



AITKIN COUNTY HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

204 First Street NW
Aitkin, MN 56431

Phone: 800-328-3744/218-927-7200
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COUNTY BOARD MEETING MINUTES March 1, 2022

Attendance

The Aitkin County Board of Commissioners met this 1st day of March 2022, at 9:01 a.m. as the Aitkin County Health & Human Services Board, with the following members present: Commissioners Anne Marcotte, Brian Napstad, J. Mark Wedel, Don Niemi, and Laurie Westerlund. Others present included: Health & Human Services Director Cynthia Bennett – via WebEx, Administrative Assistant to the H&HS Director Paula Arimborgo, Accounting Supervisor Carli Goble, County Administrator Jessica Seibert, Assistant to the County Administrator Brittany Searle, Adult Social Services Supervisor Kim Larson, Public Health Supervisor Erin Melz, Adult Social Services Social Worker Becca Person and other public guests.

Agenda

Motion by Commissioner Westerlund, seconded by Commissioner Napstad and carried, all members present voting yes to approve the March 1, 2022 Health & Human Services Board agenda as amended removing Item 4) Directors Update.

Minutes

Motion by Commissioner Marcotte, seconded by Commissioner Napstad and carried, all members present voting yes to approve the January 25, 2022 Health & Human Services Board minutes.

Bills

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

Becca Person – Civil Commitment

MN Statute 253B covers civil commitment in MN

There are six types of civil commitment proceedings:

1. **Mentally Ill persons (MI)**
2. **Developmentally Disabled persons (DD)**
3. **Chemically Dependent persons (CD)**
4. **Persons Mentally Ill and Dangerous to the Public (MI&D)**
5. **Sexual Psychopathic Personalities (SPP)**
6. **Sexually Dangerous Persons (SDP)**



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Persons Committed as Mentally Ill and Dangerous can be committed to secure treatment settings or AMRTC or St. Peter depending upon the level of offense.

Persons Committed as Sexual Psychopathic Personalities and Sexually Dangerous Persons can be committed to MSOP after serving their prison sentences for sex offender treatment purposes.

Aitkin County currently has 15 under commitment, which includes the 4 at MSOP/St. Peter.

Becca explained the following to the Board:

- How the commitment process starts
- Prepetition Screening Process/Court Process
- Possible outcomes of commitment hearings
 - Dismissal
 - Stayed Order of Commitment
 - Commitment

Length of commitments are generally up to 6 months, but can be extended for up to an additional 1 year for good cause. Entire process would need to be pursued if additional time is needed after an extension.

- Court Reports

Costs to the county for commitments:

Charges not incurred by the counties are paid through a State grant.

--AMRTC: Daily rate \$1615 – (as long as patient meets acuity) 30 days covered at 100% by state grant; 31-until discharge county responsible for 20%/state grant responsible for 80%. If no longer meet acuity until discharge, the county is responsible for 100% of daily charges;
--CBHH: Daily rate \$1644 – (as long as patient meets acuity) entire stay is covered at 100% by state grant. If no longer meets acuity, the county is responsible for 100% of daily rate.

--Costs to county when/if patient no longer meets acuity but needs to remain hospitalized for Competency Restoration Programming subsequent to criminal charges.

Becca fielded several questions from the Commissioners with the biggest concern being the cost that the county incurs for these services. Has any legislation been introduced to take care of the situation from the state? Cynthia Bennett explained that it is a multi-pronged problem and that there is legislation in place and ongoing.

Contract/Appointment

2022 AEOA POS

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

Approval of New Member to Aitkin County Health & Human Services Advisory Committee

Motion by Commissioner Marcotte, seconded by Commissioner Westerlund and carried, all



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members present voting yes to approve the appointment of new AC H&HS Advisory Committee member Sara Bejcek.

Committee Updates

CHS Joint Powers Board Update – Commissioner Westerlund - elected officers, went through spending, mostly a re-organizational meeting.

AEOA Committee Update – Commissioner Westerlund - went through the financials and Audit, approved some grants and talked about the Head Start Program.

CARE Board Update – Commissioner Westerlund - went through financials, grief support Tool, talked about the many programs CARE has available, mask distribution, Community Meal-dessert scheduled for April 18th, they reviewed the By-Laws and made some changes, Always in need of money for transportation services and in need of volunteers to be drivers.

Brenda Butterfield

Brenda nominated Public Health Supervisor Erin Melz and her team for the MSSA Award and they won at both the regional and state levels. Erin and her team were awarded the Statewide MSSA Award for Outstanding Staff Achievement in January.

Erin Melz gave acceptance speech thanking all those involved to include her family, the Public Health team, Health & Human Services and various others.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:55 a.m. with a celebration of cake and beverages following.

Next Meeting – March 22, 2022