



**HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES
COUNTY BOARD MEETING MINUTES
June 22, 2021**

Attendance

The Aitkin County Board of Commissioners met this 22nd day of June 2021, at 2:01 p.m. as the Aitkin County Health & Human Services Board, with the following members present: Commissioners Brian Napstad, J. Mark Wedel, Anne Marcotte, Don Niemi, and Laurie Westerlund. Others present included: Health and Human Services Director Cynthia Bennett, Accounting Supervisor Carli Goble, Public Health Supervisor Erin Melz, Financial Services Supervisor Jessi Goble (VIA WebEx), Child Support Supervisor Julie Herbst (VIA WebEx), County Administrator Jessica Seibert, Nikki Knutson, Paul Vold, KKIN (VIA WebEx), and Rebecca Fudala, Aitkin Independent Age (VIA WebEx).

Agenda

Motion by Commissioner Westerlund, seconded by Commissioner Marcotte and carried, all members present voting yes to approve the June 22, 2021 Health & Human Services Board agenda.

Minutes

Motion by Commissioner Napstad, seconded by Commissioner Niemi and carried, all members present voting yes to approve the May 25, 2021 Health and Human Services Board minutes.

Bills

Carli stated that there were only normal monthly bills this month although she did note that they did pay for 100% County responsibility for one individual that was housed at the Anoka Treatment Center for two days before they were able to find other housing for them.

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

H&HS Director's Update, Cynthia Bennett

Cynthia started by giving the floor to Erin Melz, Public Health Director, to give an update on T21. Erin updated the members that on August 11, 2021, from 2-3pm there will be a workshop held. That workshop is being put together by Hannah Colby, in conjunction with The American Lung Association and the Public Health Law Center to bring an educational forum in honor of the one year anniversary of the T21 law in August.

She added that they will be discussing how the law has affected sales and usage rates in the juvenile population. Commissioner Wedel and Westerlund have been invited to the event and have indicated that they will be in attendance for it.

Erin also added, on another note, that PH is working with MDH to try and get the COVID-19 Vaccination bus to be on-site at the Aitkin County Fair to provide the Johnson & Johnson COVID-19 vaccine to anyone who would like it. If they are available this would be a nice opportunity for folks who are not vaccinated to get vaccinated if they choose to do so.

Cynthia then gave a light update on where the legislature is at with the budget stating that the State is looking at a possible shutdown and that DHS has prepared letters to go out to certain groups just in case it happens. Those groups are the Economic Supports, those receiving services through health care, and those receiving childcare services.

The HHS Omnibus Bill is close to being agreed upon by both parties and once agreement has been reached it will be taken back to each party for approval by each group, house and senate.

She added that if there is a shutdown HHS would not be receiving any revenue, during that period, from the state but that HHS's fund balance is healthy so that they will still have enough money to pay their bills and keep providing services to the county residents that need it.

Lastly she informed the Board that Carli Goble and she met with an architect about the redesign of HHS, have toured one county's buildings for ideas, and are in the process of setting up a time to go view another's.

Approval of Contracts/Agreements/Policies

Motion by Commissioner Marcotte, seconded by Commissioner Niemi and carried, all members voting yes to approve the Children's Mental Health (CMH) Screening Grant amendment for January 1, 2021 through December 31, 2021.

Committee Reports

Community Health Board Report

Commissioner Westerlund/Erin Melz updated the Board member's on the details of their last meeting. They stated that the board had previously thought they may separate from the 7 County Alliance and apply for the SHIP grant themselves, but that after much discussion decided it was probably not a great idea.

Reviewed the director's annual performance review and it was positive.

Approved a contract with the University of Minnesota to allow them to have interns from the U of M work for the CHB.

Lastly Erin mentioned that Itasca is joining Aitkin and Koochiching by starting using the MECOSH program.

H&HS Advisory Committee Report

Commissioner Wedel stated that they had met and had reviewed and approved the By-Laws and were given a very informative presentation on Guardianship/Conservatorship by Becca Person from H&HS.

AEOA Committee Report

Commissioner Westerlund updated the members on their last meeting and that they had discussed the financials, the budget, and the Meals-On-Wheels food quality.

CARE Report

Commissioner Westerlund reported that they did meet and had discussed the stat sheets, the Well-At-Home grant has been submitted, applied for a SHIP grant, and also had Diversity training.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:30 p.m.

Next Meeting – July 27, 2021