



Municipality of Anchorage

Dave Bronson, Mayor

Health and Human Services Commission

SUMMARY MEETING MINUTES ~ March 8, 2023

5:30 p.m. – Teams Meeting

Attendance:

Commissioners present: Gerry York (Chair), Gabe Garcia (Vice-Chair), Shawn Degler, Matthew Thomas

Commissioners absent: Sarah Slater (U), Donna Mears (U), Stephanie Berglund (E)

Staff: Judy Atkins, Administrative Support, Kimberly Rash, Acting Director

Call to Order

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

Roll Call - Introductions

Approval of Agenda

Chair called for approval of the agenda as presented. Motion to approve by Commissioner Degler, seconded by Commissioner Thomas. **Hearing no objections, motion passed.**

Approval of Minutes

Move to approve the January 11, 2023 minutes as presented by Commissioner Thomas; seconded by Commissioner Garcia. **Hearing no objection, the motion passed.**

Presentation

None scheduled. Commissioners discussed the importance of presentations and as such were asked to identify possible contacts for the future.

Public Comment

AHD Staff Report – Kimberly Rash, Acting Director

Acting Director Rash commented on the ongoing work to establish the Opioid Task Force. Which is now paused pending receipt of the settlement funding. AHD is working with OMB and Finance to move funds. AHD has formed a Taskforce for Access for Care 65 and older which met last week to discuss those affected by the closure of the senior care clinic at Alaska Regional Hospital. Led by Dr. Savitt, the next meeting will be held in couple of weeks, volunteers have been working on a communications plan. Director Rash provided statistics on client services for the Safety Center, Environmental Health, WIC and the

Community Health Nursing Programs. Health Policy Committee Report to be forwarded to the Commissioners.

Continuing Business

Identify action items for HHSC. Discussions are needed to identify action items.

Committees. Once active, the committees have dissolved and need to be pulled back into action.

Board member recruitment. Commissioner Thomas' application has been received by the mayor's office. Two vacancies currently.

New Business

Commission Retreat. The last planning session, held in July 2022 was a Teams meeting. Discussion on meeting in person, perhaps on a different day and time. Chair York will draft proposed dates/times and communicate via email with the group. Suggested that the planning session be completed prior to the May 10 meeting. Commissioner Degler suggested taking a look at the actions taken in Anchorage during the recent pandemic in regard to masking's and lockdowns, reassess and look at how it affected the citizens. Then make recommendations as to how this can be handled better in the future. Commissioner Thomas spoke about the mental health crisis. Information to be passed on regarding the Providence Crisis Stabilization Center which will help curb visits to the ER, keep people out of jail, etc. Ms. Rash will provide the PowerPoint presentation.

Commissioner Comments

For consideration: Vice Chair Mears commented that she appreciates the desire for the Commission to hold the meeting in person however we should consider making it a Teams meeting only.

Next Meeting

Motion to adjourn at 6:10 pm by Commissioner Degler; seconded by Commissioner Thomas. Hearing no objections, the meeting adjourned; the next meeting will be held Wednesday, May 10, 2023.