

**AITKIN COUNTY HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES
BOARD MEETING MINUTES
May 26, 2009**

I. Call to Order

The Aitkin County Board of Commissioners met this 26th day of May, 2009, at 9:01 a.m. as the Aitkin County Health & Human Services Board, beginning with the Pledge of Allegiance, with the following members present: Chairperson J. Mark Wedel; Commissioners Paul Bailey, Brian Napstad, Galen Tveit, and Laurie Westerlund; and others present included: Patrick Wussow, County Administrator; Tom Burke, H&HS Director; Staff Members Susan Cebelinski & Sue Tange, Social Service Supervisors; Cynthia Bennett, Public Health Supervisor; Eileen Foss, Income Maintenance Supervisor; Kathy Ryan, Fiscal Supervisor; Julie Lueck, Clerk to the Health & Human Services Board; and guests; Nanci Sauerbrei, Aitkin Independent Age; Sandy Silver & Roberta Elvecrog, Health & Human Service Advisory Committee Members; Ray Klennert, and Gary Lamke, Citizens.

II. Pledge of Allegiance

III. Approval of Agenda

Motion by Commissioner Napstad, seconded by Commissioner Tveit, and carried; the vote was to approve the Agenda as mailed.

IV. Review April 28, 2009 Health & Human Service Board Minutes

Motion by Commissioner Bailey, seconded by Commissioner Napstad, and carried, the vote was to approve the April 28, 2009 Health & Human Service Board Minutes as mailed.

V. Review Bills

Motion by Commissioner Napstad, seconded by Commissioner Bailey, and carried; the vote was to approve the bills as presented this date.

VI. Contracts:

- A. Friendship Club Bus Rental Agreement between Kimberly Community Church and Aitkin County Health & Human Services for June 2, 2009. Motion by Commissioner Bailey, seconded by Commissioner Tveit, and carried, the vote was to approve and authorize the Board Chair to sign the Friendship Club Bus Rental Agreement between Kimberly Community Church and Aitkin County Health & Human Services for June 2, 2009
- B. Roster Nurse Contract (Professional) between Joyce Grimsbo, Roster RN, and Aitkin County Health & Human Services for the period January 1, 2009 to December 31, 2009. Motion by Commissioner Bailey, seconded by Commissioner Westerlund, and carried, the vote was to approve and authorize the Board Chair to sign the Roster Nurse Contract (Professional) between Joyce Grimsbo, Roster RN, and Aitkin County Health & Human Services for the period January 1, 2009 to December 31, 2009.
- C. Consolidated Chemical Dependency Treatment Fund Purchase of Service Contract and Host County Contract between Avalon Programs LLC and Aitkin County Health & Human Services for the period January 1, 2009 to December 31, 2009. Motion by Commissioner Napstad, seconded by Commissioner Bailey, and carried, the vote was to approve and authorize the Board Chair to sign the Consolidated Chemical Dependency Treatment Fund Purchase of Service Contract and Host County

Contract between Avalon Programs LLC and Aitkin County Health & Human Services for the period January 1, 2009 to December 31, 2009.

VII. General/Miscellaneous Information

- A. Legislative Update – Tom Burke noted that there is not too much going on right now but it is predicted that the lowest covered will be the hardest hit.
- B. Mental Health to Prepaid Medical Assistance Plan - Tom updated the Board that we used to do Targeted Case Management for the state of Minnesota. The State has decided that this MH-TCM for adults and children should go to plans that maintain their health care. There is a good piece of this as it does combine mental health with physical health by having providers take care of both. That is a good idea and something we should support. The complication is that the plans have no idea what to do with this area, and we do not have any contracts with them to provide these services. There is not one health care plan throughout the state that has a contract with any county as of today. This is end of May and this is supposed to start July 1st. The likelihood of them getting contracts signed by July 1st by some counties is okay, as a small county, like us, might be able to do this. The large counties have a plan of action in place that you don't bring in anything new except for going through several committee levels. There is no way a Hennepin or Ramsey or St. Louis County will get this done by July 1 unless they enact the process this week. As it will take in excess of four weeks to contract with most counties. The plans don't even have contracts out yet. The Mental Health Targeted Case Management is going to the plans and it is their responsibility as of July 1. If they don't have a contract with us by then as of July 1, they don't have a provider. There is a possibility they may throw in an agreement page so that counties will continue as is until a contract is established. We can decide to sign that contract or not. We don't have to sign it. Right now we have four children in children's mental health and all four are with Blue Cross. So the only plan in Children's Mental Health that we need is with Blue Cross until there are other people that get on UCare and/or Medica. The problem is the State has done nothing to bridge the time from July 1 until the contracts are taken care of. The reason the plans don't know is because the State has not set the rate yet for the providers to base their contracts on. The State is going to set that rate in the first or second week of June which automatically says nothing is going to get done in time for the July 1 deadline. And so it is just bad planning and so you think the whole combination of Health & Human Services in 15 regions is complicated, this one little issue has them completely off guard and they have known this for over a year and they have not gotten this contract in place leaving the counties in a bad spot. Because if we give up case management for children and adults, who is going to take care of them, who is going to manage them during this time? The plans don't have the people and they aren't going to hire staff. They want the counties to do it. And they don't even know if the counties are going to do it for sure. We will not drop a case. We will hand off the cases in a very professional manners and make sure the service is maintained. I will bring this back to you once I start seeing contracts I think we should sign. It will have to go through Jim Ratz, County Attorney, as these are brand new contracts. I have told the plans that we will not provide a service for them unless they cover our costs. The County tax payers are not going supplement the plan's inability to pay us enough money to do our jobs. The state has given us a dollar amount that has allowed us to pay all of our staff. The plans are going to keep it administratively. The money that we used to receive is now going to be filtered through the plans and they are going to keep their piece and give us what is left. That could mean that we are doing the service for less than what it costs us and I told them that we won't do that. I told them that I would not recommend that to you. They are going to have to give us the dollars so that we do not lose money on the situation.

