



Aitkin Health Services
Social Accountability Statement 2018

At Aitkin Health Services, we strive to make the town of Aitkin a great place to live. With our relationships in the community, we encourage participation in the lives of our residents through volunteering, partaking in social events and an active connection with those in our surrounding area.

Our Mission: We are committed to express *Christ's* message of love and hope by providing for health, residential, community, and allied services in a holistic, competent, and caring manner that recognizes the value and dignity in every human life.

St. Francis Health Services owns and operates Aitkin Health Services and is sponsored by the Catholic Diocese of St. Cloud. We are dedicated to promoting the Ethical and Religious Directive for Catholic Health Care services. These directives assist our facility in making decisions to provide the best care possible to each and every individual. We also live by the following core values and celebrate our staff for doing the same.

Core Values:	
Integrity	We faithfully adhere to high principles and professional standards.
Commitment	We dedicate ourselves to those we serve.
Respect	We value and treat each individual with compassion and dignity.
Excellence	We have the passion to do our best.
Service	We deliver what has not been done, before it is expected.
Stewardship	We wisely employ the talents, resources, and relationships entrusted to us.

Aitkin Health Services believes in a resident centered, hospitality care model. Because of this, we have programs that offer our residents increased flexibility in how their day is structured and how/when they receive care and services. We strive to enhance each individual's life with professional and caring services, in order to, help each resident achieve his or her highest potential.

An example of this commitment to excellence is the implementation of the “Nursing Facility Performance-Based Incentive Payment Program” (PIPP) grant awarded by the MN Department of Human Services (DHS). The funds of the grant were allocated for a project entitled: “Controlling Infection Challenges Creatively (CICC) Project”.

Although Aitkin Health Services already had policies and procedures in place to prevent infections, the grant allowed for thorough assessments and evaluations to further reduce the rate of infections. The facility implemented evidenced based practice guidelines to provide the safest and most effective care to those residents who make Aitkin Health Services their home. The infection prevention and control policy, systems, and environments of the care center were

positively affected. This included enhanced surveillance, accurately identifying infections, performing timely reporting, doing extensive investigations, advocating for proper treatment, reducing the overall rate of infection, and preventing the spread of communicable diseases.

St. Francis Health Services developed additional training protocols and resource materials for residents, family, nursing, and all other departments. The grant expanded the role of the infection control nurse, who received specialized training and certification. Additional training opportunities were made available to staff working in environmental, housekeeping, and dietary services as well.

The timeliness of this grant coincides with a national trend towards reducing infection and transmission rates within the healthcare industry, especially long term care facilities. Antibiotic Stewardship was a key component of the grant and resources, training, and guidance to Aitkin Health Services pertinent to antibiotic use was provided. The plan was to collaborate further with our healthcare partners, medical directors, attending physicians, and consultant pharmacists to assist in setting up standards of practice and guidelines to allow for the best outcomes for our residents needing care for infections.

In 2019 Aitkin Health Services will be implementing another Nursing Facility Performance-Based Incentive Payment Program” (PIPP) grant awarded by the MN Department of Human Services (DHS). The funds of the grant will be allocated for a project entitled: “Nutrition & Optimal Weight (NOW).” The overall goals are to see a reduction in the number of residents experiencing unexplained and undesired weight loss and to improve the overall nutrition and dining services in our care center. This will allow individuals receiving services to achieve optimal health, functioning, and wellbeing.

Providing Quality Care and Services for Older Adults

Aitkin Health Services has a capacity to serve 44 individuals, with about 85% from the Aitkin/Palisade/Crosby/McGregor/Tamarack/Deerwood areas. In a given year, over 105 individuals will benefit from our services. Many individuals use our services for recuperation from surgery and/or short-term rehab. Often, those individuals stay with us for one to three months.

Big Stone Therapy, our Contract Therapy Company, provides physical, occupational, and speech therapy for residents, along with outpatient services. These services aid in rehabilitation and provide opportunities to return to previous living environments or maintain previous functional status.

