

AITKIN COUNTY HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES BOARD MEETING MINUTES

III.

March 22, 2016

I. Attendance

The Aitkin County Board of Commissioners met this 22nd day of March, 2016, at 9:04 a.m. as the Aitkin County Health & Human Services Board, with the following members present: Chairperson Commissioner Mark Wedel; Commissioners, Ann Marcotte, Brian Napstad, Don Niemi and Laurie Westerlund; and others present included: County Administrator Nathan Burkett; H&HS Staff Members Tom Burke, Director; Jessi Schultz, Social Service Supervisor; Erin Melz, Public Health Supervisor; Jessi Goble, Income Maintenance Supervisor; Ruth Sundermeyer, Support & Collections Supervisor; Kathleen Ryan, Fiscal Supervisor; Julie Lueck, Clerk to the Health & Human Services Board; and guests; Adam Hoogenakker, Aitkin Independent Age; and Roberta Elvecrog and Julie Anne Larkin, H&HS Advisory Committee Members; and Bob Harwarth, Citizen.

II. Approval of Health & Human Services Board Agenda

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

III. Review February 23, 2016 Health & Human Service Board Minutes

Motion by Commissioner Napstad, seconded by Commissioner Westerlund, and carried; the vote was to approve the Minutes of the February 23, 2016 Health & Human Services Board Meeting

IV. Review Bills

Motion by Commissioner Westerlund, seconded by Commissioner Napstad, and carried; the vote was to approve the Bills.

V. General/Miscellaneous Information

- A. **MNChoices/MNSure Update on State IT Programs** - Erin Melz, PH Supervisor, gave an extensive overview of the MNChoices Program including a brief history of its development, the population it serves, the staff involved and both the pros and cons of the system itself and the issues, concerns and frustrations surrounding the use of the computer program. Jessi Goble, Income Maintenance Supervisor, updated the Board and reviewed the METS System (MNSure) Functionality handout also noting the population being served, the positive as well as the negative aspects of the system and what is expected in July of 2016.
- B. **Year End Fiscal Report** - Kathleen Ryan reviewed the 2015 Financial Report handout and charts with the Board. Jessi Goble also reviewed the Caseload Statistics covering the years 2004 through 2015 for MFIP, DWP, GA, MSA, GRH, SNAP/FS, and Health Care programs.
- C. **SNBC - Social Worker Position** - Tom Burke noted that Medica provided SNBC services. Now they are discontinuing SNBC services and UCare is exploring the option to pick them up. They are contacting Aitkin County to see if we would be willing to contract with UCare to provide care coordination for SNBC services. They need to respond to the state's RFP shortly so wanted a response from Aitkin County by the end of the week. Due to the short turnaround and after discussions internally, H&HS decided it was not a good time to move forward so will not be requesting a worker at this time.

VI. FYI

- A. **ABE - Adult Basic Education - Upcoming Classes**- Jessi Goble discussed the flyer in the packet promoting the Adult Education classes scheduled for March and April at the Workforce Center in Aitkin for GED classes. So far there are four people enrolled and moving to self-

sufficiency with the completion of this class.

VII Administrative Reports:

- A. **Financial & Transportation Reports** - Kathleen Ryan noted normal activity with the Financial and Transportation reports. She noted there is one Anoka bill which arrived too late for inclusion this month which will show up on the report next month.

VIII. Committee Reports from Commissioners

- A. **H&HS Advisory Committee** – Commissioners Westerlund and/or Marcotte
Committee Members attending today: Roberta Elvecrog & Julie Anne Larkin
Draft Copy of the March 2nd meeting minutes. Julie Anne Larkin reported there were discussions at the last meeting with respect to Health Care and it was noted there are challenges with some of the programs. She referred to the 2 hour wait on the telephone to speak to a live body and confusion over the premium billing starting and stopping even with the assurance of continued coverage. It has been very confusing for the folks applying. She noted that she is willing to serve as a resource to the board on some of these issues. Commissioner Westerlund also noted that Ann Rivas and two of her staff gave a report on Adult Protection at the Advisory Meeting.
- B. **AEOA Committee Update** – Commissioner Westerlund noted there was no meeting.
- C. **NEMOJT Committee Update** – Commissioner Napstad noted their meeting was canceled due to the legislative session.
- D. **CJI (Children's Justice Initiative)** – Commissioner Westerlund noted they met on March 7th and discussed court procedures that recognize American Indian culture and reported that the Supervisor at the Mille Lacs Band was in attendance.
- E. **Lakes & Pines Update** – Commissioner Niemi noted that the Feds no longer want the Head Start program going into the homes. There is much opposition to this from the local staff administering the program. He also noted that L&P is looking into a non-profit radio station with a license available offering the slot at no cost as a communication tool. L&P were encouraged to look into it further.
- F. **AMC Health and Human Services Policy Committee** - Tom Burke noted discussions regarding safety in the jails. He also discussed a Bill to split DHS into two to four separate departments and the response was that none of the attendees thought it would be a good idea. Further updates will be forthcoming.

IX. Break at 10:55 a.m. for 15 minutes

Next Meeting – April 26, 2016