Health and Human Services Policy Committee
Intercontinental Hotel, St. Paul
March 10, 2016

DRAFT MINUTES

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Kevin Adee, Koochiching
David Anderson, Roseau
John Berends, Yellow Medicine
Kip Bruender, Blue Earth
Robert Demuth, Nobles
Jeanne Ennen, Nobles
Steven Flohrs, Martin
Bill Groskruetz, Fairbault
Bobbie Harder, Sibley
Gary Haenrickx, Swift
Norman Holeman, Cottonwood
Nina Huntington, Steele
Larry Kittleson, Pope
Marie Kovcsi, Winona
John Lerrohl, Red Lake
Gerald Magnus, Murray
Susan Morris, Isanti
Todd Patzer, Lac Qui Parle
Ewald Petersen, Sherburne
Rodney Peterson, Dodge
Stephanie Podulke, Olmsted

GUESTS PRESENT:

Bobbie Vikerman, Fillmore
Malotte Backer, Clearwater
Nicole Names, Pope
Sherri Thompson, Rock
Karen Moritz, Brown
Sam Salfer, Redwood
Patrick Bruflont, Chippewa
Lisa Rocer, Mower
Dan Silverston, Cook
Tom Adkons, Washington
Sharon Brig, Marshall
Laurie Aikin
Liberty Sleiter, Stearns
Nick Nichols, Polk
Leota Lind, South Country

Genny Reynolds, Mille Lacs
Todd Schneeberger, Grant
Rosemary Schultz, Jackson
Richard Seeboth, Brown
Rhonda Sivarajah, Anoka
Donald Skarie, Becker
Daniel Wildermuth, Pipestone
Liz Workman, Dakota
I. CALL TO ORDER
Chair Commissioner Will Purvis, Blue Earth County called the joint meeting of the Public Safety and Health and Human Services Committee meeting to order Members said the Pledge of Allegiance.

II. AMC Updates on Legislative Priorities
AMC staff, Ryan Erdman, Public Safety, Matt Hilgart, General Government, Ben Baglio, AMC, and Brian McDaniel, AMC Lobbyist (filling in for Jennifer Berquam, Environment and Natural Resources) Emily Pugh, Transportation, and Rochelle Westlund Health and Human Services updates members in a round robin regarding the status of AMC's top legislative priorities.

III. Mental Health Services in Jails – Report of the Office of the Legislative Auditor
The Office of the Legislative Auditor presented to the joint committees of the Health and Human Services Policy and Public Safety Policy on their newly released report on mental health services in jails. The report indicated support of counties for wanting to provide a continuum of mental health services for clients while they are incarcerated, but also addressed the costs associated with proving such care. There was discussion on prevention measures, and crisis intervention to reduce the number of incarcerated individuals with mental illness. A copy of the report can be found HERE.

IV. Legislative Update from House Health and Human Services Finance Chair, Matt Dean
The HHS policy committee continued with Chair of the HHS finance committee in the house Matt Dean. Chair Dean began with discussion on MNsure. The chair’s message to counties was thank you and I am sorry. He thanked counties for the additional work their staff has been doing to enroll clients and work to ensure work is getting done in a timely and efficient matter. And I am sorry- rep Dean has been on a statewide tour seeing how counties are working to determine eligibility. He was shocked by the inadequacy of the current technology systems, still operating on dos. He remained committed to working with counties to address how to better move eligibility systems forward.

V. Update from the Child Protection Legislative Oversight Committee
Sen. Sheran spoke on the importance of this committee to keep children safe. Focusing on the importance of counties to be creative and work collaboratively to meet the needs of Minnesota’s most vulnerable children. For the legislative session she will be sponsoring a bill that will increase payment to foster families, and is looking at child care assistance for families.

Rep. Kresha spoke about the need for a change in the system that creates a model that improves the child removal process for better outcomes for children. Also addressed the 24/7 rule that requires a 24/7 response, asked counties to be creative so if a call comes in after hours that there is a system in place to have a social worker on call so thy children do not have to wait until Monday for resolution.

Both Rep. Kresha and Sen. Sheran have bills that will continue to the work of the legislative oversight committee into the future.
VI. Proposal on Restructuring the Department of Human Services (DHS)
House Minority Leader- Rep. Paul Thissen
Minority Leader Thissen spoke to the committee detailing his proposal to create multiple departments out of DHS. Counties expressed concerns over services and departments remaining in silos- as the bill would create 5 additional departments out of DHS. Minority Leader Thissen remained committed to working with counties and other partners to address concerns and work to create a department that was responsive, and equip to meet the needs of people they serve and the partners with whom they work.

VII. Affiliate Updates
Nicole Names, Pope County, MACSSA
Lorna Schmidt, LPHA
Our affiliates MACSSA and LPHA updated the group on legislative priorities of their organizations including:
- Increasing the Local Public Health Block Grant
- Child protection and foster care
- The Anoka Medical Regional Treatment Center cost share
- SHIP funding; and
- Increasing MA reimbursement for home visiting

VIII. Approval of Minutes
Commissioner Norman Holeman of Cottonwood County, moved for the approval of the minutes from the December 2015 meeting, the motion was seconded by Rosemary Schultz of Jackson County. The motion carried.

IX. Adjourn
Commissioner Susan Morris, Isanti County moved that the meeting be adjourned, the motion was seconded by Commissioner Rhonda Sivarajah, Anoka County. The motion carried. Health and Human Services Chair, Commissioner Nina Huntington adjourned the meeting.