

Attendees:

Members (marked box indicates Present):

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| ☐ Ann Gonderinger (Excused) | ☐ Jeanne Holland (Excused) |
| ☒ Bonita Bryant (Vice Chair) | ☒ Dr. Kim Tjaden |
| ☐ Emmanuel Ngabire | ☒ Marlene Kittock |
| ☐ Jacquelyn Bergo | ☒ Mona Volden |
| ☒ Jamie Stang | ☒ Toni Seroshek (Chair) |

HHS Staff Attendees:

Jon Young	Patty Malecek
Kai Sin	Sarah Grosshuesch
Laura Walter	Tina Prior
Megan Coleman	

Guests/Other:

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1. Call to Order—The meeting was called to order at 9:03 a.m. by Chair, Toni Seroshek.
 2. Introductions were made.
 3. Approval of the Agenda and the November minutes
 - a. Motion to approve Agenda and November minutes by Jamie Stang, second by Dr. Kim Tjaden.
 - b. Vote-All members approve of Agenda and November minutes.
 4. Presentation and Discussion Items
 - a. Healthy Aging—*Kai Sin*
 - The Healthy Aging initiative conducted focus groups in Wright and Sherburne Counties during August and September 2025. The purpose was to gather insights from older adults regarding their perceptions of aging, community resources, and barriers to accessing services. A total of 36 participants contributed their perspectives, providing valuable data to inform future programming and policy development. The majority of the participants (41.7%) were female, 27.8% were male and 30.6% preferred not to answer.
 - Key Themes Identified:
 - (a) Access to Services: Transportation barriers and limited awareness of programs.
 - (b) Social Connection: Loneliness and isolation; interest in community engagement.
 - (c) Healthcare Navigation: Difficulty understanding insurance and care options.
 - (d) Technology Barriers: Limited digital literacy affecting access to resources.
 - (e) Community Perceptions: Desire for independence and aging in place with dignity.
 - Recommendations:

- (a) Expand outreach and education about available aging services.
- (b) Develop transportation solutions for rural areas.
- (c) Increase social programming to reduce isolation.
- (d) Provide technology training for older adults.
- Next Steps:
 - Share findings with collaborating organizations.
 - Integrate feedback into Healthy Aging strategic plan.
 - Explore grant opportunities to address identified gaps.
- b. Radon Action Month—*Laura Walter*
 - January is Radon Action Month.
 - Radon Basics:
 - (a) Radon is a colorless, odorless gas that is produced from the natural decay of uranium and radium, found in rocks and soil.
 - (b) It enters the home through various pathways (sump basket, pores and cracks in concrete blocks or slabs, exposed soil such as a crawl space, mortar joints, ect.)
 - Public Health Impact of Radon:
 - (a) Radon gas decays into small radioactive particles that can damage lung tissue, overtime this damage can lead to lung cancer.
 - (b) It is estimated that 21,000 people die each year in the United States from lung cancer due to radon exposure.
 - (c) It is the number one cause of lung cancer for non-smokers and the second leading cause of lung cancer in smokers. Your risk for lung cancer increases with higher levels of radon and longer periods of exposure. If you smoke, the combined risk of smoking and radon exposure is much higher.
 - In Minnesota, 2 in 5 homes have high radon. In Wright County it is closer to 2 in 4 homes (47%).
 - Short-term test kits available for purchase at Wright County:
 - (a) Anyone can purchase a test kit for \$5 at Health & Human Services.
 - (b) Also available to purchase from the WOW van.
 - Additional Outreach:
 - (a) KRWC Spotlight this Wednesday with special guest Dan Tranter from MDH Indoor Air Unit
 - ◆ MDH PIO is listening in
 - (b) Facebook posts
 - (c) Integrated with Healthy Homes
 - (d) Radon Resources available at tabling events throughout the year
 - Changes at the State Level
 - (a) Reduction in test kit availability

- ◆ MDH requested that we order what we would use in 3 months and focus efforts during Radon Action Month
- ◆ Reordering is likely not available
- ◆ Ongoing deal with Aircheck allows direct ordering for \$13
- (b) Reduced advertising
 - ◆ Reduction in traditional forms of advertising
 - ◆ Focus is on streaming ads and social media
- Looking Forward
 - (a) Focus on barriers to testing and mitigation
 - (b) Common reasons for not wanting to test
 - ◆ Financial burden to mitigate if results are high
 - (i) We have had clients able to mitigate using the fix it up home loan.
 - ◆ If it is high, it might affect future home sales
 - (i) During property transfer testing history is required to be disclosed (2014)
 - ◆ Confusion around radon resistant construction
 - (i) Can lead to assumption there is no radon risk, or that home was tested
 - ◆ Renters do not have specific legislature relating to radon
 - (i) We have successfully helped clients advocate for mitigation in rentals after testing
- c. SHIP—*Megan Coleman*
 - To create healthier communities, we need to remove barriers to getting there by making changes in these key areas:
 - (a) Policy changes
 - (b) System changes
 - (c) Environmental changes
 - Here are the things we have worked on in the last grant cycle:
 - (a) Commercial Tobacco Point of Sale
 - (b) Asthma Program Support
 - (c) Breastfeeding in the Workplace
 - (d) Safe Routes to School
 - (e) SuperShelf
 - (f) Food Rx
 - (g) Park Planning
 - (h) Social Connection
 - (i) Trauma Informed Principles
 - (j) Improved Safety and Access for Active Transportation and Mobility
 - (k) Commercial Tobacco Free Youth

- 15 Community Partners
 - 95.6% Budget to SHIP Community Partners
 - \$31,461 In-Kind
 - \$44,600 Leveraged Funds
 - Our strategies were MN Eats, MN Moves, MN Breathes. Now this grant cycles we are shifting more to a location focus with Community, Schools, Health Care, Worksites, Child Care
 - One of our featured initiatives that was published in the Minnesota State Making It Better newsletter and it was on Baby Café as it approaches it's 10-Year milestone.
 - For SHIP 6, which is now, Wright County was awarded \$1.6 million for a 5 year cycle. We will be working on making a strategic plan on communication. It will focus on community engagement to promote partnership.
 - (a) Website Improvements
 - (b) Promoting our SHIP Partner Interest Form
5. New Business
- a. Bylaw Discussion
 - Review of Bylaws and of credentials by members and then will discuss at next Task Force meeting.
6. Old Business
- a. Special Election
 - Toni Seroshek nominated Bonita Bryant for Chair, Jamie Stang seconded that nomination.
 - Bonita Bryant nominated Toni Seroshek for Vice Chair, Jamie Stang seconded that nomination.
 - Bonita Bryant is now Chair and Toni Seroshek is Vice Chair.
7. Other
8. Agenda Items for the next meeting, February 9, 2026
- a. Sexual and Reproductive Health Services
 - b. Cannabis/Hemp Licensing and Compliance
 - c. Membership/Bylaw Discussion
9. Adjourn
- a. Motion to adjourn by Toni Seroshek, second by Dr. Kim Tjaden.
 - b. Adjourned at 10:10 a.m.

pl/sg