



**AITKIN
COUNTY**
EST 1857
HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES
COUNTY BOARD MEETING MINUTES
February 23, 2021

Attendance

The Aitkin County Board of Commissioners met this 23rd day of February 2021, at 9:18 a.m. as the Aitkin County Health & Human Services Board, with the following members present: Commissioners Brian Napstad, J. Mark Wedel, Don Niemi, Anne Marcotte, and Laurie Westerlund. Others present included: H&HS Director Cynthia Bennett, Public Health Supervisor Erin Melz, Adult Social Services Supervisor Jessi Schultz (VIA WebEx), Financial Services Supervisor Jessi Goble (VIA WebEx), Child Support Supervisor Julie Herbst (VIA WebEx), Aitkin County CARE Director Lynne Jacobs, ANGEL's of McGregor representative Kathryn Beatty, County Administrator Jessica Seibert, Assistant to the County Administrator Angie Sahr, and Jennifer Eisenbart, Aitkin Independent Age (VIA WebEx).

Agenda

Motion by Commissioner Marcotte, seconded by Commissioner Westerlund and carried, all members present voting yes to approve the February 23, 2021 Health & Human Services Board agenda.

Minutes

Motion by Commissioner Napstad, seconded by Commissioner Marcotte and carried, all members present voting yes to approve the January 26, 2021 Health and Human Services Board minutes.

Bills

Cynthia noted, per Accounting, that there was nothing out of the ordinary for the bills this month.

Motion by Commissioner Marcotte, seconded by Commissioner Niemi and carried, all members present voting yes to approve the bills.

Senior Citizen Services

Cynthia introduced the topic of available services for senior citizens who are homebound or isolated. Currently in Aitkin County, several organizations, agencies and groups are offering a plethora of services. In addition, there is the Senior Linkage line and the Crisis and Referral line. However, many seniors may not have connectivity or equipment to participate in some of the offerings. All organizations and agencies in our communities recognize this and are doing their best to provide relief to seniors who are feeling isolated or are homebound

Aitkin County CARE Presentation

Lynne Jacobs shared a PowerPoint presentation about what CARE has been up to since COVID-19 started and how it has affected their work.

McGregor ANGEL's Presentation

Kathryn Beatty shared a PowerPoint presentation detailing what the services they normally provide along with how COVID-19 has affected their services over this last year.

Director's Update

Cynthia stated that due to time she would provide a more in depth legislative and director update during next month's Board meeting.

Approval of Contracts/Agreements/Policies

Motion by Commissioner Napstad, seconded by Commissioner Westerlund and carried, all members voting yes to approve the agreement with Compass Counseling Partners for January 1, 2021 through December 31, 2021.

Motion by Commissioner Niemi, seconded by Commissioner Marcotte and carried, all members voting yes to approve the agreement with Lakes & Pines CAC, Inc. for January 1, 2021 through December 31, 2021.

Committee Reports

Joint Powers Board Report

Commissioner Westerlund stated that they went over the financials, By-Laws, Joint Power agreements, and had updates regarding COVID-19.

AEOA Committee Report

Commissioner Westerlund said the main topic was discussion of a \$2/hour pay raise for all of the employees of AEOA and Commissioner Marcotte was concerned about how that would affect our budget in the years to come as we provide funding to them and that a \$2 /hour raise seems high. Jessica said she would get the numbers together regarding AEOA funding for review at next month's board meeting.

CARE Board Report

Commissioner Westerlund said they met and the main item was review of the financial report and she added that CARE is in a great position due to the leadership of Lynne.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:16 a.m.

Next Meeting – March 23, 2021