



Board of County Commissioners Agenda Request

25
Agenda Item #

Requested Meeting Date: 01/28/20

Title of Item: Letter of Support for a CCBHC

<input type="checkbox"/> REGULAR AGENDA <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CONSENT AGENDA <input type="checkbox"/> INFORMATION ONLY	Action Requested: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Approve/Deny Motion <input type="checkbox"/> Adopt Resolution (attach draft) <i>*provide copy of hearing notice that was published</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> Direction Requested <input type="checkbox"/> Discussion Item <input type="checkbox"/> Hold Public Hearing*
Submitted by: Jessica Seibert		Department: Administration
Presenter (Name and Title):		Estimated Time Needed:
Summary of Issue: Northland Counseling Center is responding to a DHS RFP to evaluate if Northland Counseling and the communities that they serve would be a good fit to establish a Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinic (CCBHC.) Per the RFP Northland Counseling needs letters of support from each county where at least 5% of their clients reside. Aitkin County currently makes up about 6% of that total.		
Alternatives, Options, Effects on Others/Comments:		
Recommended Action/Motion: Approve Letter of Support for Northland Counseling to establish a CCBHC.		
Financial Impact: Is there a cost associated with this request? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No What is the total cost, with tax and shipping? \$ Is this budgeted? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <i>Please Explain:</i>		

Attention: Julie Pearson
Mental Health Division
Department of Human Services
PO Box 64981
St. Paul, MN 55164-0981

January X, 2020

Dear Ms. Pearson –

Mental illness and chemical dependency have become major social issues in Aitkin County. In recent years, we've seen related statistics continue to rise and have tried to adjust to the ever-increasing costs of providing supportive services.

To help meet some of the need, Aitkin County has developed strong partnerships with providers such as Northland Counseling Center. Northland has become a trusted partner of Aitkin County and its Health and Human Services Department. We financially support Northland's Good Friends and Company Clubhouse in Aitkin. We are working with Northland to start providing chemical dependency treatment services in our area. Further strengthening our connection, one of Northland's clinicians sits on the wellness court in Aitkin County.

Moving forward, Aitkin County is determined to continue to find ways to improve access to mental health and chemical dependency services, especially for our most vulnerable and underserved residents. We see this as the only way to help stem the tide of individuals and families in need of support.

Through our shared work together, Aitkin County has come to know Northland Counseling Center and its staff as dedicated and innovative service providers, and we are grateful for their presence in our communities. As described above, Aitkin County depends on Northland to provide critical mental health and chemical dependency services. As such, our county board voted today to fully support Northland in its pursuit of a grant through the RFP for Qualified Grantees to Develop and Expand Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinics (CCBHC) in Minnesota. We believe this grant would greatly enhance Northland's efforts to become a CCBHC and would result in strengthened response and services for vulnerable children, adults, and seniors living in Aitkin County.

Respectfully,

Bill Pratt
Aitkin County Board Chair