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Meeker-McLeod-Sibley -

County opposes integration of community health service

The Sibley County Board of Commissioners unanimously passed a resolution opposing integration of Meeker-McLeod-Sibley Community Health Services.

The resolution was approved by the Commissioners Oct. 10.

In January 2015, the Meeker-McLeod-Sibley Community Health Board appointed an Integration Subcommittee to explore the issues involved with a potential of full integration of the three existing Public Health Departments that currently operate under delegation agreements from the Meeker-McLeod-Sibley Community Health Board. Sibley County Commissioners do not support integration of the three Public Health Departments into a single Public Health organization. Sibley County supports continuing the cooperative system currently in place under the delegation agreements and is supportive of updating the delegation agreements as require.

One year ago, Sibley County also passed a resolution opposing the proposed

integration of the three Public Health departments. The main objection Sibley County has to the plan is that Sibley County has already integrated its Public Health and Human Services Department.

The Community Health Services Board was scheduled to meet Thursday to make a decision on integration.

Administrator Roxy Traxler said she does not understand why the expense of McLeod County WIC is included when each county offers its own program. Sibley County pays for its own program.

Sibley County Commissioners decided to offer office space in the Extension/Veterans Service area to locate the five Community Health Services' employees at \$12 per square foot. Community Health Services has been asked to vacate space in McLeod County. Proposals have also been submitted from Hutchinson, Stewart, and Litchfield. If integration is approved, it is estimated there will be 50 Community Health Service employees.



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