



Aitkin County Health & Human Services

204 FIRST STREET NW
AITKIN, MINNESOTA 56431-1291
PHONE 1-800-328-3744 or 1-218-927-7200
FAX # 1-218-927-7210

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 Northland Counseling Center to provide chemical dependency services in Aitkin County including: dual diagnoses out-patient chemical dependency treatment services and chemical use assessments in the community and in the Aitkin County Jail. Northland Counseling Center operates Northland Recovery Center in Itasca County and adding service delivery in Aitkin County would provide outpatient options in Aitkin while having the support of a higher intensity treatment expertise provided by the Itasca County site. 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 Northland Counseling Center's request to provide dual diagnoses out-patient chemical dependency treatment services and chemical use assessments in the community and in the Aitkin County Jail. 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 expanding their working relationship with Northland Counseling Center and 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. Northland Counseling Center