



**AITKIN
COUNTY**
EST 1857
HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES
COUNTY BOARD MEETING MINUTES
December 22, 2020

Attendance

The Aitkin County Board of Commissioners met this 22nd day of December, 2020, at 9:04 a.m. as the Aitkin County Health & Human Services Board, with the following members present: Commissioners Bill Pratt, J. Mark Wedel, Don Niemi, Anne Marcotte, and Laurie Westerlund. Others present included: H&HS Accounting Supervisor Carli Goble, Public Health Supervisor Erin Melz (Via WebEx), County Administrator Jessica Seibert, Assistant to the County Administrator Angie Sahr, and Jennifer Eisenbart, Aitkin Independent Age (Via Webex).

Agenda

Motion by Commissioner Wedel, seconded by Commissioner Niemi and carried, all members present voting yes to approve the December 22, 2020 Health & Human Services Board agenda.

Minutes

Motion by Commissioner Niemi, seconded by Commissioner Westerlund and carried, all members present voting yes to approve the November 24, 2020 Health and Human Services Board minutes.

Bills

Carli Goble, H&HS Accounting Supervisor noted that there was nothing out of the ordinary for the bills this month.

Motion by Commissioner Wedel, seconded by Commissioner Marcotte and carried, all members present voting yes to approve the bills.

COVID-19 Vaccine Update, Erin Melz

Erin Melz came before the Board and provided information for a robust conversation regarding the COVID-19 vaccine and plans for vaccination clinics..

Commissioner Marcotte questioned whether or not Erin knew whether the animal testing phase of the vaccine development had been allowed to be skipped or not as she had heard it was?

Both Erin and Jessica Seibert commented that they had heard that it had been put through trials involving rats and monkeys.

Commissioner Westerlund asked Erin about whether it is recommended that people who have had COVID-19 previously should get the vaccine or not?

Erin responded that, at this time, it is being recommended that even if you have had the virus previously that you still receive the vaccine as we do not know for sure how long immunity lasts after having the disease previously.

Commissioner Marcotte asked if Erin knew of any connection to people who have high Vitamin D levels as to whether they were less susceptible to the virus or not?

Erin had not heard of that but would look into it more and let the members know what she finds out.

Commissioner Wedel inquired into where the vaccines ship from, how they are shipped, and where they are shipped to?

Erin stated that she believed both vaccines were shipped directly from the manufacturers, in temperature controlled containers, to either the healthcare hub, which in our case is Essentia Health in Brainerd to be distributed to other healthcare facilities, or directly to Public Health depending on the manufacturer.

Commissioner Wedel followed up that question with how, when, and where will the everyday person get the vaccine?

Erin said that once we are able to offer those there will be clinics scheduled for people to come to.

Approval of Members to Committees

Motion by Commissioner Wedel, seconded by Commissioner Westerlund and carried, all members voting yes to approve the appointment of Ihleen Williams to the Aitkin, Itasca, Koochiching Community Health Board.

Motion by Commissioner Westerlund, seconded by Commissioner Marcotte and carried, all members voting yes to approve the appointment of Terri Mathis to the Aitkin County Health & Human Services Advisory Committee.

Motion by Commissioner Westerlund, seconded by Commissioner Marcotte and carried, all members voting yes to approve the appointment of Cindy Chuhanic to the Aitkin County Health & Human Services Advisory Committee.

Motion by Commissioner Westerlund, seconded by Commissioner Marcotte and carried, all members voting yes to approve the appointment of Penny Olson to the Aitkin County Health & Human Services Advisory Committee.

Motion by Commissioner Westerlund, seconded by Commissioner Marcotte and carried, all members voting yes to approve the appointment of Kevin Insley to the Aitkin County Health & Human Services Advisory Committee.

Motion by Commissioner Westerlund, seconded by Commissioner Marcotte and carried, all members voting yes to approve the appointment of Joel Hoppe to the Aitkin County Health & Human Services Advisory Committee.

Motion by Commissioner Westerlund, seconded by Commissioner Marcotte and carried, all members voting yes to approve the appointment of Joni Olson to the Aitkin County Health & Human Services Advisory Committee.

Approval of Contracts/Agreements/Policies

Motion by Commissioner Wedel, seconded by Commissioner Marcotte and carried, all members voting yes to approve the Guardian/Conservator Agreement with Lutheran Social Services for January 1, 2021 through December 31, 2021.

Motion by Commissioner Marcotte, seconded by Commissioner Wedel and carried, all members voting yes to approve the WIC Use Agreement with the Hill City Assembly of God Church for January 1, 2021 through December 31, 2021.

Motion by Commissioner Westerlund, seconded by Commissioner Niemi and carried, all members voting yes to approve the WIC Use Agreement with the McGregor School District for January 1, 2021 through December 31, 2021.

Committee Reports

Community Health Board Report

Commissioner Westerlund said they met December 10, 2020 and the main points of discussion, were the financial reports, budget, audit, and catching up before the end of the year.

She also added they had a great presentation from Hannah Colby and Liz Short, from Aitkin County Public Health, on opiate substance use and the collaboration with corrections to try to help each other help our folks who are having issues with opiates and asked if they could present that to the board in the future.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:52 a.m.

Next Meeting – January 26, 2021