



AITKIN COUNTY HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

204 First Street NW
Aitkin, MN 56431

Phone: 800-328-3744/218-927-7200
Fax: 218-927-7210

April 26, 2022 – BOARD AGENDA

- 9:05 Start**
- 9:05 1) Review/Approval of Health & Human Services Board Agenda**
- 9:06 2) Review/Approval of March 22, 2022 Health & Human Services Board Minutes**
- 9:07 3) Review/Approval of Bills**
- 9:08 4) Cynthia Bennett – Health & Human Services Director**
A) Director Update
- 9:13 5) Carli Goble – HHS Fiscal Supervisor**
A) 1st Quarter 2022 Fiscal Report
B) Estate Recovery
- 9:33 7) Committee Updates from Commissioners**
A) H&HS Advisory Committee – Commissioners Wedel and/or Westerlund
B) AEOA Committee – Commissioner Westerlund
C) CARE Board – Commissioner Westerlund
D) CJI (Children’s Justice Initiative) – Commissioner Westerlund
E) NEMOJT Committee Update – Commissioner Niemi
F) Lakes & Pines Update – Commissioner Niemi
- 9:43 End**
Next Meeting – May 24, 2022



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COUNTY BOARD MEETING MINUTES March 22, 2022

Attendance

The Aitkin County Board of Commissioners met this 22nd day of March 2022, at 9:01 a.m. as the Aitkin County Health & Human Services Board, with the following members present: Commissioners Anne Marcotte, Brian Napstad, J. Mark Wedel, Don Niemi, and Laurie Westerlund. Others present included: Health & Human Services Director Cynthia Bennett, Administrative Assistant to the H&HS Director Paula Arimborgo, Accounting Supervisor Carli Goble, County Administrator Jessica Seibert, Assistant to the County Administrator Brittany Searle, Public Health Supervisor Erin Meiz, Public Health Registered Dietician/Educator Hannah Colby, Public Health Nurse Liz Short, Community Corrections Probation Officer Andy Walsh, Advisory Committee members Cindy Chuhanic & Lynne Jacobs and attending via WebEx: H&HS Financial Supervisor Jessi Goble, AC Economic Development Coordinator Mark Jeffers, and U of M Program Leader, Family Resiliency Mary Jo Katras, PhD.

Agenda

Motion by Commissioner Marcotte, seconded by Commissioner Niemi and carried, all members present voting yes to approve the March 22, 2022 Health & Human Services Board agenda.

Minutes

Motion by Commissioner Westerlund, seconded by Commissioner Niemi and carried, all members present voting yes to approve the March 1, 2022 Health & Human Services Board minutes.

Bills

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

Director Update

Cynthia updated the board on the Legislative Updates to include: Competency Restoration Reform, Development of new Adult Mental Health Initiative formula, a Bill to re-instate COVID waivers, Testimony to support additional dollars for local public health for emergency Preparedness, and no relevant bills related to DHS system modernization. Commissioner Niemi questioned whether anyone had heard anything about a medical bill regarding pharmacies in rural MN. Cynthia will gather information and send an update to the commissioners.



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Making a Change Pilot Program Presentation

Presented by Hannah Colby, Public Health Registered Dietician/Educator; Liz Short Public Health Nurse; and Andy Walsh, AC Community Corrections Probation Officer.

- Funding provided through the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) Grant with the purpose of developing and disseminating training for rural communities to address opioid and substance issues affecting communities like Aitkin County.
- Aitkin County is collaborating with University of Minnesota Extension to strengthen community resources to prevent opioid and substance misuse. Mary Jo Katras, PhD, Family Resiliency Program Leader is the grant writer and has been the liaison with H&HS Public Health.
- Andy Walsh is responsible for the coordination of participants, Hannah Colby teaches Nutrition for Recovery, and Liz Short teaches Financial Capability.
- A 20-week program made up of 6 participants: 3 male and 3 female, offers education in the areas of nutrition and financial capability.
- Designed as a skills development group program to help members develop the necessary tools to break free of addiction to substance or alcohol abuse.
- Individuals involved in this program have responded positively and relay that they are realizing their abilities and successes in these areas, feeling a sense of accomplishment and independence outside of addiction and substance use/misuse.

