



Municipality of Anchorage

Ethan Berkowitz, Mayor

Health and Human Services Commission

MEETING MINUTES ~ February 27, 2019
5:30 p.m. – 825 L Street, Ste 423, Anchorage, AK

Attendance

Commissioners present: Donna Mears, Chair, Matthew Thomas, Laura Hudson Vice Chair, Fabrice Evengue, Kati Ward, Stephanie Berglund, Gabe Garcia

Commissioners absent: Teresa Bormann, Gary Ferguson

Staff: Natasha Pineda, Shannon Kuhn, Blanche Moreman

Call to Order

Chair Mears called the meeting to order at 5:32 p.m. with a quorum and welcomed all to the meeting.

Roll Call – Introductions

Approval of Agenda

Chair Mears called for approval of the Agenda as presented. Motion to approve by Commissioner Garcia; 2nd by Commissioner Hudson. Motion to accept the agenda as presented. ***Motion passed.***

Approval of Minutes

Chair Mears called for approval of the October 20, 2018 minutes as presented. The date for the next meeting was changed to January 9, 2019. Motion to approve as amended by Commissioner Garcia; 2nd by Commissioner Berglund. ***Motion passed.***

Director's Report

- The first floor Clinical Lobby has been repainted and a mural was added to two of the walls.
- Due to the Governor's budget there may be some things we may not be able to purchase due to the impact to the City. The SoA budget affects departments but also significantly affects our clients. Human services grants are cut 100%; public health nursing received 40% cuts to Medicaid. We are not sure of the impact on the ADRC. The ADVSAIP program was cut 100%.
- Division Manager, Blanche Moreman, has resigned; Christy Lawton is her replacement and will attend the next meeting. Bill Kays is the new Emergency Preparedness Supervisor. Christine Meier is the new WIC Supervisor. Meghan

McFarland is the Nurse Supervisor. Welcome our new staff as they come onboard.

- The name change to Anchorage Health Department was Assembly approved and became effective in December.
- AHD is working with Tommy O'Malley to get a Cemetery up and going in Girdwood. There have been meetings to review the plan. There are plans in the works for Eagle River to have their own cemetery also.
- Administration Division is working on the SoA budget impact; Emergency Preparedness has moved to this division; after action emergency operations meeting offer the opportunity to fix things and make sure we are prepared for any upcoming emergency.
- Human Services Division – Child Care Licensing has moved to this division.
- Public Health Division – Environmental Services has moved to this division. The new WIC breastfeeding tents are available to use during outreach. The new mini-WOW has arrived and is branded with the new logo – this will be used for outreach events.
- The Anchorage Health Department recently provided comments to the Climate Action Plan and how it will play a role relevant to public health.
- Homeless Initiative – the Anchorage Coalition to End Homelessness and the Mobile Intervention Team now have offices at AHD.
- The Health Policy Committee meets monthly and has many interesting topics.

Old Business

New Business

Draft Resolution-Alcohol Tax. Commissioner Ferguson made a motion to show commission support for the tax with a resolution from the Health Commission; seconded by Commissioner Berglund. The tax will help with topics like homelessness, new treatment centers, prevention. After much discussion, the ***Motion Passed.*** Chair Mears will draft this resolution.

Review Commission Bylaws/Operating Rules & Procedures. There are two versions and it is unclear if one was adopted over the other. Appropriate changes need to be made. There was discussion about getting rid of reports and doing more policy support; the guidelines should accurately reflect what the commission is doing. Commissioners Mears and Thomas will work on this project.

Meeting Dates. Commissioners are not interested in meeting more than quarterly but would come to special committee meetings on specific topics.

Planning Discussion 2019. There is interest in prioritizing issues addressed by the Health Commission to effectively progress. Is the commission interested in having a focus? Either narrow or broad. What are the big pressing issues? Do we need a retreat? We need to decide where the momentum is and where the commission can provide extra support. It was agreed to electronically set up a planning session for the end of March or first of April.

Public Comment

Laura Hudson reported that the APU Nursing Program has been approved to start their program again this fall.

Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 7:15 p.m.

Next Meeting

The next scheduled meeting will be held Wednesday, April 10, 2019, DHHS conference room 423 from 5:30-7:00 pm.