

**AITKIN COUNTY HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES
BOARD MEETING MINUTES
February 23, 2010**

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I. Call to Order

The Aitkin County Board of Commissioners met this 23rd day of February, 2010, at 9:00 a.m. as the Aitkin County Health & Human Services Board, beginning with the Pledge of Allegiance, with the following members present: Chairperson Paul Bailey, Commissioners Brian Napstad, Galen Tveit, Mark Wedel and Laurie Westerlund; and others present included: Patrick Wussow, County Administrator; Tom Burke, Director; Staff Members Sue Tange, Social Service Supervisor; Ruth Sundermeyer, Child Support & Collections Supervisor; 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; Lisa Hamilton and JoLynn Kullhem, Safe Havens; Roberta Elvecrog, DAC; Jim Carlson and Bob Lewis, Health & Human Service Advisory Committee Members; and Gary Lamke, Georgia Johnson, Bill Maxfield, and Bob Harwarth, Citizens.

II. Pledge of Allegiance

III. Approval of Agenda

Motion by Commissioner Wedel, seconded by Commissioner Napstad, and carried; the vote was to approve the agenda as amended.

IV. Review January 26, 2010 Health & Human Service Board Minutes

Motion by Commissioner Napstad, seconded by Commissioner Westerlund, and carried; the vote was to approve the January 26, 2010 Health & Human Services Board Meeting Minutes as mailed.

V. Review Bills

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

VI. General/Miscellaneous Information

A. Safe Havens Grant – Lisa Hamilton, AADA/Sue Tange, SS Supvsr. – JoLynn Kullhem, Coordinator of Safe Havens - Sue Tange introduced Lisa Hamilton as the Director of AADA and JoLynn Kullhem as the Coordinator of the Safe Havens Supervised Visitation Program to discuss the continuation grant they are applying for to continue the supervised visitation and safe exchange facility called Remnica House. Focus on clientele who have experienced Domestic Abuse for children to go from one parent to the other with no contact between the parents. All services are for families affected by Domestic Abuse, Dating Violence or Sexual Abuse and Stalking can receive their services free of charge because of the federal grant they are reapplying for now. The continuation grant is for three years in the amount of \$350,000 with the purpose of operating the Safe Havens facility. The county is the fiscal agent for a pass through grant. These funds get used for strictly the Remnica House/Safe Havens and have nothing to do with the Butler's Building. This round of granting has a lot of competition so there is no guarantee Aitkin County will receive it this year. Motion by Commissioner Napstad, seconded by Commissioner Westerlund, and carried, to approve and authorize the Board Chair and the County Administrator to sign the Memorandum of Understanding between Aitkin County and AADA and the local court system to continue to operate a supervised visitation center contingent on receiving the funds requested for this project in the OVW grant application.

- B. **Health Care Access Services – Eileen Foss** – Updated the Board that much of this has been in Statute for years but it has been clarified for the counties for their health care plans. The two biggest items include the fact that we will no longer reimburse for mileage for trips to the pharmacy only and the other issue is the county can only reimburse mileage for transportation to the nearest medical provider capable of providing the appropriate level of medical care needed.
- C. **Profiles of County Health Status – Cynthia Bennett** – Referenced the e-mail she sent last week as well as the handout in the packet noting that we look at all the health outcomes and health factors noting that people are dying of chronic disease prematurely but when you ask people if they are healthy, they respond that yes they are healthy. Commissioner Napstad noted that the statewide survey is interesting but local details are much more accurate.
- D. **Legislative Update – Tom Burke** – Updated the Board that he was expecting to have more to report on the redesign. Information was received from AMC yesterday afternoon, but the actual news release will happen later today. With respect to the AMC proposal, Tom questioned whether we should have talked to the other state agencies that would be losing personnel with these proposed changes prior to bringing it to the public. Questions also included what is the county cost if we take over these additional services and will the money follow for the counties to use? Another question was whether these were cost saving or just cost shifting in an effort to solve some problems.

VII. Administrative Reports:

- A. Caseload Update – Eileen Foss, Income Maintenance Supervisor – Reviewed the Caseload History and noted the numbers are still climbing due to folks losing their jobs, their unemployment is ending, or folks can stay in a relatives' cabin up here, as examples.
- B. Financial & Transportation Report – Kathy Ryan, Fiscal Supervisor - Noted that the Transportation/mileage report and the foster care cover sheet is not included in the packet this month. We spent \$28,000 out of the fund balance rather than the estimated \$158,000. Kathy noted that foster care payments are paid out in one lump sum on the 10th of the month.

VIII. Committee Reports from Commissioners

- A. H&HS Advisory Committee - Commissioners Westerlund and/or Tveit Meeting updates from Committee Members: Bob Lewis & Jim Carlson See also, attached minutes of the February 3, 2010, meeting. It was noted that Tom Burke had discussed the purpose and creation of the committee and why we have the membership we do to include service providers, recipients, lay members, etc. and that communication is an important aspect of being a member to be a voice in the community and bring back information and questions from the community. The committee was formed in March of 1998 when H&HS was formed.
- B. AMC Children's Mental Health - Commissioner Bailey - Updated the Board that the Discipline Improvement Plan in schools is being developed. The closest school that has implemented the plan is Crosby. The plan is for rewarding good discipline using the student body as well as staff at the school to implement the program. It has proven to be pretty effective in the schools that have implemented it. Also, they will be spending time on reviewing the governor's reports that have been sent in for Mental Health (which are made every two years). They will meet again next week.
- C. CHS – Commissioner Bailey - Noted their meeting was held at the Itasca Junior College with good reports from others regarding the Statewide Health Improvement Plan (SHIP). There are proposed hits for unallotments to SHIP. Noted a positive response to SHIP is that the Boy River School took out all their pop machines and put in juice machines and a salad bar.

