



## 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 May 24, 2022

#### Attendance

The Aitkin County Board of Commissioners met this 24<sup>th</sup> day of May 2022, at 9:00 a.m. as the Aitkin County Health & Human Services Board, with the following members present: Commissioners Brian Napstad, J. Mark Wedel, Don Niemi, Laurie Westerlund, and Ann Marcotte. Others present included: Health & Human Services Director Cynthia Bennett, Administrative Assistant to the H&HS Director Paula Arimborgo, County Administrator Jessica Seibert, Admin/HR Administrative Assistant Brittany Searle, Accounting Supervisor Carli Goble, Financial Assistance Supervisor Jessi Goble, Public Health Supervisor Erin Melz and Adult Social Services Supervisor Kim Larson, Lakes & Pines WRAP Coordinator Janet Watson and other public guests. Joining via WebEx: AC Economic Development Coordinator Mark Jeffers.

#### Agenda

Motion by Commissioner Westerlund, seconded by Commissioner Marcotte and carried, all members present voting yes to approve the May 24, 2022 Health & Human Services Board agenda as presented.

#### Minutes

Motion by Commissioner Marcotte, seconded by Commissioner Westerlund and carried, all members present voting yes to approve the April 26, 2022 Health & Human Services Board minutes.

#### Bills

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

#### Director Update

- Cynthia updated the board on:
- 2022 end of Legislative Session update
  - Building Project
  - Annual Services Delivery Report Completed



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### **Janet Watson – Lakes & Pines Community Action Council**

Janet presented an update on the WRAP (“We Rally Around Parents”) program. This program is in partnership with ACHHS and is available to parents or guardians of children birth to 2<sup>nd</sup> grade living in Aitkin County. The mission statement of the program is, “To empower parents to build holistically healthy, strong families by connecting to community resources.” Janet’s work includes determining goals, challenges, strengths and needs with the parents and then proceeding with providing resources within the community to help the family progress towards self-sufficiency. Additionally, Janet is a mental health practitioner and addresses clients’ mental health concerns.

Janet reviewed the categories of areas addressed in the program and also shared examples of resources provided to the clients. The story of a client’s successful ascension in the program was noted and Janet closed by acknowledging the collaboration between Lakes & Pines and ACHHS and various providers in the community to bring about the intended results.

### **Committee Updates**

**H&HS Advisory Committee Update** – Cynthia Bennett gave a presentation on the Emergency Food & Shelter Program (EFSP), a FEMA funded program created to supplement and expand the work of local social service agencies, both nonprofit and governmental, to help people with economic emergencies. Funds are used to supplement feeding, sheltering and rent/mortgage and utility assistance efforts.

**CARE Board Update** – Commissioner Westerlund discussed the many programs the CARE Board is involved in to include: Aging with Gusto, Arts & Aging, and Hill City Garden. They are in the process of applying for a couple of grants. The Super Shelf Food Shelf is coming along great and the Walkable Audit is coming up on July 21<sup>st</sup> at 9:00am, they are meeting at the Library if anyone is interested in joining.

**Lakes & Pines Update** – Commissioner Niemi mentioned that the catalytic converters were stolen out of the Head Start buses and vans. They now have funding to help people from being evicted. Weatherization has seen a 20% uptick in assistance and he believes that energy assistance is likely to go up this winter with the rising cost of fuel. He will have a more detailed report at the next meeting.

### **Shout out to H&HS Accounting and Financial Services Teams**

Accounting Supervisor Carli Goble recognized the Accounting Team for their hard work in making it possible to complete all required major state and federal reports on time and in proper order during this last calendar year. The accounting team plays an instrumental part in being able to submit all the required reports on time by processing payments correctly, running additional reports to reconcile accounts, and making sure any errors are conveyed immediately upon discovery to allow accurate information at reporting time. Carli introduced the Accounting Team to the board and guests.



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Financial Assistance Supervisor Jessi Goble recognized the Financial Services Team for having zero errors in 2021 Medical Assistance Audit of 60 cases in February. Shout out to all of the Eligibility Workers and the support staff. Jessi introduced her team to the board and guests.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:50 a.m.

Next Meeting – June 28, 2022