



AITKIN COUNTY HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

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AITKIN COUNTY HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES BOARD August 27, 2024 H&HS Board Minutes

Attendance

The Aitkin County Board of Commissioners met this 27th day of August 2024, at 9:00 a.m. as the Aitkin County Health & Human Services Board with the following members present: Commissioners Laurie Westerlund, Travis Leiviska, Bret Sample and Michael Kearney. Board Chair, Commissioner J. Mark Wedel joined the meeting at 9:02 via WebEx. County Administrator Jessica Seibert, Health & Human Services Director Sarah Pratt, and Administrative Assistant Paula Arimborgo. Others present included: H&HS Supervisors Jessi Goble, Julie Lewis, Carli Goble, and Erin Melz; ACHHS Advisory Committee member representative Alissa Boser; Jeanne Schram Aitkin Age, and other public guests. Joining via WebEx: AC Economic Development Coordinator Mark Jeffers.

1.A Approval of the Agenda

Motion by Commissioner Leiviska, seconded by Commissioner Westerlund and carried, all members present voting yes to approve the August 27, 2024, Health & Human Services agenda.

1.B Approval of the July 23, 2024, Minutes

Motion by Commissioner Leiviska, seconded by Commissioner Kearney and carried, all members present voting yes to approve July 23, 2024, Health & Human Services minutes.

1.C Approval of Bills

August 27th H&HS Bills will be approved at the September 10th Regular County Board meeting as part of the Consent Agenda.

2.A Director Updates

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

- **RFPs**
 - RFP to repurpose four (4) beds:
 - Oakridge Homes 195 at 40223 344th Street, Aitkin – closed four beds 6/26/2024
 - Oakridge Homes 535 at 6th Ave SE, Aitkin – closed four beds 12/5/2023
 - Have until 12/7/2024 to repurpose the first four (4) beds.
 - Looking at developing some one or two-bed settings for kids and adults that may need one-to-one or two-to-one staffing.
 - One of them is the kid that needs the higher level of placement.
 - In those situations, county dollars are the basic foster care rate for his

age which would be \$35.21/day for his age or approximately \$1071/month or approximately \$13,000/year of local tax dollars versus the \$700,000. The services would be paid through waiver.

- Drop-In Center RFP:
 - Received an RFP and currently pursuing the vetting process. An update will be provided at the 9/24/24 meeting with the chosen provider and Drop-In Center details.
- **Legislative Priorities:**
 - Support legislation for System Modernization which would include the main computer systems for HHS staff (Maxis, METS, Prism, & SSIS). 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.
 - Support legislation for eliminating the county cost for all adults that are in DNMC (do not meet medical criteria) status when currently in a state operated facility awaiting transfer to another state operated facility.
 - Support legislation for MnCHOICES reassessment simplification in situations where clients have not had a change in needs and do not wish to pursue any changes in service. This will focus resources on new assessment needs and will improve access for all clients.
 - Support legislation to establish children mental health initiatives, similar to the already existing adult mental health initiatives. This would provide funding to counties to develop community based mental health services for youth. Community based services will help youth remain in their home communities and schools and potentially prevent the need for higher level of care.

3.A Discussion on Services and Duplication of Services

Jessi Goble, H&HS Financial Services Supervisor, presented to the board the Collaboration with Partner Agencies and an update on the Health Care Unwind to include:

- **Collaboration with Partner Agencies** – Communications with outside agencies must have a contract with ACHHS or a release signed by an applicant/enrollee
 - AEOA: ACHHS contracts with AEOA for Employment Services for family cash assistance programs and Employment and Training Services for SNAP.
 - JET: ACHHS contracts with JET for Employment Services for family cash programs.
 - Lakes & Pines: Energy Assistance Program (EAP) (Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program – Federal name) – issues payment for heating and electric bills for those who meet criteria. If a person applies for Emergency Assistance

(EA) or Emergency General Assistance (EGA), ACHHS obtains a release to speak with Lakes & Pines regarding eligibility and compliance with that program prior to issuing payment for these crisis disconnections of energy services. ACHHS will also work in tandem with EAP to make payment if the amounts available will not cover the crisis need.

- Salvation Army or AC Homeless Coalition: Assists in maintaining housing to avoid eviction – could be a gas card to maintain employment to paying damage deposits for housing or energy connections. Can also help in other ways, such as bus tickets, car repair for employment, paying for an ID so a person can apply for housing. ACHHS will work in tandem with this organization as well if a client meets EA/EGA criteria.
- There are some people who are not eligible for ACHHS administered programs as we have some of the strictest rules in our Emergency Assistance and Emergency General Assistance programs. These are also federally, or state mandated, and we are also the payor of last resort unless we are working in tandem with another agency. We never pay a damage deposit of any kind because we are not able to recover this if a client moves.

- **Health Care unwind Update**

- The Health Care Unwind from COVID-19 Coverage was completed with the June 2024 renewals. The Eligibility Workers managed this process with multiple changes to program rules and mitigation strategies successfully and professionally. This has been a challenging process as they discussed other options for health care coverage, such as employer insurance, with those no longer eligible for MA or were now eligible for a different version of MA due to a change they had in the last 4 years.
- The Aged/Blind/Disabled and LTC Populations are currently in the process of having their first renewal of assets. A waiver for the review of assets was put in place during the Health Care Unwind to allow for communication regarding the assets limits and proper ways to reduce assets.
- MA Cases for those aged 0-64 without disability:
 - June 2023 Cases: 1751 June 2023 Recipients: 3477
 - June 2024 Cases: 1367 June 2024 Recipients: 2702
- MA Cases for those over 65, blind, certified disabled, Medicare Savings Program or on an LTC program:
 - June 2023 Cases: 1001 June 2023 Recipients: 1031
 - June 2024 Cases: 932 June 2024 Recipients: 953
- MNCare Cases managed by ACHHS:
 - June 2023 Cases: 85 June 2023 Recipients: 119
 - June 2024 Cases: 77 June 2024 Recipients: 110

4.A Child Support Presentation

Julie Lewis, H&HS Child Support Supervisor, presented to the board the Child Support Federal Fiscal Year 2023 Report to include:

- Minnesota's five Federal Performance Measures:
 - Paternities Established:
 - FFY 2023 – 96.6% FFY 2022 – 97.8%
 - Child Support Orders Established:
 - FFY 2023 – 85.7% FFY 2022 – 85.8%
 - Collections on Current Support:
 - FFY 2023 – 73.4% FFY 2022 – 72.6%
 - Collections on Arrears:
 - FFY 2023 – 69.6% FFY 2022 – 70.4%
 - Program Cost Effectiveness:
 - FFY 2023 - \$2.68 FFY 2022 - \$2.91

5.A Committee Updates

The Board discussed Tri-County Community Health Services (CHS), CARE Board, and AEOA.

Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 9:43 a.m.

Next Meeting – Sept 24, 2024