

MINUTES
HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES ADVISORY COMMITTEE (HHSAC)
Thursday, March 10, 2022
Virtual Teams Meeting / Itasca Resource Center / Room 122

Members Present: **Renee Bymark** **Crystal Terveer**
 Chris Jenkins **Dan Seward**
 Daniel Miesle **Lloyd Adams**
 Ben Denucci

Members Absent: **Lester Kachinske - E** **Dorothy Abrahamson**
 Cheryl Lemler **Brandi Worrath**
 Sarah Anderson - E **Angela Baratto - E**
 Dave Holmbeck - E **Craig Menozzi - E**

Others Present: **Eric Villeneuve** **Kelly Chandler**
 Brenda Oberg

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 2022, stating he would like to stepdown as the Chair. Eric stated Lester is not present today but did say he was willing to hold a chair next year. There being no other nominations, the group cast a unanimous ballot for Lester Kachinske for Chair and Lloyd Adams for Co-Chair. Motion carried.

Approval of November 4, 2021, Minutes:

A motion was made by Ben Denucci and seconded by Crystal Terveer to approve the November 4, 2021, minutes. Motion carried.

Additions/Corrections to Agenda:

There were no additions or corrections to the agenda.

Eric Villeneuve, Director:

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.

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Reappointments

Advisory Committee Members – Dave Holmbeck and Dan Miesle need to be reappointed to the committee.

A motion was made by Lloyd Adams and seconded by Renee Bymark to approve the re-appointments of Dave Holmbeck and Dan Miesle. Motion carried.

Public Health Update: Kelly Chandler, Public Health Division Manager, updated the group stating they are scaling back some of the work on Covid based on lower case rates. Our hospitals are better able to manage patients coming in. Public Health is working on completing their Community Health Assessment, this needs to be completed every five years. They are collecting data and working on their priorities for the upcoming year. Public Health's work and programming is driven to address these issues and the last two cycles have been substance abuse and mental health. We are learning the affects of covid on our community and youth and will work with our community partners to address those. Staff has been working on suicide prevention education and are giving a presentation at the Chamber luncheon this week. Public Health is continuing to work on opioid addiction, suicide prevention, mental health, vaping, and tobacco prevention. Question was raised regarding veterans and the suicide prevention presentation and Kelly noted that was added to their presentation and we will attach the slide to the minutes. A question was also asked pertaining to the need for a 4th Covid booster. Kelly stated it was dependent on your health status and should be discussed with your healthcare provider. There is more information in the following link: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/recommendations/immuno.html>.

IMCare Update:

Eric provided an update from Sarah, IMCare is currently working on submitting the request for proposal for their programs. They have submitted their senior population and are working on the children and family population right now.

Legislative Update:

Eric included out a handout on 2022 Minnesota Association of County Social Service Administrators (MACSSA) Legislative Update and Association of Minnesota Counties (AMC) Federal Update in the agenda packet.

Minnesota Association of County Social Service Administrators (MACSSA) Legislative Update highlighting a couple bills, the first is the news of a \$9 billion dollar state surplus. House file 3439 which would exempt a county from paying for the cost of care of an individual who no longer meets medical criteria to stay at the Anoka Metro Regional Treatment Center or a community behavior health hospital when the individual

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has been committed by the court as mentally ill and dangerous. Counties have been working on Senate File 3115 which aims to reduce child protection administrative paperwork for counties. The Senate Human Services Reform held an informational hearing on the closures of group homes and highlighted recent experience of 10 group home closures in Rochester, despite wage increases, bonus increases, sign-on bonuses, consolidating homes and staffing, and increasing resources in HR recruitment and retention, none of which made a difference to keep the homes open.

Association of Minnesota Counties (AMC) Federal Update outlining the Senate GOP tax proposal. The Senate will be proposing a first-tier income tax rate reduction (from 5.35% to 2.8%) as well as the elimination of all state taxes on social security income. Senate GOP members have repeatedly called to “send the surplus money back” and have differentiated their plans from Gov. Tim Walz’s tax relief proposals by stating that their proposals would enact broader and longer-term tax relief. Meanwhile, Senate Democrats have called the proposal “premature” and “reckless” citing that the cost of the proposals would likely extend far out into the futures and may be unwise given the unknowns surrounding the international economic fallout from Russia’s invasion of Ukraine. Certain House DFL members have tossed out a very early idea of enacting a “gas tax” holiday from Memorial Day through Labor Day, saving Minnesotans 28.5 cents per gallon during the temporary timeframe. It is unclear if this proposal has the full consensus of DFL leadership. Lastly, the updated February MB forecast is coming out soon and it will be interesting to note how the international economic uncertainty created by Russia’s invasion of Ukraine will affect the state’s current surplus.

