



**AITKIN COUNTY HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES
COUNTY BOARD MEETING MINUTES
May 28, 2019**

Attendance

The Aitkin County Board of Commissioners met this 28th day of May, 2019, at 9:01 a.m. as the Aitkin County Health & Human Services Board, with the following members present: Commissioners Anne Marcotte, J. Mark Wedel, Laurie Westerlund, Don Niemi, and Bill Pratt. Others present included: County Administrator Jessica Seibert, Cynthia Bennett ACH&HS Director, Accounting Supervisor Carli Goble, Adult Social Services Supervisor Kim Larson, Public Health Supervisor Erin Melz, Adult Social Worker Nick Anderson, Assistant to the County Administrator Sue Bingham, H&HS Executive Assistant Shawn Speed, and Guests: Kristine Layne/H&HS Advisory Committee Member, Terri Mathis/H&HS Advisory Committee Member, and Brielle Bredsten/Aitkin Independent Age.

Agenda

Motion by Commissioner Wedel, seconded by Commissioner Niemi and carried, all members voting yes to approve the May 28, 2019 Health & Human Services Board agenda with the change.

Minutes

Motion by Commissioner Niemi, seconded by Commissioner Westerlund and carried, all members voting yes to approve the April 23, 2019 Health and Human Services Board minutes.

Bills

Carli Goble noted that there were no notable changes in the bills this past month.

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 began by giving a legislative update and saying that the special session ended Saturday at 7am. She was unable to find details on what was accomplished during it, but highlighted the following areas that were addressed.

- The Opioid Stewardship Bill passed with support from both sides and it will add around \$20 million in revenue per year, \$8 million of which will be dedicated to go back to the counties and tribes for use with Child Protective Services.
- The Healthcare Access Fund was renewed with no sunset date in the future at a lowered 1.8% instead of the original 2%. It was important to keep this as it provides help with Minnesota Care, MA, and the SHIP program.
- There was no update available to know what came out of the SUDS reform bill.
- Children's Residential Treatment Funding was granted approval for the last two months of the fiscal year to get funds to cover those residential treatment placements for children. Have not heard whether the continuation of this state support long term passed or not.
- She will be finding out more on these bills and all the legislative changes made at the MACSSA conference tomorrow that she will be attending. She will have an update in the future on all of them.

Commissioner Marcotte inquired if she would be asking about the misappropriated monies that were earmarked for Child Care or not to which Cynthia responded that there was an ongoing audit of the program and that she hoped to learn more at her upcoming conference and will follow up with the board on it.

Cynthia continued her update by talking about her 1 on 1 meetings she has been doing with all of the HHS employees and stated that she is very happy with all of the positive feedback she has been getting and happy with the themes of the feedback she has gotten compared to the feedback received during her initial meetings with staff two years ago. Two years ago employees felt that morale was very low, there was not a lot of trust between staff and the administration, and that communications were not good, there was not good trust between line staff and leadership, lack of trust in general for administration, low morale, and employees didn't feel valued. This time the feedback indicated that communication had greatly improved, there is trust between the staff and administration, the culture, in general, has improved, and people are happier to be here now and feel valued. They also commented that they would still like to see some aesthetic upgrades done to the building as it seems to have been neglected for some time.

Commissioner Marcotte noted that it was good to hear that staff are happier with their work environment and that the administration to staff relationships are better than they had been.

Cynthia continued by saying that the final report/evaluation for the Leadership Leverage training is in its final editing phase and should be made available to the board within the next week or two. Has been suggested that we continue to offer this training in the future, so there are plans to offer a new session again starting in September.

Lastly Cynthia mentioned that work had begun on the End of Year report for HHS. They have formed a committee and have looked at examples of reports from other counties. A format was determined and next the content will be determined. Distribution to who and how has not yet been finalized.

CRE Program Presentation, Kim Larson & Nick Anderson

Kim and Nick went through their presentation on the Comprehensive Re-Entry Program that is headed up by Nick, along with the Aitkin County Jail staff.

Committee Reports

H&HS Advisory Committee Update

Kristine and Terri gave a nice recap of the last Advisory Committee meeting that was held on May 1, 2019. They explained the work and outcomes of the suicide prevention project they are assisting HHS with.

Lakes & Pines Update

Commissioner Niemi talked about the presentation on ROMA, the Results Oriented Management Assessment, that they were given. Noting that it is important to focus on the outcomes of our work and not so much the tasks we do. Tasks in themselves is not what is important, the way families or people are able to improve their lives is important.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:10 a.m

Next Meeting – June 25, 2019