Committee Updates

H&HS Advisory Committee Update – Cindy Chuhanic, Vice Chairperson briefed the board On the presentation they received at their last meeting from Carli Goble on the Medical Assistance Estate Recovery Program. The board would like a presentation at a future County Board meeting. Lynne Jacobs announced the committee has a new member.

CARE Board Update – Commissioner Westerlund - Discussed financials, Rides for Health, money for transportation services, Powerful Tools for Caregivers book, Aging with Gusto, Community Connect – April 23rd at McGregor High School and April 30th at Aitkin High School.

Lakes & Pines Update – Commissioner Niemi – Talked about the book authored by Michael Lindell, The Pillow Guy, What are the Odds? From Crack Addict to CEO. Discussed The FAIM program – a matched savings project that helps Minnesota resident low-wage Earners build assets in the state through: purchase of a first home, pursuit of Post-secondary education, launch or expansion of a small business, and purchase of a Personal vehicle. Discussed the increased cost of propane and how it will effect Lakes & Pines. Currently the limit for propane assistance is \$600. Executive Director Bob Benes' last day will be September 2, 2022.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:13 a.m.

Next Meeting – April 26, 2022

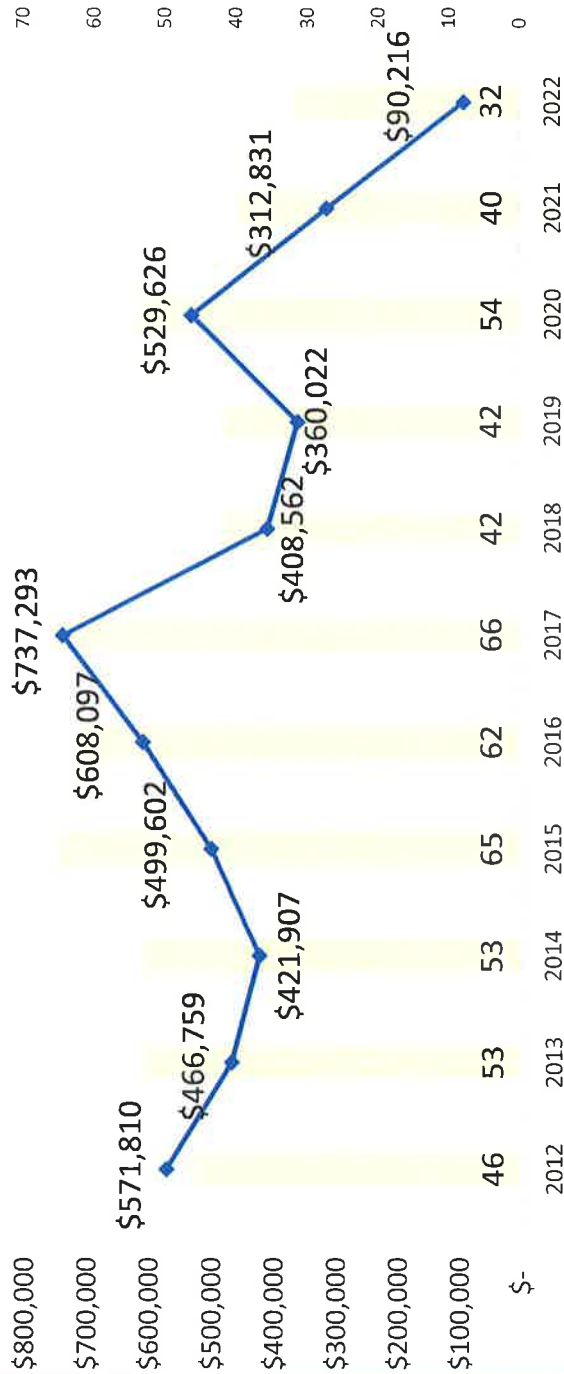
Fiscal Report

Q1 2022

April 26, 2022

Out of Home Placement Costs

- Q1 2021: \$108,101
- YTD Q1 2022: \$90,216
- Difference from 2021: \$(17,885)
- Children in OHP: 32
- 2022 OHP Budget: \$485,750