In 1994, when the Moose Lake Regional Treatment Center closed, the state allocated \$2.7 million for the 11 Arrowhead counties to use for mental health services. Itasca County was allotted \$252,000 and used these funds for mental health, crisis response team, and case management. According to DHS these funds have sunset and DHS no longer has the ability to provide the separate allocation to these 11 Arrowhead counties, and as of 2023 they will be distributing them statewide. After the closure, the funds were to be used for mental health services and an infrastructure was to be built in that region, but that has not happened. Due to this potential loss of funding, legislation is being sought to keep these funds within the 11 counties. If these funds are eliminated, that is \$250,000 that Itasca County will lose, and these dollars directly go to Health and Human Services and our county board will have to look at how to replace those funds. Dan Miesle provided a motion for this committee to support the legislative action. Chris Jenkins seconded.

Budgets:

County Board set the 2022 levy with a 0% increase. Elections will be held this year for 3 county commissioners’ terms that will be up.

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HHSAC Subcommittee Reports:

AMHAC: Dan updated that they held their March meeting recently. They had two guest speakers, Peggy and Amber from IMCare discussing insurance coverage for transportation. Keisler Center has an art event being held where they are creating paintings and art and it is open to the public on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of the month through May. The committee decided to put an article in the local paper each month. Discussion was held on housing and pets and finding sitters for their pets.

ICCOA:

Renee stated the committee had met yesterday; this is the first time since the first of the year due to Covid. They plan to continue meeting monthly until next November. Lloyd updated on Tax Aid. They are not meeting in person this year but are doing it as a drop off at the United Methodist Church. The client drops off their materials, it is assigned to a tax preparer, and then the client is called back in to complete. Training for volunteers typically starts the end of December or first part of January. There is a one-week training, you are given practice problems, and then are assigned a mentor. You can visit www.irs.gov for the training.

Provider Updates:

Northland Counseling – Northland received a grant through SAMHSA (Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services) to transition over to be a CCBHC (Certified Community Behavioral Health Center), this grant is ending in April, but they are requesting an extension as they did not use all those funds. A CCHBC Certified Community Behavioral Health Center is a care coordination of services across mental health, substance abuse, and primary care. They are working to become state certified to operate as a State Certified CCHBC and this will be happening over the next few months. They are overwhelmed with the need for their services but are limited from a staffing perspective. Staffing continues to be a challenge but are continuing to work through it.

Elder Circle – Renee updated on tax aid stating they made the change at the last minute that they couldn't do anything in person which, they are working within those new system and are booked through April. The assisted transportation continues to see a large increase, up over 38% in miles that volunteers have driven. In 2021 over 79,000 miles were provided by volunteers for medical and essential rides. That's over 3000 hours of volunteer time and ElderCircle reimbursed a little over \$42,000 in mileage reimbursement for volunteers. These rides are throughout Itasca County and throughout Minnesota for adults who are 60+ and reside in Itasca County. We are

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looking for additional funding to help support that reimbursement funding. All About Aging is a web-based platform resource network that helps people find and connect with programs and services in the community. Providers can also send a secure referral as this is a HIPAA compliant platform. Also working on how to rebuild Senior Community Centers throughout Itasca County starting this spring, looking to revive these centers.

First Call for Help – Crystal updated they recently expanded services for the National Suicide Line for Minnesota, which is answered for 47 counties in Minnesota. They also dispatch 43 counties Crisis Response Teams (CRT) and continue to be very busy. They signed a contract for being backup to the National Suicide Line. This line will roll to First Call if it is unable to be answered by the 3 other hubs, leaving no call unanswered for this line. Their CRT team continues to be very busy; they have 3 veterans on their CRT team that specifically go to the homes of veterans. They've had a huge response to this program and are working with Luke St. Germain and the Veteran Intercept Program. Protected transportation is still going but are struggling to find drivers as they do need to be DOT certified. Also, a continual struggle finding staff for their other programs as well, looking for another 3-4 staff for the National Suicide Line.

Other:

The next meeting is May 12, 2022.

Adjournment:

There being no further business to come before the Advisory Committee, a motion was made by Renee Bymark seconded by Dan Miesle to adjourn the meeting at 1:06 pm. Motion passed.