and their caregivers, the lack of accessibility to essential services makes all the difference in the world to whether a person is able to continue to live at home or needs care in another setting such as an Assisted Living or Nursing Home.

According to the Minnesota DHS site, the cost of long term care in MN is, on average, \$90,000 a year. Assisted living averages \$48,000 (without additional services and fees). I am certain that CARE is providing services that allow aging and disabled adults to continue to live at home as the families/caregivers tell us so. Our services provide a great cost savings to both the individuals and the ultimately the county for those who eventually run out of their savings.

On behalf of Aitkin County CARE, Inc. and the people we serve, I thank you for your support and ask you to continue to support the programs and services vital to keeping aging and disabled adults living safely and independently in their homes. After all, isn't that what we all would like...to live in our own homes as long as possible?

Respectfully submitted,

Maureen M. Mishler, Executive Director



## Are You Caring for a Loved One and Need a Break?

Aitkin County CARE, Inc. provides Respite Services.

Respite Services are Care for the Caregiver. Let us provide your family member with the care they need to allow them to live at home, while you get a break for a few hours or more. We have highly trained Respite Workers who will:

- 🍽️ Prepare Meals
- 🚿 Stand-by Assist with Showers
- 💊 Give Reminders to take Medications
- 🧹 Light Housekeeping
- 👨🏻‍👩🏻‍👧 Visiting, Play Games or Read with Your Family Member

Whether you are a caregiver who lives with your family member or you live hours away, CARE can help you with meeting your Loved One's needs.

Your Long Term Care Insurance may cover services, or we would be happy to discuss other payment options based on income.

Give us a call to see if we can help you! You may also drop by the CARE offices in the Birchstreet Building at 20 3<sup>rd</sup> Street NE, in Aitkin.

Aitkin County CARE, Inc.  
(218)927-1383 or 1(877) 810-7776 (toll free)  
[www.aitkincountycare.org](http://www.aitkincountycare.org)

Mission: To enhance and promote the independence, dignity, value and well-being of older and disabled adults and those who care for them.

## Aitkin County CARE, Inc. Services Provided Summary for 2017

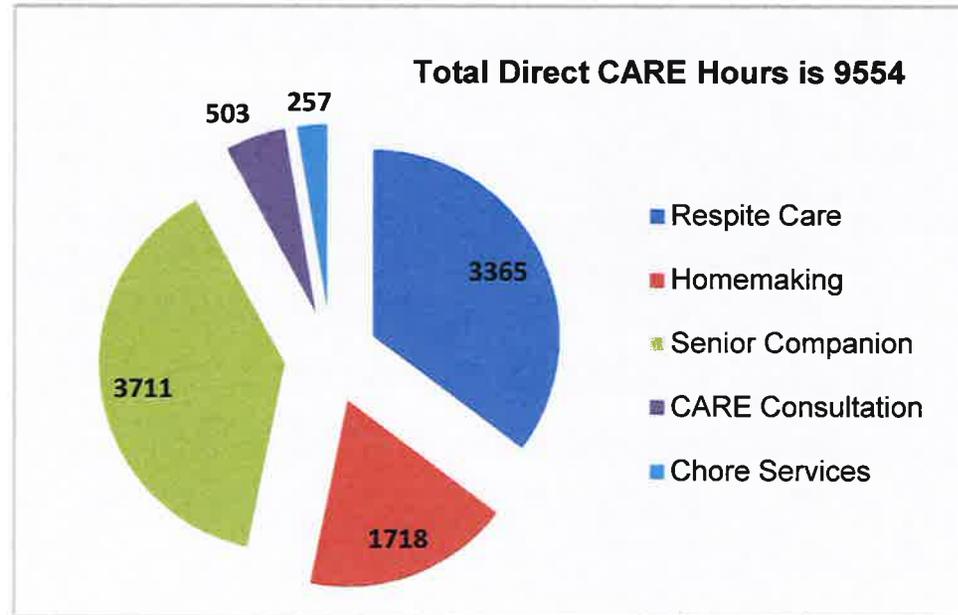
Program or Service	Direct CARE Hours
Respite Care	3365
Homemaking	1718
Senior Companion	3711
CARE Consultation	503
Chore Services	257

### Additional Services Added in 2018:

Through funding from Live Well At Home grant from DHS, CARE is able to provide emergency and overnight respite services. These services are funded through June 30, 2019.

CARE Coordinator, Terri Mathis , will be providing training for Respite Education & Support Tools June 2nd and throughout the year to give families, friends and volunteers the tools needed to provide Respite Care.

CARE also provides Chore services through the waiver program for individuals over 60 who meet income guidelines and who need help with chores in their home and around their property to remain living at home.



Aitkin County CARE, Inc.

