



# Association of Minnesota Counties

## Health & Human Services Policy Committee

*Double Tree Hotel – Bloomington*

December 5, 2022

### DRAFT MINUTES

#### Members Present:

Karen Ahmann, Mahnommen County  
Richard Anderson, Beltrami County  
Nina Arneson, Goodhue County  
John Berends, Yellow Medicine County  
George 'Corky' Berg, Kandiyohi County  
David L. Borchert, Brown County  
Sharon Bring, Marshall County  
Toni Carter, Ramsey County  
Tarryl Clark, Stearns County  
Douglas Christopherson, Waseca County  
Marlys Dunne, Chisago County  
Jeanne Ennen, Stevens County  
Steven Flohrs, Martin County  
Lisa Fobbe, Sherburne County  
Theresa Gillie, Kittson County  
Bill Groskreutz, Faribault County  
Laurie Halverson, Dakota County  
Gary Hendrickx, Swift County  
Steve Heinen, Benton County  
Norman Holmen, Cottonwood County  
Troy Johnson, Grant County  
Cheryl Key, Wabasha County  
Sheila Kiscaden, Olmsted County

Greg Krueger, Steele County  
Heather Larson, Douglas County  
Joan Lee, Polk County  
Terry Lovgren, Pine County  
Daryl Lutherns, McLeod County  
Galen Malecha, Rice County  
Trisha MatasCastillo, Ramsey County  
Mandy Meisner, Anoka County  
Betty Murphy, Otter Tail County  
Seth Nelson, Pennington County  
Crystal Peterson, Mower County  
Rodney Peterson, Dodge County  
Thomas Proulx, Carlton County  
Jeff Reinert, Anoka County  
Cody Rogahn, Pope County  
Jim Salfer, Redwood County  
Greg Snow, Renville County  
Ginny Storlie, Cook County  
Sherri Thompson, Rock County  
Teresa Walter, Houston County  
Barbara Weckman Brekke, Scott County  
Dennis Welgraven, Murray County

**Guests/Staff:**

Liz Auch, Countryside Public Health  
Sara Benson, Renville County  
Robert Benson, Chisago County  
Wanda Berg, Fillmore County  
Simoine Bolin, Des Moines Valley HHS  
Laurie Bonds, Douglas County  
Barb Dahl, Scott County  
Jessica Erickson, Fillmore County  
Melissa Finnegan, Ramsey County  
Matt Freeman, MACSSA/AMC  
Janet Goligowski, Stearns County  
Steve Gottwalt, MN Association of Country  
Health Plans  
Cindy Grosklags, Renville County  
Tawn Hall, Nobles County  
Jane Hardwick, MN Prairie County Alliance  
Steve Hauswedell, Lincoln County  
Stacy Hennen, Western Prairie  
Melissa Huberty, Stearns County  
Chris Kujava, Marshall County  
Jody Lien, Otter Tail County  
Travis Leiviska, Aitkin County

Jennie Lippert, Kandiyohi County  
Jeff Marks, South Country Health Alliance  
Jackie Meier, Murray County  
Bob Meyer, Blue Earth County  
Linnea Mirsch, St. Louis County  
Rena Moran, Ramsey County  
Kareem Murphy, Hennepin County  
Suzanne Nerison, Freeborn County  
Jackie Och, Todd County  
Katelynn Ogunfolami, Hennepin  
Kari Oldfield-Tabbert, LPHA/AMC  
Heather Olson, Wadena County  
Deb Purfeest, Rice County  
Deb Sjostrom, Otter Tail County  
Liberty Sleiter, Stevens County  
Berit Spors, McLeod County  
Gary Sprynczynatyk, Blue Cross Blue Shield  
Angie Theis, MACSSA/AMC  
Matt Uderman, Carver County  
Brad Vold, Morrison County  
Beth Wilms, Southwest HHS

## Call to Order

Commissioner Tarryl Clark, Chair called the meeting to order at 8:05 a.m. Members recited the pledge of allegiance and then introduced themselves via Mentimeter. Chair Clark invited Commissioner-Elects to introduce themselves to the Committee.

## 2023 Legislative Session Preview and Election Recap

LPHA Director and AMC Public Health Policy Analyst Kari Oldfield-Tabbert provided a recap on results from the recent elections at the federal and state level and highlighted the new Minnesota Senate and House HHS Committee Chairs. Kari outlined items to consider for the upcoming legislative session including: almost one third of the Minnesota legislature will be new members so it will be important to reach out and build relationships, the first month of session will be taken up with committee/issue overviews for the new leadership and members, there is a significant budget surplus and the Governor's budget will be published in March 2023, questions about hybrid format continues but it is expected that most business will be in person with options for virtual testimony (which could be helpful for AMC), and to remember that commissioners can reach out to AMC staff and have them attend meetings. One member suggested that a "myth busters" sheet about Human Services be created to share with legislators and other members voiced support of this idea.

