



**AITKIN COUNTY HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES
COUNTY BOARD MEETING MINUTES
September 25, 2018**

Attendance

The Aitkin County Board of Commissioners met this 23rd day of October, 2018, at 9:01 a.m. as the Aitkin County Health & Human Services Board, with the following members present: Commissioners Laurie Westerlund, J. Mark Wedel, Don Niemi, and Bill Pratt. Others present included: County Administrator Jessica Seibert, Cynthia Bennett ACH&HS Director, Accounting Supervisor Carli Goble, Financial Assistance Supervisor Jessi Goble, Child Social Services Supervisor Jessi Schultz, Assistant to the County Administrator Sue Bingham, Shawn Speed, H&HS Executive Assistant, and Guests: Jon Moen/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 Wedel, seconded by Commissioner Niemi and carried, all members voting yes to approve the October 23, 2018 Health & Human Services Board agenda with the addition.

Minutes

Motion by Commissioner Pratt, seconded by Commissioner Niemi and carried, all members voting yes to approve the September 25, 2018 Health and Human Services Board minutes.

Bills

Carli Goble noted there was nothing unusual or noteworthy in this month's bills.

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

Health & Human Services Director Report, Cynthia Bennett, ACH&HS Director

Cynthia started by requesting approval of a joint powers agreements between St. Louis County, Carlton County, Lake County, and Aitkin County to utilize MTM, Medical Transportation Management, Inc., to provide transportation services for our counties.

Aitkin County is required to provide medical transportation services to those individuals that are on Minnesota healthcare programs for non-emergent medical appointments. Transportation services have always been a problem in Aitkin County and as such working with MTM to provide those services will be a great help. MTM is able to provide a 24 hour customer service center, offer an online portal, and the admin fee is per leg not per mile. Citizens will be able to set up transportation at any time of the day, whereas now they are only able to do it during normal business hours. St. Louis County will be the "Host County" for managing this program through MTM and will free up staff time to focus on other services particularly revenue recapture.

Commissioner Pratt asked about the make-up of the contract and whether we would be able to see the contract before finalization. Cynthia informed him that the contract will be shared with the directors at an upcoming meeting for review.

Motion by Commissioner Wedel, seconded by Commissioner Niemi and carried, all members voting yes to approve the Joint Powers Agreement.

Cynthia moved on to provide an update on presentations that will be given at the upcoming board meetings.

November – Presentation on Opioids by Kim Larson and Erin Melz

December – Child Support presentation by Ruth Sundermeyer

January – Fiscal Report by Carli Goble

She then invited the Board members to the Agency Halloween party on Wednesday, October 31.

Quarterly H&HS Financial Report, Carli Goble, Accounting Supervisor

Carli went through her Quarterly financial reports for the Board members.

Majority of revenue is received in July and October. From November to June we use our fund balance to make our payments.

Our Out of Home Placement costs are down \$287,434 from the same time last year.

Our Regional Treatment Center (RTC) costs are up from \$164,439 last year, with 7 clients, to \$279,824 this year with 8 clients.

Our overall budget is below the predicted rate for expenditures at this time of year. We should be at 83% of our budget and are at 76%.

Cynthia added that Sourcewell, on behalf of Region V+, hired a regional discharge planner to work with the RTC's to help achieve more timely discharges for clients which would help lower our costs. This discharge planner is having difficulty accessing files and programmatic systems to accomplish this as there are data privacy and HIPAA regulations. Sourcewell has developed a Joint Powers Agreement that would provide the legal means necessary for this discharging planning to be conducted across all Region V+ counties. This agreement will be brought to Board for approval when all County Attorneys have reviewed and approved the agreement.

Commissioner Niemi inquired as to why our out of home placement costs have decreased this year and Jessi Schultz commented that it was due to more kids being placed into foster care or actually going home instead of spending a lot of time in a residential program.

Roberta Elvecrog inquired into a radio ad she had heard asking for nurses or aids at a mental health facility in Brainerd and wondered where it was. Cynthia responded that she believed it was the mental health facility that was being built as part of the Mental Health Initiative. And referred Roberta to Kim Larson who is aware of all the projects underway with the Mental Health Initiative.

Committee Reports

Community Health Conference Update – Commissioner Westerlund

Commissioner Westerlund gave an update from her attendance at the Minnesota Community Health Conference that was held in October. She emphasized her feelings about the Tobacco 21 presentations she attended and how she would like the County to move towards that policy.

AEOA Update – Commissioner Westerlund

Commissioner Westerlund attended the AEOA annual meeting and received the annual report. She had a list of all the programs that AEOA offers and will be giving it to Sue to have it emailed out to everyone who would like it.

H&HS Advisory Committee Update – Jon Moen

Met on October 3rd.

- Jon talked about how successful the career fair was that was held at the high school.
- He also gave highlights of the presentation on Maltreatment of Vulnerable Adults that was given by Kim Larson and Nick Anderson.

Children's Justice Initiative (CJI) Update – Commissioner Westerlund/Jessi Schultz

Jessi Schultz talked about the last meeting. Both topics for the meeting were questions from Sarah from our County Attorney's office related to a training she had attended. The first was about using Writs for parents who are in jail and whether we should be attempting to get them to court or more utilization of the court's phone system, which has been unreliable at best. The biggest issue is the cost of getting them here for court if they are not in our jail. The second topic talked about whether to appoint court appointed attorneys for non-custodial parents as it is not statutorily required and how this would get funded. There will be ongoing discussions about both of these topics as future meetings.

Commissioner Wedel talked about the Community Connection at Rippleside Elementary and there were over 30 organization represented there, including Aitkin County reps from H&HS and Veterans Services. His main point was about how PC's for People were there and gave away about 50 computers and how impressive of an event it was. Jessica Seibert mentioned that when the County had old computers, this last time, they gave them to PC's for People.

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

Next Meeting – November 27, 2018