



# Municipality of Anchorage

Suzanne LaFrance, Mayor

## Health and Human Services Commission

**SUMMARY MEETING MINUTES ~ July 10, 2024**

**5:30 p.m. – Hybrid Meeting**

### **Attendance:**

**Commissioners present:** Matt Heilala, Chair, Melissa Skarbek, Vice Chair, Andrea Mocerri, Donna Mears, John McCormick, Tori Dallas

**Commissioners absent:** Matthew Thomas, Ben Mishler

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

### **Call to Order**

Chair Heilala called the meeting to order at **5:33** p.m. with a quorum.

### **Roll Call**

### **Approval of Agenda**

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

### **Approval of Minutes**

**Move** to approve the March 13, 2024, minutes as presented by Commissioner Dallas; seconded by Commissioner Mocerri. **Hearing no objections, the motion passed.**

### **Public Comment**

### **AHD Staff Report – Kimberly Rash, Acting Director**

Acting Director Rash provided highlights and statistics for June 2024 AHD programs, taken from the current Assembly Health Policy Committee Report. Ms. Rash reported that the Chief Medical Officer, Dr. Michael Savitt, has retired and the new interim CMO will be. Dr. Levy who is with the fire department. Ms. Rash described how the clinic works, services provided, events, attended and population served. Outreaches create awareness of who we are and what we do; TUPP (Teen Unintended Pregnancy Program) awareness outreach goes to the schools educating our younger population on the department and possibly putting the seed in for a future career. Community grants offering different opportunities have gone out to many organizations. The staff vacancy rate is at 17% and will take a year or so to get down further. Leadership has been trying to manage burnout also.

## **Continuing Business**

**Commission Vacancies.** There is one open position, and all appointments are on hold until further notice.

**Vaccine Hesitancy.** Based on conversations and a passed motion in March, a public service announcement was drafted by the Chair, advocating for public health and addressing vaccine hesitancy. Public health is about having an open conversation about vaccines allowing parents to decide that vaccines are ok. Long eradicated diseases are returning which is being attributed to an unvaccinated population.

**Lead Testing Protocols.** Discussion regarding out to regain the community's trust in public health by reaching out to people to alleviate their fears. Chair volunteered to draft a statement to include community concerns. This statement will be sent to the mayor's office as a commission concern.

## **New Business**

Discussion on topics the commission would like to make a difference. The ongoing homeless position was brought to the table. Statistically, the Alaska Commission to End Homelessness (ACEH) is the main organization assisting in that respect and would have information to answer any questions. The commission agreed that a better understanding of the homeless population and the difficulty of dealing with people who do not have an address or phone was needed. The HHAND Commission (Housing, Homeless and Neighborhood Development) will meet on September 4 from 4:00-5:30. Chair Heilala plans to attend that meeting and invited other commissioners to do so as well.

## **Committees**

## **Commissioner Comments**

## **Next Meeting**

Motion to adjourn at 6:51 pm by Commissioner Mocerri; seconded by Commissioner Mears. **Hearing no objections, the meeting adjourned;** the next meeting will be held Wednesday, September 11, 2024.