We are able to provide therapies for:

<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Orthopedic Injuries• Back and Neck Injuries• Amputations• Spinal Dysfunction• Chronic Pain	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Speech Disorders• Swallowing Disorders• Post-Surgical Conditions• Neurological Disorders• Stroke
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- Hip Fractures

- Outpatient Therapies

In addition to medical services, Aitkin Health Services offers a wide variety of opportunities for socialization within our community. Family and public participation is encouraged. Activities include:

- Live Music
- Bingo
- Word Puzzles
- Bible Studies
- Current Events
- Veteran's Day Service
- Offsite trips
- Movie Matinees
- Stations of the Cross
- Memory Games
- Religious Services
- Birthday party every month
- Special Parties
- Communion
- AM Exercise
- Special Meals
- Physical Games
- Resident Computer
- Memorial Day Service

Recognizing Spiritual Needs and Individuality

Upon admission, residents are assessed for their spiritual needs. Many of our local parishes and churches offer services within our facility. We have an on-call volunteer chaplain who provides visitation, memorial services and spiritual counseling. Area congregations that participate in our spiritual care include:

- Aitkin United Methodist and Pine Lake Chapel
- Glory Baptist
- Bethlehem Lutheran
- St. John's/Bethesda Lutheran
- Shepherd of the Lake Lutheran
- First Lutheran Church
- Bethel Lutheran Church
- Aitkin Community Church
- Immanuel Lutheran Church
- New Life/Missionary Alliance

Some of our services include:

Wednesday Services, Mass, Bible Studies, Devotionals, Communion, Hymn Sing A-longs

Providing Access to Educational Opportunities

Education is a high priority in health care and for Aitkin Health Services. Providing opportunities to further education and learn new information and skills is essential to providing quality, comprehensive, and holistic resident care.

Aitkin Health Services awards scholarship monies to assist employees in furthering their education. In past years, scholarships have been given for those obtaining a Licensed Practical Nursing degree, Registered Nursing degree and Nursing Assistant certification.

Additionally, Aitkin Health Services provides training programs each year to cover topics in:

- Infection Control

- Emergency Preparedness
- Abuse and neglect Prevention
- Proper Lifting Procedures
- Fire Safety
- Wound Care Management
- Corporate Compliance/Code of Ethics

Aitkin Health Services encourages others to consider careers in aging services. Aitkin Health Services attends the Aitkin County Commerce and Industry Show.

Helping Community Members in Need

In the past, Aitkin Health Services has given to the following community organizations:

- Aitkin County Relay for Life
- Food Shelf
- Alzheimer's Association
- Bi-Annually sponsoring the community meal in Aitkin, serving over 100 meals to community members in need

Aitkin Health Services provides Meals on Wheels to the senior population within the Aitkin area

Serving as Active Community Members

Aitkin Health Services supports many organizations within the community and is a member of the Aitkin Chamber of Commerce. Aitkin Health Services employees and the advisory committee are active members of the community. They affiliate with several organizations including the following:

- Aitkin Lion's Club
- Moose Lodge
- Aitkin Women of Today
- Aitkin American Legion
- Aitkin County CARE
- ANGELS LAH/BNP
- McGregor Lion's Club
- Aitkin Education Foundation

Volunteerism

Over the past year, volunteers have donated approximately 1,500 hours to the residents of Aitkin Health Services. Volunteers assist the facility with activities, special celebrations, setting hair, outside activities, one-on-one interaction with the residents and so much more!

Being a volunteer can be so enriching and allow for unforgettable moments. Whether working with a small group of residents or on a one-on-one basis, there are many opportunities available such as leading small group projects, visiting with residents, reading mail, sewing, baking, aroma therapy, or hand massage. There is always a way to allow our volunteers to utilize their interests in order to make special moments for our residents. All of our volunteer opportunities have flexible scheduling to meet our volunteer's lifestyle.

Promoting Economic Development

Aitkin Health Services purchases products and services with many local businesses. Last year, AHS purchased approximately \$70,000,000.00 in goods and services from the local businesses listed below.

- Aitkin Dairy
- Shopko
- Paulbeck's County Market
- MLEC
- Gravelle Heating and Plumbing
- Dairy Queen
- Rosallini's
- Family Dollar
- Ritter and Ritter Sewer
- Aitkin Flowers and Gifts
- Neighborhood National Bank
- Lammers Appliance Repair
- Message Media
- Aitkin Post Office
- Aitkin Unclaimed Freight
- Holiday Gas Station
- Garrison Disposal
- Hytinen Hardware Hank
- The Office Shop
- Thrifty White Drug
- Riggs Outdoors
- Ron Rietveld Powerwash
- Eric Koch Construction
- Arrowhead Transit
- Cabin Feber Wood Works LLC
- Aitkin American Legion
- Aitkin Medical Supply
- Cuyuna Regional Medical Center
- Ritter Snow Removal
- Stevo's Lawn Care
- Riverwood Healthcare Center
- Thelen Heating & Roofing
- Public Utilities
- Cedar Brook Lumber
- Boyd Electric
- Gobel Sewer Service

There are approximately 71 employees working for Aitkin Health Services. Each year, Aitkin Health Services pays approximately \$2,426,161.00 in wages and benefits to employees who work for our organization.

For More Information

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