



AITKIN COUNTY HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

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AITKIN COUNTY HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES BOARD December 23, 2024 H&HS Board Minutes

Attendance

The Aitkin County Board of Commissioners met this 23rd day of December 2024, 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 Supervisors Rebecca Person, Carli Goble, Jessi Schultz & Erin Melz, H&HS Social Worker Reina Irvine, Jeanne Schram Aitkin Age, ACHHS Advisory Committee member representative Patrick Blunt 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 December 23, 2024, Health & Human Services agenda.

1.B Approval of the November 26, 2024, Minutes

Motion by Commissioner Kearney, seconded by Commissioner Leiviska and carried, all members present voting yes to approve the November 26, 2024, Health & Human Services minutes.

1.C Approval of Bills

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

1.D Approval of Advisory Committee Re-Appointments and New Appointment

Motion by Commissioner Westerlund, seconded by Commissioner Kearney and carried, all members present voting yes to approve the re-appointments and new appointment to the Aitkin County Health & Human Services Advisory Committee.

2.A Director Updates

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

- GE Workouts – Accounting Payment processing and frequency
 - We are going to match our internal invoice processing to how the auditor's office processes payments.
 - You will see HHS payments on the consent agenda, like other county invoices.
- Minnesota Legislative Budget Office (LBO) sent out a survey regarding the local impact

note request made by the Minnesota Legislature for Senate File 716, which is the Minnesota African American Family Preservation and Child Welfare Disproportionality Act which will go into effect January 1, 2027. Survey was sent to Health & Human Services Departments and County Attorney Offices. Jim Ratz provided Sarah permission to share the County Attorney costs.

- The exact impact is unknown. Sarah and Children's Supervisor are reviewing. Supervisor will start research on current case load sizes to start to prepare as we know that extra duties will be placed on workers due to the requirements of the statute.
- Majority of Aitkin County cases will fall under the new legislation due to the definition of Disproportionality that includes poverty.
- Health & Human Services provided an estimate of over \$200,000 knowing that the biggest impact to the budget will be the potential need to increase staff.
- Attorney's office estimated \$124,000 in increased costs. Due to the number of cases the statute will affect, this will create a significant increase in workload for the attorney's office.
- AMC & MACSSA Legislative Priorities
 - Sent out the priorities via email on Friday

3.A Aitkin County Local Advisory Council (LAC) for Mental Health

Rebecca Person, H&HS Behavioral Health Supervisor and Reina Irvine H&HS Social Worker, presented to the board the Aitkin County Local Advisory Council (LAC) for Mental Health to include:

- History of Local Advisory Council (LAC)
- Impacts of LACs
- Responsibilities of LACs
- Regional & Local Advisory Council Updates

4.A Committee Updates

The Board discussed the H&HS Advisory Committee, Tri-County Community Health Services, and AEOA.

Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 9:50 a.m.
Next Meeting – January 28, 2025