of Children Total Foster Care Expenses

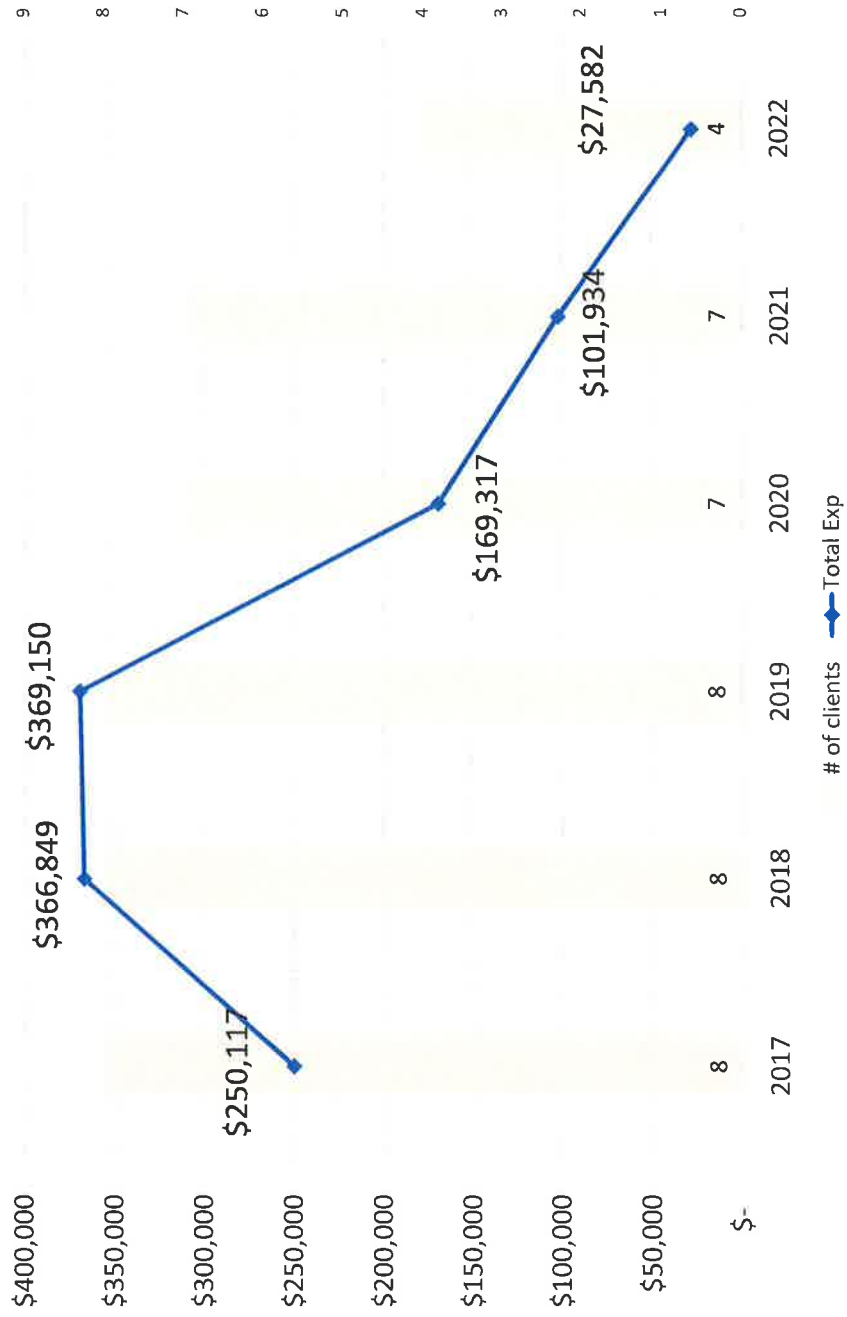
Adult Regional Treatment Center Costs

- Q1 2021: \$45,524
- Q1 2022: \$27,582
- # of clients: 6
- # of clients: 4
- Difference from 2021: \$(17,942)
- 2022 RTC Budget: \$285,000

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- Anoka: \$1,500
 - 1 client paying off large invoice from 2015 (\$264,367 remaining)
 - DHS-MSOP: \$26,082
 - 2 clients at 25% - \$103.50/day
 - 2 clients at 10% - \$41.40/day
 - DHS-St. Peter: \$0
 - 0 clients

* The percentage is the county's responsibility, this is based on when the individual clients were placed in the facility.