## Public Health and Human Services Policy Priorities

MACSSA Director and AMC Human Services Policy Analyst Matt Freeman presented on the Committee's policy priority actions and the impetus and criteria behind formulating priority actions. The priority actions of the HHS Committee are:

- *AMC supports a state investment in local public health to increase capacity to assure all people in Minnesota can expect a baseline of core services, such as public health emergency preparedness and response.*
- *AMC supports developing Minnesota's mental health and developmental disabilities continuum of care so that it appropriately serves high needs and hard to serve individuals in communities throughout the state by investing in prevention, community-based services, placements for individuals with complex needs, and services for justice involved adults and children.* Mental health was a top priority last year for AMC and this year it showed up on all but one Region's top five priorities. This priority overlaps with the Public Safety Committee's work and it will be important to educate legislators on how investments in mental health can impact other departments.
- *AMC supports long term, sustainable, and equitable funding, particularly regarding Family First Prevention Services Act implementation and state resources invested in developing Family Resource Centers, to support whole family behavioral health and wellbeing.* There continue to be ongoing issues with implementing the Family First Act.
- *AMC supports major state investment in systems transformation and modernization – which must include appropriate county collaboration, oversight, and guidance – to achieve efficient service delivery in health and human services.* Technology investments will better serve providers and clients when county voices are present.

All four priorities were in the group of thirteen priorities passed by the AMC Board of Directors. AMC staff added another priority to the AMC priorities:

- *AMC staff proposes that the state legislature revise recently passed THC/edible legislation to address challenges in implementation and enforcement and ensure a strong regulatory framework.*

The General Government Committee had two priorities added to the AMC priority list around housing and mental health prioritization for duty disability. Two priorities around workforce and childcare and the Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA) were not added to the AMC priority list.

Commissioner Gary Hendrickx, Vice Chair, briefly updated the members on the status of county-based purchasing as DHS has announced that a minimum of two entities per county must carry out purchasing. The court ruled that DHS has a right to decide how to carry out services but the current county purchasing entities are appealing. DHS has reached out to the current entities to dialogue and see if there is a way to come together for all involved parties.

Members participated in a Mentimeter poll about what additional information they need to advocate for the HHS Committee priorities during session.

### **Update and Discussion with the Minnesota Departments of Health and Human Services**

Chair Clark facilitated a fireside chat with DHS Commissioner Jodi Harpstead and MDH Commissioner Jan Malcolm. Chair Clark asked the Commissioners to reflect on what ideal partnership between agencies and counties looks like, how we ensure we are serving Minnesotans, and opportunities and challenges facing the state, DHS, and MDH. Commissioner Harpstead highlighted the need to balance flexibility and responsiveness, to subtract the items/processes that aren't adding to the service of Minnesotans, and continuing to focus on how we can make Minnesota a place that serves its citizens and attracts a workforce. She outlined an ideal partnership as one where counties and the department consult early and is proud of the Human Service Leadership Forum. Some of the opportunities and challenges she saw are the continuing workforce crisis, behavioral health, unwinding when the federal public health emergency ends, the budget surplus and legislative prioritization, childcare (especially as major proposals last year did not pass), and systems transformation. Commissioner Malcolm emphasized that we are still living through the pandemic and that there are important lessons to learn from how the counties and state responded. She highlighted SCHSAC and hoped to co-create future systems with counties. In terms of serving Minnesotans, she wants to see a foundation of health services that can be accessed no matter where one lives across the state and that communities are a part of building the feedback process. Some of the opportunities and challenges she sees are the workforce crisis, hospital decompression and how we can redesign delivery care approaches, and the continuing need to collaboration across issues areas and departments.

### **Closing and Next Steps**

Vice Chair Hendrickx passed out notecards to participants and asked them to answer questions about the session. The Committee recognized retiring Commissioners.

Commissioner Lisa Fobbe, Sherburne County, made a motion to approve the minutes from September 15-16, 2022 and Commissioner Laurie Halverson, Dakota County, seconded the motion. *Motion carried.*

Commissioner Jeanne Ennen, Stevens County, motioned to adjourn the meeting and Commissioner Steve Heinen, Benton County, seconded the motion. *Motion carried.*

Chair Clark adjourned the meeting at 9:50 a.m.