

THURSDAY, JANUARY 15, 2013

**APPROVED MINUTES OF THE
COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS WORK SESSION HELD**

**STATE OF MINNESOTA)
DODGE COUNTY)**

**FAIRVIEW CARE CENTER
DODGE CENTER, MN**

2013-01 Work Session

The Dodge County Commissioners met in a Work Session January 15, 2013, in the conference room at the Fairview Care Center, Dodge Center, MN at 10:00 a.m. CDT. Lyle Tjosaas opened the meeting at 10:00 a.m. CDT. Meeting Convened

The Chair acknowledged those present and established that there was a quorum: Those Present

Members present:	John Allen	District #1
	Lyle Tjosaas	District #2
	David Erickson	District #4
	Steven Gray	District #5
Members absent:	Rodney Peterson	District #3
Also present:	Jim Elmquist	County Administrator
	Jane Hardwick	Human Services Director
	Jim Schug	Project Manager

Human Services Director Jane Hardwick met with the Board to discuss the proposed Human Services Delivery Authority (SDA).

Human Services
Delivery Authority
Discussion

Ms. Hardwick introduced the newly hired Project Manager Jim Schug from Springsted Incorporated. Mr. Schug will be working in association with David Unmacht who is also from Springsted. Mr. Schug's background includes work as both a Human Services Director and County Administrator and his experience will be of great benefit to the formation of the SDA.

The Human Services Director gave an overview of how the SDA process began and noted that it was started in 2009. Governor Pawlenty had recommended 84 county Human Services agencies be combined into fifteen. Counties then worked with Legislature to enact alternative language enabling counties to become Human Services Delivery Authorities (SDA's), gain some flexibility in administering programs, and be held accountable to meet a set of performance outcomes. Southeast Minnesota Human Services Directors began exploring additional ways to collaborate/combine services across counties.

The Human Services Director explained why the SDA formation process began:

- Resources are out of alignment with demand and expectations
- Are challenged to keep up with complex program changes, especially in smaller counties
- Have strong desire to improve effectiveness for clients and communities, along with increased awareness of best practices

- Evolution of technology makes effective collaboration across distances more feasible and improves efficiencies
- Have successful multi-county collaborations in place (e.g., shared contract manager, family-group decision-making collaboration, adult mental health initiative).

Human Services
Delivery Authority
Discussion -
Continued

Human Services Directors started with service-by-service collaboration development and found that it was inefficient to do it one-by-one as it lacked overall strategy regarding (1) governance & accountability (2) financial responsibility (3) variation in employee compensation and (4) variation in technology.

At this point, Human Services Director's stepped back to assess whether they should continue with remodeling programs one by one or if they should design-build. They decided to design-build. Twelve counties worked with a consultant to put together an Operating Model and Business Plan with the assistance of a consultant by the name of Accenture. After several meetings in regards to financing and governance, County Boards from six counties opted out of the plan. This originated a scaled down group of six counties who began the implementation of a six county model. But prior to the structure and application of a business plan began, there was a conversation about the service level assumptions each county held. It was determined that the focus of the group would be a preventative "best practices" approach. At this point, Houston and Freeborn Counties dropped out and the four counties were left in agreement of the model's assumptions and moved forward. These counties are Steele, Dodge, Waseca, and Mower.

Due to the magnitude of the work, a Project Manager was hired to assist in the implementation plan.

Project Manager Jim Schug discussed what his duties would entail. Accenture would also be used once again to revise the twelve county business plan to a four county business plan.

The Dodge County commissioners voiced their appreciation for Ms. Hardwick's work on this project.

Commissioner Gray said he was excited for the project and thought it was the right direction for this to go.

Commissioner Allen had some questions in regards to what would happen on the personnel side.

Ms. Hardwick explained that while a merger wouldn't necessarily mean there would be a cut in jobs for the current staff, it could lead to a flattening of costs as caseloads continue to rise.

A question was raised as to whether or not Public Health would be brought into this planning.

Ms. Hardwick said not at this time. The Steering Committee felt that if Public Health was brought in during this stage, it would significantly delay the process for building the SDA and that wasn't a desired outcome.

The Chair adjourned the meeting at 11:15 a.m. CST.

Meeting Adjourned

ATTEST:

LYLE TJOSAAS
CHAIR, COUNTY BOARD

JIM ELMQUIST
CLERK

DATED: