



# Municipality of Anchorage

Ethan Berkowitz, Mayor

## Health and Human Services Commission

**MEETING MINUTES ~ OCTOBER 11, 2017**  
**5:30 p.m. – 825 L Street, Ste 423**

### **Attendance**

**Commissioners present:** Donna Mears, Chair, Gabe Garcia, Matthew Thomas (telephonic) Teresa Bormann, Gary Ferguson, Laura Hudson

**Commissioners absent:** Stephanie Berglund (excused)

**Guests:** Petra Davis and Matt Allen with Four A's

**Staff:** Melinda Freemon, Steve Ashman, Shannon Kuhn, Willy Mamtchueng, Drew Shannon, Judy Atkins

### **Call to Order**

Chair Mears called the meeting to order at 5:35 p.m. with a quorum and welcomed all to the meeting.

### **Roll Call – Introductions**

Commissioners, staff and guests introduced themselves.

### **Approval of Agenda**

Chair Mears called for approval of the Agenda as presented. Motion to approve: Commissioner Garcia; 2<sup>nd</sup> by Commissioner Hudson. ***Motion passed.***

### **Approval of Minutes**

Chair Mears called for objections to approval of the April 12, 2017 minutes as presented. Motion to approve with a change to the spelling of the name "Mjos": Commissioner Ferguson; 2<sup>nd</sup> by Commissioner Thomas. ***Motion passed.***

### **Presentations**

Update on the TB Sweeps at Brother Francis Shelter. Willy Mamtchueng, Asst. Supervisor, Clinical Services provided information and statistics. TB sweeps are now called Wellness Sweeps as the staff does much more than TB i.e. immunizations, flu shots, HIV screenings. Controlling TB is a lot of work and requires lots of manpower; it is much harder to follow up if a person is homeless. Although flu vaccine was not offered, Providence has donated flu vaccine and will offer a week

long clinic. Test results reported 1 positive TB case which was retested to rule if the disease was active; everything came out negative and not contagious.

Update on Mumps outbreak in Anchorage. Drew Shannon, Nurse Supervisor, Clinical Services provided information on the current mumps outbreak in the city. There are over 400 cases in Hawaii and 20 confirmed cases in Anchorage. Most cases are young adults with the youngest being 10 and the oldest being 68. One of the challenges is the availability of vaccine records and difficulty with education and outreach. DHHS is working closely with state epidemiology (DHSS). DHHS staff have provided outreach by providing information at church rallies and offering vaccines. Additionally flyers have been distributed and community outreach continues to different venues.

DHHS Budget update. Melinda Freemon reported that planning for the 2018 budget continues; DHHS was tasked with a 10% budget cut, certainly a significant figure. She advocated that the Health department is a part of public safety as well; ultimately it was decided that DHHS would not receive any cuts at this time, one of only four departments not receiving a proposed cut. SAP went live in mid-September with all fiscal processes online now. There will be a learning curve.

## **Old Business**

Air Quality Update. Changes were started in April 2016 and are now ready to move to the Assembly in the next few weeks. Most changes are technical housekeeping changes, updating terminology and new opacity requirements for wood stoves and fireplaces.

Food Code update. As the updating process continues, outreach to our partners in the food industry, food cards, cottage food vendors, there have been comments to the proposed changes. Highlights include eliminating bare hand contact for garnishes and drinks, allowing wild game donations to institutions or non-profits and changes in the cottage food requirements. Changes are going to the Assembly in the next several weeks.

Resolution – Homeless Medical Outreach Pilot Program. This program supports reaching out to homeless individuals providing limited medical services and referrals. A motion was made by Commissioner Garcia to provide a resolution supporting the project, seconded by Commissioner Thomas. ***Motion passed.***

Resolution – Support of the Tudor & Downtown Development to include a new building for DHHS. Update on the DHHS building project. Following a brief report a motion as made to provide a resolution supporting the project by Commissioner Thomas, seconded by Commissioner Garcia. ***Motion passed.***

Commission member-term Expirations. Jason Bockenstedt is the new deputy chief of staff handling the Boards and Commissions. No reports on applications or appointments at this time.

“Let’s Move” transition. Donna Mears. In remembering the Mayor’s task force on obesity from 10 years ago the question remains... what’s next? Commissioner

Hudson is interested in the subject too and would like to be involved. Chair Mears reported interest by Felix Rivera, Assemblyman, as well.

### **New Business**

Alaskan Aids Assistance Assn. (4As). Petra Davis and Matt Allen with Four A's provided a PowerPoint with an overview educating on this epidemic. Recognized as a significant public health problem, they are looking for additional partnerships. The best practice is to provide individuals with unlimited syringes, a mobile exchange with a wide range of hours. Funding is a huge restriction as it costs \$8,000 monthly to run the program. Motion to provide resolution in support of the 4A's Syringe Services Program, Commissioner Garcia, seconded Commissioner Thomas. ***Motion passed.***

DHHS Strategic Plan 2018-2025. All division will conduct SWAT analysis for their programs. The supervisors are moving forward to develop the plan of action which will meet expectations and aspirations, building on what the staff believes we should be doing. The final draft is due in December and will be provided to commissioners upon completion.

LDGTQ Business Project. Commissioner Thomas indicated that colleagues have approached him to be involved in LGBTQ and he was tasked to come up with a project. Working with the idea that teens identifying with LGBTQ don't feel safe in our city; places should be identified. One idea was an emblem to be placed in the window of a business so people would know that the business supports LGBTQ. Commissioner Mears suggested the "Welcoming Anchorage" program and that he approach the Mayor's office. Matthew will provide more information at the next meeting.

### **Adjournment**

Move to adjourn, Commissioner Ferguson; 2<sup>nd</sup> by Commissioner Hudson. Meeting adjourned at 7:05 p.m.

### **Next Meeting**

The next scheduled meeting will be held Wednesday, January 10, 2018, DHHS conference room 423.