## Aitkin County CARE, Inc. Services Provided Summary for 2017

Program or Service	# Served
Meals on Wheels	5391
Rural Delivery	3579
NAPS Boxes	1588

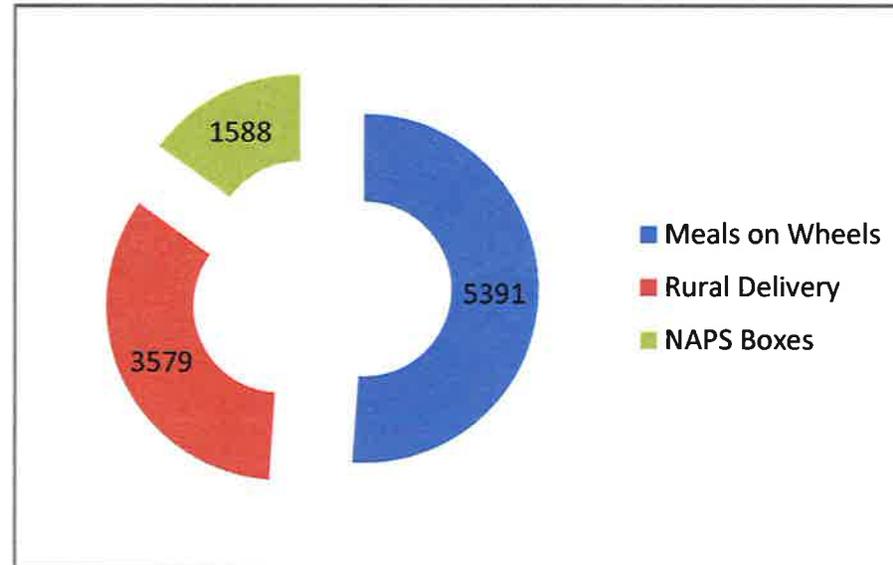
### Additional Services:

Senior Companions provide trips to the grocery stores to enable the persons they serve to select the food they want to purchase.

Homemakers do the grocery shopping for their clients if requested to do so, as well as, meal preparation.

Additionally, CARE serves as a referral resource to anyone who calls or stops in to request assistance with food; including informing people of the numerous community meals throughout the county, little free food pantries, and food pantries run by organizations & their schedules.

Through a grant from Northland Foundation, CARE is working with Ukura's Big Dollar, to promote Grocery Home Delivery to be available for ALL of Aitkin County, especially home-bound seniors and disabled adults.



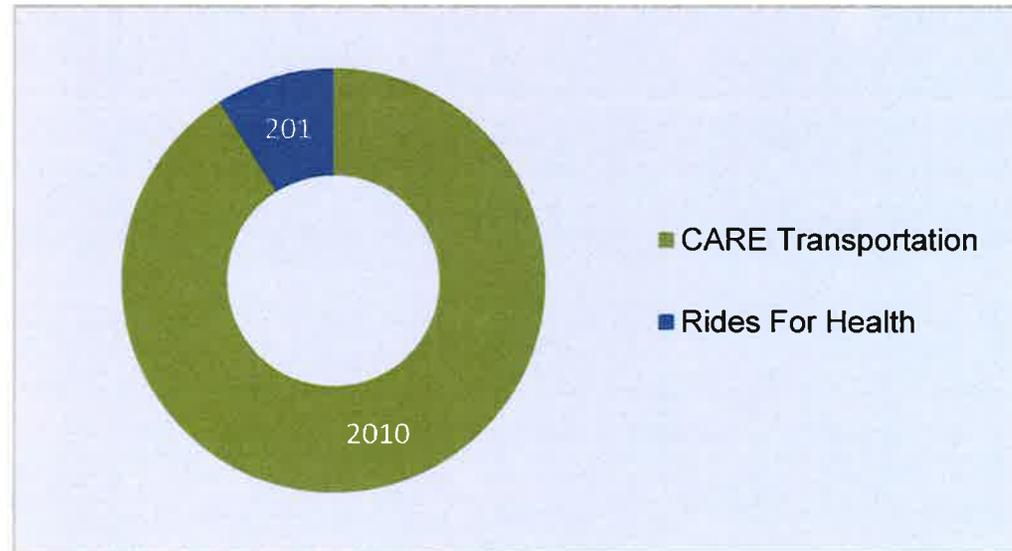
Aitkin County CARE, Inc.

## Aitkin County CARE, Inc. Services Provided Summary for 2017

Program or Service	# of Rides
CARE Transportation	2010
Rides For Health	201

### Additional Notes:

Rides For Health is a separate 501(c)3 run by CARE to provide rides to health, therapy or dental appointments to individuals of any age. Administratively, all services and support are covered by CARE. Volunteers take people to appointments anywhere in the state. They are compensated for their mileage, but not their time. By a conservative estimate Volunteers donated over 400 hours of their time.



Aitkin County CARE, Inc.

