

MINUTES
HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES ADVISORY COMMITTEE (HHSAC)
Thursday, January 14, 2021
Virtual Teams Meeting / Itasca Resource Center / Room 122

Members Present:	Renee Bymark Crystal Terveer Craig Menozzi Ben Denucci Lester Kachinske Sarah Anderson	Angela Baratto Cheryl Lemler Daniel Miesle Lloyd Adams Melissa Weidendorf
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Members Absent:	Anne Kruger Brandi Worrath Dave Holmbeck – E	Dorothy Abrahamson – E Dan Seward – E Chris Jenkins
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Others Present:	Eric Villeneuve Brenda Oberg	Kelly Chandler
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Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order by Chair Lloyd Adams at 12:15 pm.

Election of Officers:

Lloyd called for nominations for Chair of the Advisory Committee for the year 2021. Cheryl Lemler nominated Lloyd Adams for Chair and Lester Kachinske for Co-Chair. There being no other nominations, the group cast a unanimous ballot for Lloyd Adams for Chair and Lester Kachinske for Co-Chair. Motion carried.

Approval of March 12, 2020 Minutes:

A motion was made by Dan Miesle and seconded by Cheryl Lemler to approve the March 12, 2020 minutes. Motion carried.

Additions/Corrections to Agenda:

There were no additions or corrections to the Agenda. A motion was made by Lester Kachinske and seconded by Craig Menozzi to accept the agenda. Motion carried.

Eric Villeneuve, Director:

Schedule of 2021 HHS Advisory Committee Meetings

Meetings are held by-monthly, on the second Thursday, beginning at 12:15pm. (January/March/May/September) November's meeting will be held on the first Thursday, beginning at 12:15pm, due to Veterans Day falling on the second Tuesday in November this year. There are no meetings held during the

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months of June/July/August. Meetings will either be held virtually or in person, Brenda will notify you prior to the meeting. A motion was made by Craig Menozzi and seconded by Cheryl Lemler to accept the 2021 schedule of the Advisory Committee Meetings. Motion carried.

Listing of Current ICHHS Advisory Committee Members:

The current list of ICHHS Advisory members was reviewed, please email Brenda or Eric with any changes/corrections. Informational.

Reappointments

Advisory Committee Members – Lloyd Adams, Dorothy Abrahamson, Lester Kachinske, Cheryl Lemler, Craig Menozzi, Crystal Terveer, Dan Seward, Melissa Wiedendorf need to be reappointed to the committee.

A motion was made by Dan Miesle and seconded by Angie Baratto to approve the reappointments of Lloyd Adams, Dorothy Abrahamson, Lester Kachinske, Cheryl Lemler, Craig Menozzi, Crystal Terveer, Dan Seward, Melissa Wiedendorf. Motion carried.

Presenters for the County Board Meetings for 2021:

At this time, we will put the minutes on consent for the Board meetings. After we are able to meet in person, we will ask for volunteers to present at the meetings.

Public Health Update: Kelly Chandler, Public Health Division Manager, updated the group on Coronavirus/COVID-19. The first case was in Minnesota on March 6th, 2020, and in Itasca County on March 29th, 2020, second case was March 31st. We have had over 2800 Itasca County resident's positive over the last 9 months, and 45 deaths with a mix from private residence and facilities. Covid is a virus that attaches to your cells and when your immune system kicks in, your immune system eventually can actually start working against you due to the increased inflammation. Public Health is continuing to do case investigations and are working closely with the schools. The cases have plateaued since the beginning of December, after the last few incubation periods. The primary focus right now is the vaccines and the ultimate goal is to get everyone a vaccine that wants a vaccine. The goal, before we reach herd immunity, is to get 70% of the population vaccinated. Vaccines are rolling out in phases, Minnesota is starting with phase 1a, healthcare workers. There has been over 1300 vaccines given, collectively, thus far in Itasca County. At this time, there is no timeline for when these will be available to people over the age of 65 or with chronic conditions. Notifications will be coming from your primary clinics through MyChart, letters, social media, webpage, and media. These vaccines are 2 dose, Moderna second dose is 28 days after the first

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and Pfizer is 21 days after the first dose. The Itasca County Board has approved Public Health to contract with additional nurses to help with administering these vaccinations, we are ready to do as many vaccines as we are able to get in. At this time we are uncertain if Covid will have a booster, there needs to be more long-term research to make that determination.

IMCare Update:

IMCare has also been responding to COVID. They are receiving daily updates on how to ensure IMCare members are getting access to care and services they need, provider changes, as far as licensing requirements, and processing all the State and Federal guidance making sure we are following all the rules.

DHS has issued the metro procurement in 2021 for contract year 2022. In 2022 they'll release the procurement for greater MN for contract year 2023, so we are reviewing the metro procurement closely to ensure that we are adequately prepared to respond when that does come out.

Legislative Update:

Eric included out a handout on 2021 Association of Minnesota Counties (AMC) Legislative Priorities/Updates in the agenda packet. Legislature just went back into session virtually.

