



HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

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AITKIN COUNTY HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES BOARD

January 28, 2025
H&HS Board Minutes

Attendance

The Aitkin County Board of Commissioners met this 28th day of January 2025, 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 Carli Goble and Erin Melz; ACHHS Advisory Committee representative Cindy Chuhanic, Jeanne Schram Aitkin Age, and other public guests.

1.A Approval of the Agenda

Motion by Commissioner Kearney, seconded by Commissioner Leiviska and carried, all members present voting yes to approve the January 28, 2025, Health & Human Services agenda.

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

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

2.A Director Updates

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

Region V+ AMHI Position:

- Region V+ AMHI has partnered with Sourcewell for different roles to assist the counties. Sourcewell is the Region 5+ Regional Service Cooperative.
- Mike Wille was hired as a regional transitional specialist funded by the AMHI to assist counties with transitioning people out of re:
 - Does not meet medical criteria (DNMC) – county cost share went to 100% in 2015 as an incentive for counties to facilitate discharge quicker.
- Region V+ has made significant structural changes in how we work with individuals in DC&T (Direct Care and Treatment) sites since 2019.
 - Hiring the RTA position
 - Increase in staff/supervisor time dedicated to individuals at DC&T sites
 - Inter-agency and Intra-agency meetings to ensure county/state processes don't disrupt discharge
- Changes have resulted in an overall reduction in unneeded hospital stays
- 2016-2019 = \$1,004,652/year
- 2020-2023 = \$372,013/year

This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

- **Roughly \$2.5 million in savings over 4 years**
- Even with those changes, counties in Region V+ still carry a historical and ongoing burden from DNMC billing.
- **Roughly \$5.5 million has been billed to Region V+ since 2016**
- Mike Wille, the regional transition specialist, will be here in February for a more in-depth presentation of his role, etc. He is also attempting to pull together a session at the February AMC conference for the Region V directors and legislators to discuss this issue and ways we can make a legislative push to help counties with this issue past and present.

Proposed Governor's Budget: Monitoring some areas of concern

County Cost Shares: There are a few changes to county cost shares that will have a direct impact on levy dollars.

- Increase of cost of care for people in the Minnesota Sex Offender Program. Right now, it depends on the admission date whether it is a 10% or 25% share.
 - Currently, we have four individuals, two at 10% and two at 25%, the proposal will be all people up to a 40% cost share.
- Behavioral Health fund cost share would shift from 22.9% to 50% for people needing substance abuse treatment.
- 5% cost share on eligibility waivers, state typically covered the non-federal share, 82 million.

AMC & MACSSA Priorities: Priorities for this session remain as I have previously discussed.

- System modernization, the proposed governor's budget designated some money for SSIS modernization but not nearly enough. We are realistic that money this session is limited but also know to do this project well we need to be realistic about what is needed.

HHS Board meetings: Jessica and I have been discussing discontinuing the separate HHS board meeting.

- Jessica talked with Commissioner Wedel who was in support of the discussion.
- Jim Ratz reviewed the statute and does not have any concerns.
- I have reached out to many other counties. Some counties still have separate HHS meetings, but many have discontinued and present their information to the regular county board.
- I would like to move in the same direction.
- The next step would be for me to update the board procedures for approval in February and the last HHS board meeting would be held in March.
- We will present to the Board like every other department does right now.

Hiring updates:

- Retirement in Financial services unit, did not backfill
- Retirement in Public Health, position has been filled, and person is currently here
- Offer out for a Child Protection Social Worker as that staff person moved to Todd County to be closer to family.
- Staff in Child Support went to the county attorney's office. Will hire position as is.

3.A 2024 Year End Fiscal Report

Carli Goble, H&HS Fiscal Supervisor, presented to the board the 2024 Year End Fiscal Report to include:

- Revenues by Department
- Revenues by Category
- Notes on Revenues
- Expenditure by Department
- Expenditure by Category
- Notes on Expenditure

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- Fund Balance

4.A Committee Updates

The Board discussed the H&HS Advisory Committee, JET, Lakes & Pines, AEOA, ARDC/AAAA, and CARE.

Adjourn

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

Next Meeting – February 25, 2025