Adult Regional Treatment Center Costs



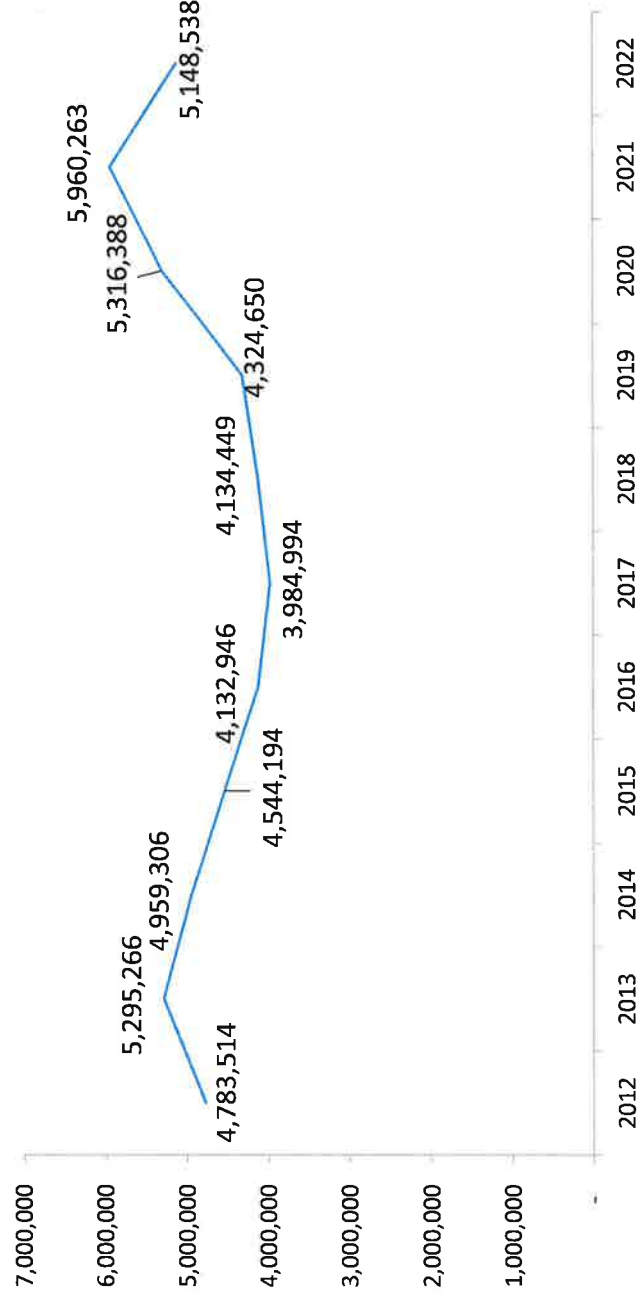
Fund Balance

- Budgeted to use \$429,860 out of the HHS fund balance in 2022
- Cash Balance as of 03/31/2022: \$5,148,538



Fund Balance

10 Year - Annual Fund Balance



Thank you!

Questions?

MEDICAL ASSISTANCE ESTATE RECOVERY

Health & Human Services Board

04/26/2022

WHAT IS ESTATE RECOVERY?

- Medical Assistance (MA) Estate Recovery is a program that the federal government requires Minnesota to administer in order to receive Medicaid funds (MN Statute §256B.15).
- Estate recovery occurs only after an MA member dies. Local agencies cannot collect from an MA member's assets for repayment of MA services while the member is alive.
- Medical Assistance claims are against the estate of the decedent and not the personal representative, family members or heirs.

WHAT IS CONSIDERED AN ASSET OF AN ESTATE?

- A person's probate estate contains all ownership and interests that the MA member had in any form of real or personal property at the time of their death, assets included in the 'estate':
 - Real property (all ownership & certain interests as a life tenant/life estate/joint tenant)
 - Accounts (sole owner and interests in joint accounts, multiple-party accounts, pay-on-death accounts, brokerage accounts, investment accounts, or proceeds of those accounts)
 - Assets conveyed to a survivor, heir, or assigned of the person through survivorship, living trust, or other arrangements
 - Assets the person transferred to his/her spouse before death
 - Life insurance policies (only if without a living designated beneficiary listed)

WHEN DOES ESTATE RECOVERY HAPPEN?

