



**AITKIN COUNTY HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES
COUNTY BOARD MEETING MINUTES
February 26, 2019**

Attendance

The Aitkin County Board of Commissioners met this 26th day of February, 2019, at 9:03 a.m. as the Aitkin County Health & Human Services Board, with the following members present: Commissioners Anne Marcotte, Laurie Westerlund (arrived at 9:07am), J. Mark Wedel, Don Niemi, and Bill Pratt. Others present included: County Administrator Jessica Seibert, Sheriff Dan Guida, Cynthia Bennett ACH&HS Director, Accounting Supervisor Carli Goble, Public Health Supervisor Erin Melz, Public Health Nurse Brea Hamdorf, Adult Social Services Supervisor Kim Larson, Assistant to the County Administrator Sue Bingham, Shawn Speed, H&HS Executive Assistant, and Guests: Joel Hoppe/H&HS Advisory Committee Member, Kathy Beatty/ANGELS, and Brielle Bredsten/Aitkin Independent Age.

Agenda

There was a change to the agenda. Removal of Item VI as Jessi Schultz was unavailable to present.

Motion by Commissioner Wedel, seconded by Commissioner Pratt and carried, all members voting yes to approve the February 26, 2019 Health & Human Services Board agenda with the change.

Minutes

Motion by Commissioner Niemi, seconded by Commissioner Wedel and carried, all members voting yes to approve the January 22, 2019 Health and Human Services Board minutes.

Bills

Carli Goble noted that all of the 2018 payments were finalized.

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 talked about the AMC Legislative Conference she attended February 12-14.

The sunset of the 2% provider tax or Health Care Access Fund (HCAF) at the end of 2019 was the main topic of discussion. The HCAF supports the following programs-

- SHIP
- MinnesotaCare
- Medical Assistance
- As well as grants to rural hospitals and clinics.

Without this funding source there will be a significant gap in the budget.

There has been no viable replacement suggested, as such it is being requested that the State continue this HCAF until that time that there is a replacement identified.

Commissioner Marcotte expressed her concern for the sun setting of this funding source and asked that a resolution be presented at the next Board meeting expressing support for the continuation of the HCAF.

Commissioner Niemi sought clarification around a concern about how the tax is affecting healthcare costs, specifically driving up the costs of doing business and then that is passed onto the patient.

Cynthia talked about MinnesotaCare, and a new program called ONECare MN that is designed to allow consumers, such as farmers, more options for insurance coverage that have lower costs and a smaller buy in option.

Commissioner Niemi also inquired into what each side has for reasons for continuing or not continuing the fund.

Cynthia replied that one side has indicated that the fund was created for MinnesotaCare, and that, due to a surplus has been used to fund or support many other health related programs, such as SHIP, that is not what this provider tax was originally intended to be used for.

In addition, the opposing side is saying that this provider tax is contributing to the rising cost of healthcare. However on the other side of the aisle, the group supporting the continuation claims that the provider tax is making available the needed dollars to fund prevention programs. Prevention programs ultimately contribute to healthcare costs savings as populations stay healthier to begin with.

Commissioner Niemi also inquired as to whether a document exists that we could show the legislature's the successes of these programs.

Cynthia and Erin stated that the Local Public Health Association (LPHA) has one from previous years and are working on an updated flyer. This will be shared with the commissioners when it is finished.

Cynthia went on to talk more about ONECare MN and her meeting with DHS Commissioner Tony Lourey in Carlton County at which he was promoting the Governor's new Health Care program proposal. His hope is to create an insurance plan that will offer comprehensive coverage that consumers can buy into through the general market to create better options for people when they are making their insurance coverage choices. Currently we have very expensive insurance options with no lower deductible plans offered. This new option would balance out the market and develop large purchasing pools that would drive costs for the product itself and prescriptions down.

Legislative Issues we are watching-

- Children and Adult Mental Health Services
- Bill to stop with holds for Child Protection
- Telemedicine in regards to MA reimbursements
- Substance Use Disorder reforms
- Regional Treatment Centers including Competency Restoration

Commissioner Marcotte asked about the new Substance Use Disorder requirements. Supervisor Kim Larson indicated that there were new licensing requirements for those who conduct CD Evaluations. In 2020 the requirement will be that whomever conducts the evaluation must be a licensed drug/alcohol counselor. Most counties will not meet these requirements as they will not have personnel who are qualified to that standard.

Related to Competency Restoration there is a need to clarify who is responsible to conduct this service. There is legislation in process to clarify the language in the State statutes.

Cynthia then turned it over to Erin, Brea, and Sheriff Guida to talk about the new effort to educate our tobacco retailers on how to spot and stop sales of tobacco and tobacco products, including vaping supplies to youth.

Public Health will be conducting random education and congratulation checks at 19 of the counties 26 tobacco retailers. These checks will only be educational in nature and not an actual compliance check by law enforcement, so no fines or penalties will be incurred by a failure. They are only to

help educate the retailers and their staff.

Review Approval of Contracts/Agreements/Appointments

Service Agreement for January 1, 2019 through December 31, 2019 between ACH&HS and Lutheran Social Services.

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

Service Agreement for January 1, 2019 through December 31, 2019 between ACH&HS & Riverwood HealthCare Center.

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

Committee Reports

Joint Powers Board Update – Tri-County Community Health Services Board

Erin informed the board that at the last meeting they reviewed their by-laws, elected officers, to which Commissioner Westerlund was elected Chairperson, reviewed their Quality Improvement Programs. All three counties involved presented their current work that is being done to combat tobacco usage.

H&HS Advisory Committee Update

Joel briefed the Board that this month was the first meeting of the year for the Advisory Committee and at it they-

- Selected Carole Holten as the new Chairperson
- Selected Joel as the Vice-Chair
- Selected Commissioner Wedel as the Parliamentarian
- Reviewed and approved the by-laws
- Were given a report, from HHS Director Bennett, on Chappy's Golden Shores

AEOA Committee Update

Commissioner Westerlund reported that it was a normal meeting and mentioned that she was very impressed with Ivy Manor in Virginia and how they took an old building and made it so nice and useable for housing the less fortunate.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:58 a.m.

Next Meeting – March 26, 2019