



Aitkin County Health & Human Services

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AITKIN COUNTY HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES ADVISORY COMMITTEE WORKGROUP

Meeting Minutes

January 8, 2020

Committee Members Present:

**Carole Holten
Cindy Chuhanic
Joel Hoppe
Joell Miranda
Kari Paulsen
Kevin Insley
Lori Chenevert
Luke Christensen
Pastor Dawn
Penny Olson
Steve Teff
Terri Mathis**

**Commissioner Mark Wedel
Commissioner Laurie Westerlund**

Guests:

**Cynthia Bennett, H&HS Director
Shawn Speed, Scribe**

Absent:

None

I. Call to Order

- A. Carole called to order the meeting of the Aitkin County Health & Human Services Advisory Committee at 3:03 pm on January 8, 2020 at Aitkin County Health & Human Services in the large conference room.

II. Approval of January 8, 2020 Agenda

- A. Steve moved to approve the agenda, Joell seconded, all members voting yes to approve the agenda.

III. Approval of minutes from November 6, 2019 meeting

- A. Kari moved to approve the minutes as written, Lori seconded, all members voting yes to approve the minutes.

IV. Nomination of new Chairperson and new Vice-Chairperson

- A. Carole opened the floor for nominations of a new chairperson and Carole was nominated. Commissioner Westerlund moved to approve Carole Holten as the Chair of the Committee for 2020, seconded by Cindy, all members voting yes to approve the 2020 Chairperson.
- B. Next the floor was opened for nominations of a new vice-chairperson and Joel was nominated for the second year in a row. Kari moved to approve Joel Hoppe as the Vice-Chairperson of the Committee for 2020, seconded by Penny, all members voting yes to approve the 2020 Vice-Chairperson.

V. New Member Welcome

- A. Luke Christensen, who works for AEOA in employment and training and also manages the rural rides program, introduced himself to the other members.
- B. Pastor Dawn Houser, who serves as the pastor for the Aitkin United Methodist Church, also introduced herself.
- C. Along with that Cynthia commented on the caliber of the members who have chosen to serve on the committee lately has been great and thanked all of the members for their work and dedication to it.

VI. Committee Member Input/Updates

- A. Carole started off by mentioning that in the newspaper recently they misquoted the numbers served for Operation Christmas and that it had caused concern among those who serve on that.
- B. Carole also mentioned that the ANGELS have started making “Fidget” quilts for people who suffer from dementia or autism.
- C. She also went on to say that they have started to deliver AEOA frozen meals to citizens who sign up for them and that they had had a couple of tastings of the meals and that they were very good.
- D. Joell mentioned that the Hill City Health Fair will be held at the Hill City School on March 5th from 1-5pm.
- E. Kari said she had lined up the Aitkin High School to, once again, host the career fair there on October 14th with invitations being sent to all of the schools in our county.
- F. Terri informed the group that CARE has confirmed dates for their Community Connection on Aging Fair which will be held in McGregor on April 25th and in Aitkin on May 2nd. She said they expect to have service providers setting up booths, onsite classes and guest speakers and that they are trying to set up some sort of entertainment to open up the fair. Both events will take place at the respective cities high schools.
- G. Cynthia asked the members if they would like more information on the problems concerning DHS and the charges they are sending out to counties in respect to financial errors made on their parts

in the past few years. The members were very interested to learn more so Cynthia went in to more detail concerning the charges and how the previously used formulas were incorrect.

- H. On that topic Commissioner Wedel mentioned that Representative Lueck had spoken to him on the matter and that they were possibly looking into using funds from the states \$1+ billion to alleviate the financial burden on the counties for the states mistakes.
- I. Commissioner Westerlund went on to comment that the Federal Government has asked that counties decide whether or not they are willing to accept refugees into our county.
 - 1. Cynthia added that it concerns more of where they can go to register. After that, from what she understands, they are free to go live wherever they wish, however if a county says no to this they may be out access to federal dollars that go along with those refugees.
 - 2. Commissioner Westerlund added that she would send Shawn the info she has on the subject and he will discern it out to the members after he has looked at it.
 - 3. The consensus among the members was to table a recommendation by the committee until more is known on the subject.
 - 4. Joel moved, Pastor Dawn seconded, all members voting yes to table the recommendation to the Board until the next regular meeting.

VII. Purpose of the Advisory Committee and the 2020 Meeting Schedule

- A. The first item to be discussed was the review and recommendations for any changes to the committee's by-laws and it was suggested by Carole, to table this item until the next regular meeting so everyone, including the new members, has had a chance to thoroughly review them and make recommendations on them, all members agreed.
- B. The next item discussed was the meeting schedule and items to be on each agenda for training or information and that schedule is attached to these minutes.
- C. Lastly the members reviewed the HHS Board of Commissioners meeting schedule and were asked to volunteer to attend at least one of these meetings during the year.
 - 1. Carole volunteered for the first meeting with the others not able to commit at this time.

VIII. Adjournment

- A. The meeting was adjourned at 4:17pm.
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Carole Holton, Chairperson

Shawn Speed, Clerk to the ACH&HS Advisory Board

The following documents were included in the packet of information sent to the members for review prior to the meeting or distributed at the meeting:

- Copy of the agenda for the January 8, 2020 meeting.
- Draft copy of the minutes from the November 6, 2019 meeting.
- Copy of the By-Laws
- List of previous years presentations