- * Generally, estate recovery happens after an MA member dies. But there are some exemptions that could delay recovery:
 - * Surviving Spouse
 - * Child that is blind or permanently disabled
 - * Child who is under 21 years old
- * Once a deceased MA member's surviving spouse passes away, local agencies are required to recover from the spouse's estate. Recovery could be delayed further if a child under 21, blind or permanently disabled is still living in the home when the surviving spouse dies.

WHO IS AFFECTED BY ESTATE RECOVERY?

ESTATE RECOVERY APPLIES TO:

- 55 years old or older and receives MA long-term services and supports (LTSS)
 - LTSS services include:
 - Nursing Home Services
 - Home and Community-Based Services
 - Hospital and prescription drug services
- At any age permanently residing in a medical institution and receives MA services
- Alternative Care (AC) enrollees
 - Recovery is limited to AC paid on or after 7/1/2003
- People who were enrolled in General Assistance Medical Care (GAMC)
 - GAMC that was received at any age is recoverable

HOW WE CAN RECOVER ON AN MA CLAIM?

- Before we start any collections on a claim against the estate, a determination needs to be made to figure out which category the case is, as that regulates how we can collect:
 - If total estate is less than \$75,000 and no real property (land)
 - If total estate is less than \$75,000 with real property (land)
 - If total estate is more than \$75,000

HOW WE CAN RECOVER ON AN MA CLAIM?

- If total estate is less than \$75,000 and no real property (land)
 - Send Affidavits of Collection of Personal Property (MN Statute §524.3-1201) to any financial institution, funeral home, nursing home and other agencies we have in our file that could hold assets belonging to the estate.
 - Once we have heard from all organizations letters/affidavits were sent to, we have done our due diligence to recover any funds of the estate and will close our file.
 - However, the MA claim never goes away until paid in full, in our closing letter to families we state that 'pending discovery of additional assets of the estate, our case is now closed'. This allows us to collect on the MA claim if assets become known to the agency at a later date.

HOW WE CAN RECOVER ON AN MA CLAIM?

- If total estate is less than \$75,000 with real property (land)
 - Send Affidavits of Collection of Personal Property (MN Statute §524.3-1201) to any financial institution, funeral home, nursing home and others we have in our file that could hold assets belonging to the estate
 - Obtain the property deed to determine ownership i.e. sole owner, life estate, joint tenant, if appropriate, request DHS record a Notice of Potential Claim (NPC) on the property. This allows us to collect on the property if sold or transferred.
 - Encourage family members to initiate a probate case, if a case is opened we file a Written Statement of Claim into the court case – MA claim is a priority claim over others, following MN Statute §524.3-805

HOW WE CAN RECOVER ON AN MA CLAIM?

- If total estate is more than \$75,000 (personal and/or real property)
- Obtain the property deed to determine ownership i.e. sole owner, life estate, joint tenant, if appropriate, request DHS record a Notice of Potential Claim (NPC) on the property. This allows us to collect on the property if sold or transferred.
- Encourage family members to initiate a probate case, if a case is opened we file a Written Statement of Claim into the court case – MA claim is a priority claim over others, following MN Statute §524.3-805