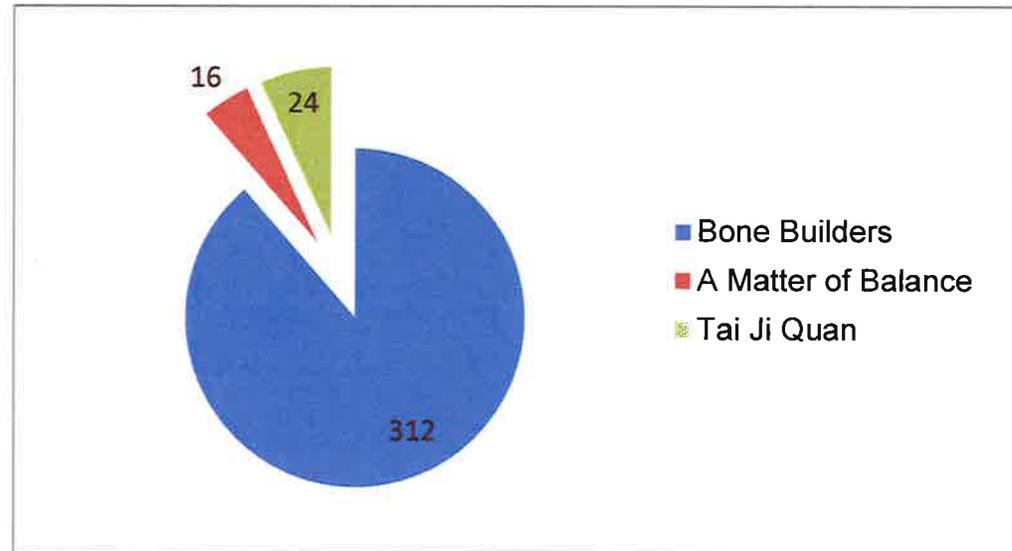
## Aitkin County CARE, Inc. Services Provided Summary for 2017

Programs and Services	# Hours of Classes
Bone Builders	312
A Matter of Balance	16
Tai Ji Quan	24

### Additional Notes:

141 Unique individuals participated in Exercise & Balance Programs in 2017. As CARE is offering more courses in 2018 and has more trainers, we expect that number to continue to rise.

Bone Builders (6 classes a week) is led by volunteers. CARE, Betty Jacobs, Program Coordinator, provides the administrative support.

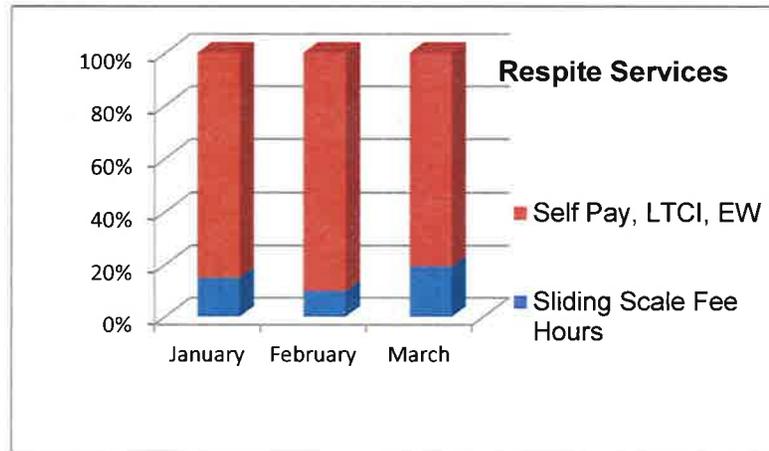


Aitkin County CARE, Inc.

## Aitkin County CARE, Inc. - Balance of Reimbursement for Services - 2018

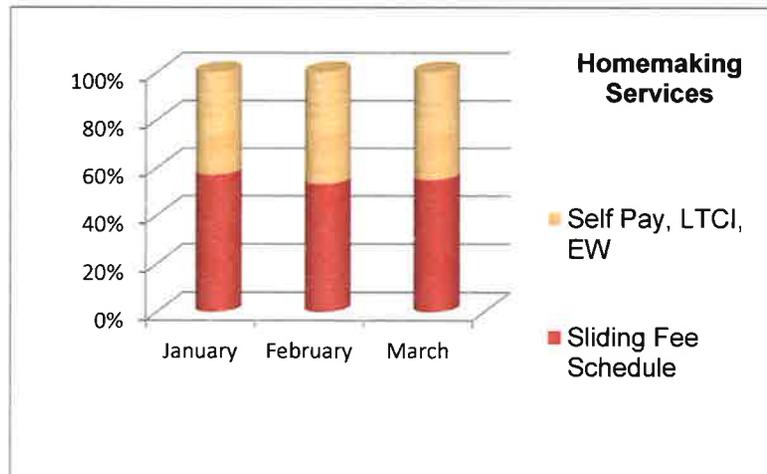
### Respite Services by Hours

Month	Sliding Scale Fee	Self-Pay, EW, CADI, LTCI
January	31.75	183.25
February	28	263.25
March	49.5	208.75



### Homemaking Services by Hours

Month	Sliding Scale Fee	Self-Pay, EW, CADI, LTCI
January	60	79.5
February	60	67.75
March	62	75



**Note:** Both the Respite Services and Homemaking Services have the expense of the direct care staff covered by cost share and the varied payment sources. In the case of Respite Services the Live Well At Home grant covers the remaining administrative and operational costs for that service.