



## AITKIN COUNTY HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

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### AITKIN COUNTY HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES BOARD September 26, 2023 H&HS Board Minutes

#### Attendance

The Aitkin County Board of Commissioners met this 26<sup>th</sup> day of September 2023, at 9:00 a.m. as the Aitkin County Health & Human Services Board with the following members present: Board Chair, Commissioner J. Mark Wedel, Commissioners Laurie Westerlund, Travis Leiviska, Bret Sample and Michael Kearney. County Administrator Jessica Seibert, Health & Human Services Director Sarah Pratt, and Administrative Assistant Paula Arimborgo. Others present included: H&HS Public Health Supervisor Erin Melz, ACHHS Advisory Committee member representative Patrick Blunt, Jeanne Schram Aitkin Age, and Maggie Rothstein CHS Administrator for Aitkin-Itasca-Koochiching Community Health Board. Joining via WebEx: Administrative Assistant Jeff Schmitt and H&HS Financial Services Supervisor Jessi Goble.

#### 1.A Approval of the Agenda

Motion by Commissioner Leiviska, seconded by Commissioner Kearney and carried, all members present voting yes to approve the September 26, 2023 Health & Human Services agenda.

#### 1.B Approval of the August 22, 2023 Minutes

Motion by Commissioner Westerlund, seconded by Commissioner Leiviska and carried, all members present voting yes to approve August 22, 2023 Health & Human Services minutes.

#### 1.C Approval of Bills

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

#### 2.A Director Updates

Sarah Pratt, H&HS Director updated the board on the following:

- Legislative Priorities
  1. Support legislation for System modernization which would include the four main computer systems for HHS staff. Legislation should include funds to cover county costs associated with DHS investments. Support legislation of an innovation fund for counties to co-develop collaborative solutions.
  2. Support legislation for high acuity mental health hospital bed capacity for adults and children that will support planning for solutions.
  3. Support legislation to allow MnCHOICES reassessments to be conducted as administrative reviews to reduce the number of assessments and staff needed for this service. This will focus resources on new assessment needs and will improve access for clients.
  4. Support legislation to change the child protection response of educational neglect to a

- child welfare response to increase access to supports for families.
- MACSSA Legislative Priorities are:
  - High acuity
  - Education neglect
  - Modernization
  - TCM redesign rate methodology
- AMC Legislative Priorities are:
  - Modernization
  - High acuity
  - Public Health transformation
- LPHA does not have their priorities set.
- Hiring update:
  - A new Child & Family Services Case Aide has been hired; this position has been vacant since April.
  - A new Child Protection Social worker has been hired; this position has been vacant since mid-July.

### **3.A Public Health Presentation**

Erin Melz, H&HS Public Health Supervisor, presented to the board the Aitkin County Public Health Responsibilities to include:

- What is Public Health?
- Upstream & Downstream – Public Health is grounded in the importance of upstream prevention.
- Return on Investment
- Interconnected Work
- Essential Public Health Services to include: Assessment, Policy Development, Assurance, and Equity.
- Minnesota Statute 145A mandates the 6 areas of Public Health Responsibility:
  - Assure an adequate Public Health Infrastructure
  - Promote healthy communities and healthy behaviors
  - Prevent the spread of infectious disease
  - Protect against environmental health hazards
  - Prepare for and respond to emergencies and assist communities in recovery
  - Assure the quality and accessibility of health services
- Transforming the Public Health System in Minnesota

### **4.A Committee Updates**

The Board discussed the H&HS Advisory Committee, Tri-County Community Health Services, CARE Board, ARDC/AAAA, Lakes & Pines, and AEOA.

### **Adjourn**

The meeting was adjourned at 9:54 a.m.

Next Meeting – October 24, 2023