



**AITKIN COUNTY HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES
COUNTY BOARD MEETING MINUTES
May 22, 2018**

Attendance

The Aitkin County Board of Commissioners met this 22nd day of May, 2018, at 9:05 a.m. as the Aitkin County Health & Human Services Board, with the following members present: Board Chair Anne Marcotte, Commissioners Laurie Westerlund, J. Mark Wedel, Don Niemi, and Bill Pratt. Others present included: County Administrator Jessica Seibert, Health & Human Services Director Cynthia Bennett, Financial Assistance Supervisor Jessi Goble, Public Health Supervisor Erin Melz, Health & Human Services Administrative Assistant Shawn Speed, and Guests: Roberta Elvecrog/H&HS Advisory Committee Member, Marlene Abear/H&HS Advisory Committee Member, Brielle Bredsten/Aitkin Independent Age, and Bob Harwarth/Citizen.

Agenda

Motion by Commissioner Westerlund, seconded by Commissioner Niemi and carried, all members voting yes to approve the May 22, 2018 Health & Human Services Board agenda.

Minutes

Motion by Commissioner Pratt, seconded by Commissioner Westerlund and carried, all members voting yes to approve the April 24, 2018 Health and Human Services Board minutes.

Bills

Cynthia Bennett, Health & Human Services Director, presented the bills to the board in Carli Goble's absence, and noted no significant changes.

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

Health & Human Services Director Report, Cynthia Bennett H&HS Director

Cynthia started by talking about the legislative session. Noted that as of now it is unclear of what had come from this year's session. There was a lot of controversy, in the legislature, over the omnibus bill and whether it funded items adequately enough specifically related to opioids and eldercare. The Governor has 14 days from the close of the session to sign the bill but, as of now, he is threatening to veto the bill. We are still watching to see what happened to all of the other bills that we were hoping would be supported or not in legislation. These include elimination of the 20% child support withholding, 5 million for school linked mental health services, required collaboration between DHS and counties when developing new software or systems and the mandate to test pilot programs prior to implementation, changes in MNChoices assessments to assure efficiency and person centered care, support of jail diversion programs like the yellow line program in Blue Earth, creation of an appeal process for counties when they disagree with the "at hospital level of care" status determined by the RTC, and the additional work requirements for medical assistance eligibility.

Commissioner Marcotte asked about whether they had put any money into fixing the METS

system and as of now we are unsure of what has been done.

Cynthia moved onto the Financial Report for H&HS and relayed that in Carli's and Kim's absence we will not discuss details of the Regional Treatment Center costs, however those discussions will continue when all of the individuals who have detailed knowledge of all the various pieces of this issue are present.

Noted that there is client in St. Peter who has made progress and as such has entered the transition phase of treatment. This phase prepares him for reentry into the community. Due to this, his costs have risen yet once this individual moves back into the community it is probable that his daily costs will diminish.

SNAP Survey Results, Jessi Goble

Jessi gave an update on the performance report/survey that they recently went through and that they did great.

BCBS Audit Results, Erin Melz

Erin Melz provided an update on the Annual Blue Cross Blue Shield (BCBS) Audit for the Home and Community Based Services Unit. BCBS contracts with Aitkin County to provide Care Coordination services for individuals over the age of 65, on Medical Assistance and who choose BCBS for their health insurance carrier. Melz reported that these individuals may be living in the community, in nursing facilities or in other housing options. Overall, the Audit was successful with many positive comments from the auditors. Out of nearly 100 elements, Aitkin County has been asked to provide follow-up on 4 separate issues noted by the assessors. Each element has a 95% threshold. Because of relatively small sample sizes in Aitkin County, it is common to have only 1 or 2 charts cause the percentage to drop below that 95% requirement. Processes have already been developed and implemented for these 4 areas, and a formal Corrective Action Plan will be drafted and submitted to BCBS.

Committee Reports

H&HS Advisory Committee – Commissioner Wedel and/or Pratt

1. Committee members Roberta Elvecrog and Marlene Abear provided details of their last meeting, held May 2, 2018.
 - a. Talked about the presentation given by Kim Larson and Erin Melz about MNChoices Programs.
2. Commissioner Pratt talked about the MNChoices presentation and how it gave him a lot of information about the program that he can now pass on to his constituents.

Lakes & Pines Update – Commissioner Niemi

1. Talked about Lakes & Pines going through their own audit and that there were findings but no findings of fraud.
2. Not sure what will happen with weatherization and fuel assistance from the Federal government yet.
3. Commissioner Marcotte asked about the number of homes in the county that Lakes & Pines has weatherized and Commissioner Niemi will find that out for her.
4. Commissioner Wedel asked whether there was a cap on the amount that people receive and was informed there is and it is based on each different circumstance.

Commissioner Marcotte acknowledged the Mental Health event that was held at the Beanery. Jessi Goble commented that the comedian was really good and that a lot of people seemed very supportive and there were many connections made between many different people that she had saw. It was very good to put a face to the mental health issues in the community with many different community members and make us more aware.

Commissioner Westerlund noted that the Community Health Assessment stakeholders meeting was held last Thursday and they narrowed down the data to 9 key areas to present to the general public to vote on at the County Fair to narrow down to the three key areas that will be concentrated on.

Cynthia Bennett ended the meeting by reminding the Board that Jessica Seibert had done the research on whether we could change our format for the meeting and it was found that we could so we plan to make the change and hope to have it in place by the next meeting.

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

Next Meeting – June 26, 2018