



AITKIN COUNTY HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

204 First Street NW
Aitkin, MN 56431

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COUNTY BOARD MEETING MINUTES December 21, 2021

Attendance

The Aitkin County Board of Commissioners met this 21st day of December 2021, at 9:04 a.m. as the Aitkin County Health & Human Services Board, with the following members present: Commissioners Brian Napstad, J. Mark Wedel, Laurie Westerlund, Commissioner Niemi arrived at 9:25 a.m. Others present included: Health & Human Services Director Cynthia Bennett, Administrative Assistant to the H&HS Director Paula Arimborgo, Child Support Supervisor Julie Herbst, Accounting Supervisor Carli Goble, Public Health Supervisor Erin Melz, County Administrator Jessica Seibert and Assistant to the County Administrator Brittany Searle. Aitkin County Health & Human Services Advisory Committee Vice Chairman Joel Hoppe attended via WebEx.

Agenda

Motion by Commissioner Westerlund, seconded by Commissioner Napstad and carried, all members present voting yes to approve the December 21, 2021 Health & Human Services Board agenda as presented.

Minutes

Motion by Commissioner Napstad, seconded by Commissioner Westerlund and carried, all members present voting yes to approve the November 23, 2021 Health & Human Services Board minutes.

Bills

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

Consent Agenda

Motion by Commissioner Napstad, seconded by Commissioner Westerlund and carried, all members voting yes to approve the Consent Agenda as follows.

- A) Approve 2022 Access North POS; B) Approve 2022 Bethesda Lutheran Church Malmo - WIC Agreement; C) Approve 2022 Compass Counseling partners POS; D) Approve 2022 Hill City Assembly of God Church – WIC Agreement; E) Approve 2022 Lakes & pines WRAP POS; F) Approve 2022 Letter of Agreement Dr. Donald Hughes; G) Approve 2022 LSS Guardianship POS; H) Approve 2022 McGregor Schools – WIC Agreement; I) Approve 2022 New Freedom Clinical Supervision POS; J) Approve 2022 Woodview-Oakridge POS; K) Approve 2022 Philip Tange POS; L) Approve 2022 Presbyterian Family Foundation POS; M) Approve 2022 Thomas Allen POS; N) Approve 2022 Nystrom POS; O) Approve 2022 Riverwood Healthcare Family Planning Contract



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Cynthia Bennett informed the Board that insurance rates increased per MCIT but DHS rates stayed the same. All contracts on the consent agenda reflect the new insurance rates.

Commissioner Napstad inquired whether there was an off ramp to guardianship programs if there was a change in the individual's situation. He doesn't want it to be a permanent situation if changes come about. Cynthia explained that there are certain safety nets in place and that family members are always looked for first. Cynthia will have Kim Larson come up with a list of what the stop gaps are and it can be emailed out to the Board or brought to the next Board meeting.

Contract

2022-2023 Child Support Cooperative Agreement

Cynthia gave a brief explanation as to why this agreement was being brought to Board. Commissioner Napstad inquired why it was not included with the other contracts in the Consent Agenda. Jessica Seibert explained that it is a two-year contract and because of certain time limits, this contract would need to be brought to Board for approval each time.

Motion by Commissioner Westerlund, seconded by Commissioner Napstad and carried, all members voting yes to approve the contract.

Approval of Members to Aitkin County Health & Human Services Advisory Committee

Commissioner Wedel first applauded all the members who are serving and those that want to serve. Cynthia also remarked how thankful she was of all the members for their service.

Motion by Commissioner Napstad, seconded by Commissioner Westerlund and carried, all members voting yes to approve the re-appointment of the five current members: Dawn Houser, Luke Christensen, Michelle Broadhead, Lynne Jacobs & Steven Teff and the appointment of one new member: Rebecca Koch, to the Aitkin County Health & Human Services Advisory Committee.

Directors Update

Cynthia attended the AMC conference last week and attended the HHS policy committee Meeting. The 2022 Legislature priorities remain the same.

Cynthia deferred from giving a full update on the METS system until Commissioner Marcotte was in attendance since she requested the update. Cynthia did mention that in 2020 the state hired consultants from Gartner to conduct objective analysis of the state's modernization work including the METS system. Out of this analysis, there were several recommendations that DHS is currently implementing. We expect to see improvements at the county level with the system in the upcoming years. Commissioner Napstad expressed his concern that the new re-design does not go through the same issues as the DMV did during their re-design. He suggested asking them how they are going to avoid those same pitfalls. This led to further discussion on modernization of the systems. Cynthia



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acknowledged Commissioner Napstad's concerns and will take them under advisement.

Cynthia updated the Board on the progress of the re-design. We are still waiting on the design drafts from the architect. Cynthia reached out last week to see where things are at and is awaiting updates. Commissioner Westerlund inquired who the architect was and Cynthia responded ARI.

Child Support Update

Julie Herbst, HHS Child Support Supervisor, presented the Child Support update to include the Minnesota Vision and Mission. She gave an overview of the Federal Performance Measures and the Aikin County results. Julie continued to brief on the MN County disbursements, total expenditures and incentives. She concluded relaying that the Child Support program collected \$34.9 billion federally and served 13.8 million children nationally in FY2020. It is one of the most cost-effective government programs.

Commissioner Westerlund questioned who pays for establishing paternity - Julie explained that county pays with a 66% reimbursement from the state and 20% discount from LabCorp.

Commissioner Napstad questioned how you ensure the benefits are going to the needs of the child. Julie explained that Child Support does not have any control of funds once distributed. If there is a question about the child's wellbeing, then a report should be filed with Child Protection and anyone can be a reporter.

Commissioner Niemi inquired how often Child Support goes to the homes to see if everything is going ok. Julie explained that Child Support does not go to the homes.

Cynthia noted that this program is Child Support. The purpose is to have the parents financially pay for their children. Child Protection Services on the other hand is the service that responds to any reports of neglect or abuse.

Committee Updates

Joel Hoppe updated the board on the December H&HS Advisory Committee meeting. Elections for Chair and Vice Chair will take place during the January 6th meeting. Commissioner Westerlund gave a brief update on the CHS Joint Powers Board meeting, talked about OPIOD and how everyone is burnt out due to COVID. AEOA Committee Update – Commissioner Westerlund was unable to attend the last meeting
Commissioner Westerlund mentioned the CARE Board met earlier in the morning. She mentioned Lynne Jacobs is the best and is very busy with the BRICK grant. They did not receive the Live Well at Home Grant. We need to rejuvenate the TRIAD group. CJI, NEMOJT, and Lakes & Pines Committees – Did not meet

The meeting was adjourned at 10:00 a.m.

Next Meeting – January 25, 2022



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