



# Aitkin County Health & Human Services

204 FIRST STREET NW  
AITKIN, MINNESOTA 56431-1291  
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August 27, 2019

Minnesota Department of Human Services, Behavioral Health Division  
Richard Moldenhauer  
Elmer L. Anderson Building  
540 Cedar Street  
St. Paul, MN 55101

Dear Mr. Moldenhauer:

Aitkin County Health and Human Services received a request from New Freedom Center to provide chemical dependency services in Aitkin County including: adolescent and adult out-patient chemical dependency services, adolescent and adult assessments, comprehensive assessments for gambling and treatment, relapse prevention and recovery coaching, domestic violence classes, anger management classes, and DUI/DWU education. Under Minnesota Rules 9530.6810, a County Board shall submit a statement to the commissioner that either supports or does not support the need for the applicant's program within 60 days of the county board's receipt of the written request.

The Aitkin County Board of Commissioners supports New Freedom Center's request to provide adolescent and adult out-patient chemical dependency services, adolescent and adult assessments, comprehensive assessments for gambling and treatment, relapse prevention and recovery coaching, domestic violence classes, anger management classes, and DUI/DWU education in Aitkin County. Currently, there is only one other out-patient substance use program in Aitkin County. Having another service provider in the area would be beneficial for participants in having a choice of providers as well as preparing for Substance Use Disorder Reform (SUDS) and the fact that Aitkin County Health and Human Services currently does not have any Licensed Drug and Alcohol Counselors prepared to provide Comprehensive Assessments come July 1, 2020.

Aitkin County looks forward to having the opportunity to work with New Freedom Center in meeting the behavioral health needs in our service area. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Kim Larson, Aitkin County Health and Human Services Adult Services Supervisor at (218)927-7308.

Sincerely,

Anne Marcotte, Aitkin County Board Chair

cc. New Freedom Center