



# Municipality of Anchorage

Dave Bronson, Mayor

## Health and Human Services Commission

**SUMMARY MEETING MINUTES ~ November 8, 2023**

**5:30 p.m. – Hybrid Meeting**

### **Attendance:**

**Commissioners present:** Gabe Garcia, Chair; Donna Mears, Matt Heilala, Tori Dallas, Andrea Mocerì

**Commissioners absent:** Matthew Thomas, Shawn Degler, Benjamin Mischler

**Staff:** Judy Atkins, Administrative Support, Kimberly Rash, Acting Director, Dr. Michael Savitt, Chief Medical Officer

### **Call to Order**

Chair Garcia called the meeting to order at **5:36** p.m. with a quorum.

### **Roll Call – Introductions | Welcome Commissioners**

Commissioners introduced themselves and welcomed the Incoming commissioners, Andrea Mocerì and Benjamin Mischer (unable to attend).

### **Approval of Agenda**

Chair called for approval of the agenda as presented. Motion to approve by Commissioner Mears; seconded by Commissioner Heilala. **Hearing no objection, the motion passed.**

### **Approval of Minutes**

Move to approve the July 19, 2023 minutes as presented by Commissioner Mears; seconded by Commissioner Heilala. **Hearing no objection, the motion passed.**

### **Presentation**

None scheduled.

### **Public Comment**

### **AHD Staff Report – Kimberly Rash, Acting Director**

Acting Director Rash provided highlights and statistics for September AHD programs, taken from the current Assembly Health Policy Committee Report. Staff vacancies stand at 21%; recruitment is ongoing. As of October 1, Sala LLC is the new security company working with the Safety Center and Patrol, responding, and providing individuals safe shelter when incapacitated. Over 1,000 calls were received in September. The Air Quality

Awareness grant secured advertising for the Plug @ 20 program. WIC has 3,793 participants; one Breastfeeding Peer Counselor provides support to 147 currently enrolled. Details of how the Alcohol Tax grants have been used are in the report which will be sent to the Commissioners. Community Health Nursing tracked 3 pathogen cases, provided 137 routine vaccines and treated 10 clients with active TB. The Sexual Health Clinic reached 151 clients through the Express Clinic; 860 Sti tests were performed with 26 positive cases. 29 Naloxone kits were distributed; 6,100 condoms were distributed. The Teen Unintended Pregnancy Prevention program spoke with 20 teens, educating on sexual health and relationships. Questions were asked about the Point in Time count which were referred to the Anchorage Coalition to End Homelessness. Dr. Savitt expressed his concern about the alarming increase of STI's in Alaska and throughout the country. He also commented about the rise in TB and difficulty in diagnosing early. He also provided information about the Senior Health Fair, upcoming on November 16 and sponsored by the department.

### **Continuing Business**

Commission Retreat. A commission retreat will be held on Saturday, December 2, 2023, from 8am-11am in the 4<sup>th</sup> floor conference room, AHD. Chair Garcia has reviewed the bylaws and what commissioners are expected to do in their volunteer position. He hopes all can work together to address items.

Identify action items for HHSC. Commission hopes to identify action items at the retreat.

Committees. This discussion will be held at the retreat.

Term expirations 10/14/2023. Commissioners whose terms are expiring are Donna Mears and Gabe Garcia who have submitted their applications. Gerry York and Stephanie Berglund have resigned. Additionally, Shawn Degler is moving out of state and will resign.

Board member recruitment. Two vacancies at this time.

Election of Vice Chair. Chair Garcia indicated now is the time to elect a Vice Chair.

**Commissioner Mears nominated Commissioner Heilala for Co-Chair, seconded by Commissioner Mocerri. Commissioner Heilala agreed to accept the nomination and was elected by a unanimous vote.**

### **New Business**

### **Commissioner Comments**

### **Next Meeting**

Motion to adjourn at 6:20 pm by Commissioner Mears; seconded by Commissioner Heilala.  
**Hearing no objections, the meeting adjourned;** the next meeting will be held Wednesday, January 10, 2024