



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 June 28, 2022

Attendance

The Aitkin County Board of Commissioners met this 28th day of June 2022, at 9:04 a.m. as the Aitkin County Health & Human Services Board, with the following members present: Commissioners Brian Napstad, J. Mark Wedel, Don Niemi, and Laurie Westerlund. 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, Public Health Supervisor Erin Melz, Adult Social Services Supervisor Kim Larson, Social Worker Nick Anderson, H&HS Advisory Committee Vice Chairperson Cindy Chuhanic and other public guests. Joining via WebEx: Financial Assistance Supervisor Jessi Goble, Child & Family Services Supervisor Jessi Schultz, Child Support Supervisor Julie Herbst, AC Economic Development Coordinator Mark Jeffers, IT Director Chris Sutch and KKIN Paul Vold.

Agenda

Motion by Commissioner Westerlund, seconded by Commissioner Napstad and carried, all members present voting yes to approve the June 28, 2022 Health & Human Services Board agenda as presented.

Minutes

Motion by Commissioner Napstad, seconded by Commissioner Westerlund and carried, all members present voting yes to approve the May 24, 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.

Kim Larson & Nick Anderson – H&HS Adult Social Services

Kim & Nick presented on the Comprehensive Re-entry (CRE) Program and the recent mental health struggles seen in the jail.



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- Program Vision & Mission
- Timelines of Program Implementation
- Screening, Early Intervention & Discharge Planning
- Funding
- Data in 2020 & 2021
- Challenges
- Positive Outcomes

Director Update

Cynthia updated the board on:

- Legislative Update – waiting on DHS & MDH to interpret the laws
- Year End Service Summary – waiting on production of draft copy

Committee Updates

H&HS Advisory Committee Update – Cindy Chuhanic updated the board on the Advisory Committees most recent meeting. Topics covered included the Coaching & Consulting on Suicide Prevention event hosted by Arlene Sealander, issues of mental health in the area and local jail, Market & Veggie Share boxes and members discussed the possibility of having Lakes and Pines present on the WRAP program at a future meeting.

AEOA Committee Update – Commissioner Westerlund – Committee met on June 15th, had a recent resignation and are looking for help, discussed finances, received Head-Start Presentation, and they have been waiting on 44 buses for 18 months now.

CARE Board Update – Commissioner Westerlund – Met in June and discussed finances, Bold Grant, Memory Café, BRICK, SuperFood Shelf, Walkable Audit in June, Music in the Park and they conducted 54 rides for Rides for Health.

Tri-County Community Health Services (CHS) Board – Commissioner Westerlund – Administrator has done a fabulous job, Brian from Healthy Northland Regional SHIP Coordinator gave a presentation and routine business was discussed.

Lakes & Pines Update – Commissioner Niemi – did not meet but is concerned that fuel assistance and weatherization will be a big demand item this fall, will funds be there?

The meeting was adjourned at 10:05 a.m.

Next Meeting – July 26, 2022