



Municipality of Anchorage

Dave Bronson, Mayor

Health and Human Services Commission

SUMMARY MEETING MINUTES ~ January 10, 2024

5:30 p.m. – Hybrid Meeting

Attendance:

Commissioners present: Gabe Garcia, Chair; Matt Heilala, Vice Chair, Tori Dallas, Ben Mischler, Donna Mears, Melissa Skarbek, Andrea Mocerri

Commissioners absent: Matthew Thomas

Staff: Judy Atkins, Administrative Support, Kimberly Rash, Acting Director, Dr. Michael Savitt, Robin Amadon, Jared Goecker

Call to Order

Chair Garcia called the meeting to order at **5:32** p.m. with a quorum.

Roll Call – Introductions | Welcome Commissioners

Approval of Agenda

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

Approval of Minutes

Move to approve the November 8, 2023 minutes as presented by Commissioner Mears; seconded by Commissioner Mischler. **Hearing no objection, the motion passed.**

Presentation

Jared Goecker, Deputy Director of the Human Resources spoke on hiring and retention. Employers across the state are struggling with not a lot of workforce but lots of demand in a very competitive job market. 2023 – over 803 applications at AHD for different divisions, of those 45% declined to interview, didn't show up or unable to reach for an interview. It's a very challenging process; they are working on contacting applicants sooner with success. After interviewing, 10% of employees declined the job, which could be for variety of reasons ie pay issues. They are using the advance step hire process. Retention is a muni wide problem. A exit survey system could be used in the future which would provide a baseline of data on why people are leaving. All problems are municipal wide, across the board. Ms. Rash provided overview of nurses' positions. Robin Amadon, a public health nurse provided her perspective regarding hiring and retention.

Public Comment

AHD Staff Report – Kimberly Rash, Acting Director

Acting Director Rash provided highlights and statistics for December AHD programs, taken from the current Assembly Health Policy Committee Report. Staff vacancies stand at 21.8% which is an improvement from last year which was 35% in January. Funds are allocated for continued resiliency training for staff to delve into what makes them stay and what is not working; how management can make changes. Additional training is provided for supervisors along with opportunities for staff to express their opinions. We continue to work on facility maintenance; WIC participants were 3,724; the fruit and vegetable giveaways encourage mothers and families to eat more; Anchorage Opioid Task Force continues to meet. Ms. Atkins will forward the December report.

Continuing Business

Commission Retreat Recap and Retreat. Thanks to those who attended and discussed the priorities of the Health Department. Future meetings will include presentations from scheduled speakers.

Term expirations/vacancies. Commissioners Garcia and Mears await reappointment; one vacancy currently.

New Business

Committees

Commissioner Comments

Commissioner Mears provided a brief recap on Alaska State House bills which may be of interest to the commission. She will provide a brief summary and send an update to the Commissioners.

Next Meeting

Motion to adjourn at 7:02 pm by Commissioner Mears; seconded by Commissioner Heilala. **Hearing no objections, the meeting adjourned;** the next meeting will be held Wednesday, March 13, 2024.