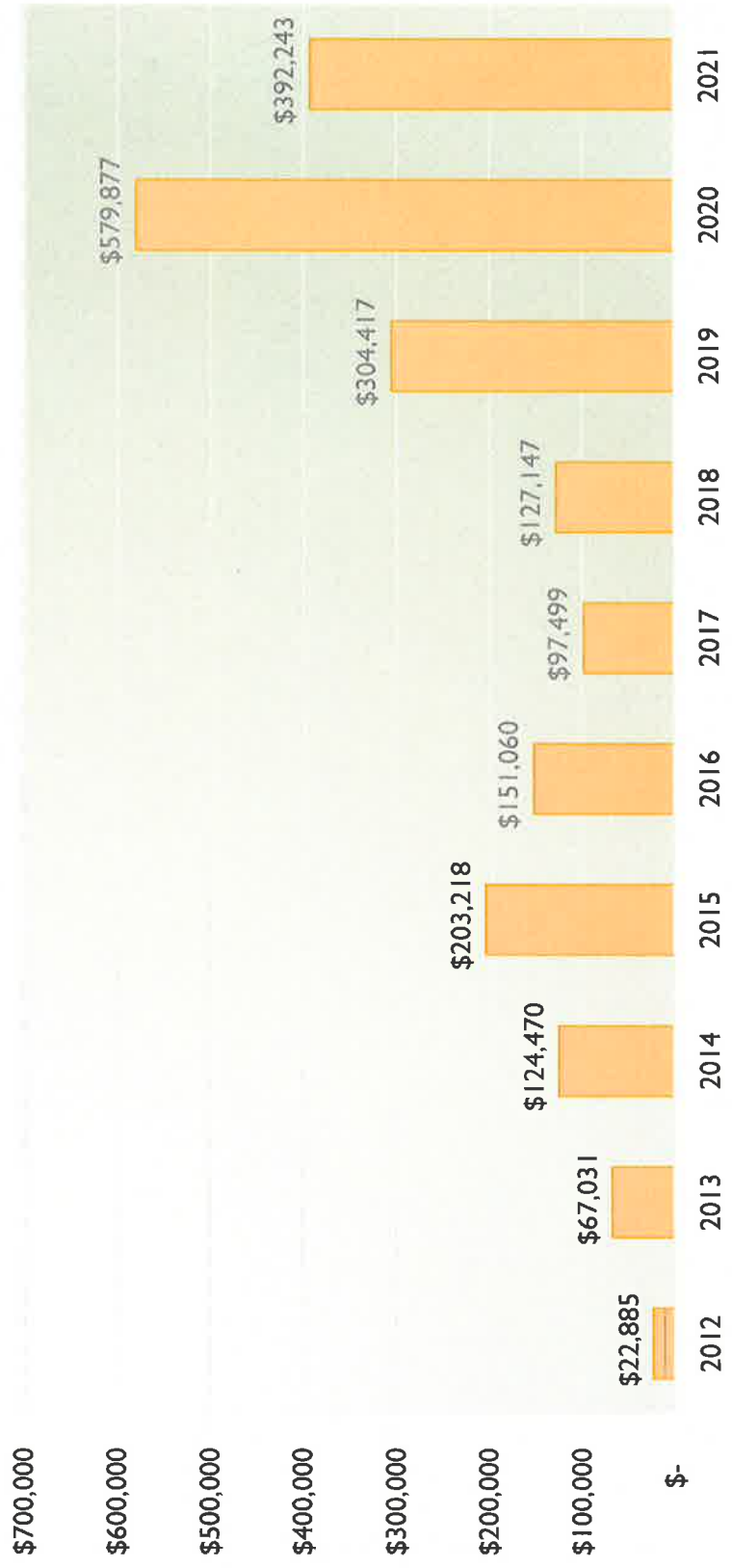
HOW WE CAN RECOVER ON AN MA CLAIM?

- Property that has a recorded Transfer on Death Deed (TODD)
 - With all TODD's filed, in order to transfer the property, the receiver of the property is required to obtain a Medical Assistance Clearance Certificate for a Transfer on Death Deed from the county.
 - This document will state if there is an MA claim on the property that should be satisfied before the transfer of ownership can take place.

CURRENT CASELOAD

- Aitkin County Health & Human Services currently has **121** open Medical Assistance Estate Recovery cases
 - Under \$75,000: **69**
 - Under \$75,000 w/land: **23**
 - Over \$75,000: **29**
- Average Medical Assistance claim: **\$122,699**
- Total amount of open cases with MA claims we are attempting to collect from remaining assets of an estate: **\$14,846,626.53**
- Aitkin County collects on MA claims on behalf of the State of Minnesota, our incentive for recovery is typically **25%** of the amount received

MA Estate Recovery for Aitkin County 2012-2021



THANK YOU!

QUESTIONS?

Additional Information:

[Estate recovery / Minnesota Department of Human Services
\(mn.gov\)](#)

[DHS-7273 MHCP Estate Recovery and Liens](#)