Association of Minnesota Counties (AMC) Legislative Priorities highlighting a couple bills, program flexibility was granted via waivers by Department of Human Services in 2020 allowing county staff to continue to provide services during the ongoing pandemic and those waivers have been extended into 2021. Other Itasca priorities are COVID 19 response using Public Health to get out the vaccine, reallocating the funding formula for the mental health, cost shift to the county for civil commitments to a regional treatment center, continuing to advocate for clarification that allows counties to continue to choose County Based purchasing programs such as IMCare and lastly, substance use disorder reform and the DHS financial errors. These have been shared with the county administrator and the county board has met with local legislators to discuss their topics.

Ben informed they held their Legislative luncheon, and have prepped the legislators with the priorities, including what Eric covered. They are meeting with lobbyists and getting ready to start lobbying efforts for the upcoming session.

Budget: Eric recapped the last budget session, and the county did set a levy of 0% for 2021. As for Health and Human Services, we are spending \$240,000 out of reserves but the countywide levy is 0%. The board did allow the hiring of 2 new public health

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staff. The Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES) money that came into the county allowed for the purchase of a new ambulance for Bigfork, a Public Health van to help with vaccinations/clinics, a new Public Health refrigerator to house the vaccine, and to buy vaccine supplies and about \$2.0 million went back into businesses within the community through a grant program ran through the Itasca Economic Development Corporation (IEDC).

HHSAC Subcommittee Reports:

AMHAC: Dan Seward was not able to attend but had emailed an update. Eric shared that the Local Advisory has not been meeting due to the lack of interest in having zoom sessions. They plan to meet again when the YMCA opens to having public meetings at the center. They are currently conducting an electronic report card for the First Call for Help organization which is completely voluntary.

ICCOA:

Lloyd Adams stated the Committee on Aging hasn't met since last March. With regard to Tax Aid Program, they were shut down nationwide last March due to COVID. They are looking at doing taxes this year, but it will look different than years past. They are unable to use the space at airport due to renovations but have reached out to United Methodist Church for space. They will be emailing clients with instructions on what they need and then the client's information needs to be scanned in and sent to preparers. They will have 2 staff using scanners at United Methodist Church to assist clients with getting the necessary documents submitted in for the tax review. There will be 10-11 preparers working but only 2 will have contact with the public with scanning information.

Provider Updates:

Northland Counseling – Angie Barrato stated the agency is waiting to get their 24/7 staff vaccinated for COVID. They have the recovery center which is 24/7 with detox and 5 adult community residential settings. A lot of services are done via zoom and are trying to limit face to face where they can. Keisler Clubhouse is reopened so folks are able to get back into those social setting groups. Northland also received a grant through SAMHSA (Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services) to transition over to be a CCBHC (Certified Community Behavioral Health Center), it's a national movement of community mental health clinics joining and amping up their treatment of an individual of all different levels. Northland received \$2 million a year for the next 2 years, a lot of those funds go to hiring additional physicians within the agency and care coordinators.

Elder Circle – Renee stated the grocery shopping and delivery program is still operating. They also developed a pharmacy delivery program that is an opportunity if

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somebody cannot get out of their home to get their prescription or a prescription that cannot be mailed to them, we are typically able to get it to them within 24-48 hours. We've transitioned classes over to virtual to include Walk with Ease, Taiichi, and Living Well with Chronic Disease. Starting this month, we are partnering with the Reif and offering a monthly virtual Bingo session. ElderCircle received a 3-year grant from the Northland Foundation, and we have hired a resource navigator that will be working on a universal referral process for aging services. The Adult Day is being offered by doing a one on one service and also offering virtual group sessions. We have not opted to have additional multiple people in the center at this time until the vaccination, so we are hoping by the first of March we can increase our group sessions of our Adult Day Program. Renee also stated to Lloyd that ElderCircle may be able to help with some of the scanning of documents for the Tax Aid Program by getting a scanner in the Adult Living Center (ALC) and allow clients to come in and scan their own. Renee and Lloyd will work on this. Project Blue Light is coming up next week and ElderCircle is partnering with the food shelf by asking for donations and if you drop off a food donation for the food shelf, you will receive a blue light to be able to put on your home or business to help support front line workers, watch for flyers.

First Call for Help – Crystal stated they have been very busy at First Call, they started answering the National Suicide Prevention in July and that is going well but COVID is definitely having an impact on people's mental health. They are receiving a lot of calls regarding the COVID vaccination(s) and have been answering the Leech Lake Tribe vaccine list hotline and will continue with that hotline until the end of January. All programs are staying busy, they will not be increasing the workload with any new programs, but instead will be looking at sustainability and focus on retention of staff and making sure that our current programs are staying stable.

Other:

The next meeting is March 11, 2021.

Adjournment:

There being no further business to come before the Advisory Committee, a motion was made by Cheryl Lemler seconded by Lester Kachinske to adjourn the meeting at 1:23pm. Motion passed.