

PUBLIC HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE
McHenry County Administration Building
667 Ware Road, Conference Room A
Woodstock IL 60098

MINUTES OF FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 9, 2007

Chairman Peschke called the meeting to order at 8:15a.m. The following Committee Members were present: Virginia Peschke; Mary McCann; James Heisler; Sandra Salgado; Anna May Miller; Daniel Ryan and Mary L. Donner. Also present: Kenneth D. Koehler, Chairman, County Board; Peter Austin, County Administrator; John Labaj, Deputy County Administrator; Pat McNulty and Fran Stanwood, Health Department; Mike Iwanicki, Veteran's Assistance Commission; Sandy Lewis, Mental Health; Bob Pierce and Ersel Schuster, Township Supervisor's; and the press.

Virginia Peschke, Chairman

Mary L. Donner	James Heisler
Mary T. McCann	Anna May Miller
Daniel Ryan	Sandra Salgado

MINUTES

Mr. Heisler made a motion, seconded by Ms. Donner to approve the Public Health & Human Services Committee minutes of October 12, 2007, as presented. The motion carried with all members present voting aye on a voice vote.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

PRESENTATION

Cook County Hospital Issues/Concerns – County Board Chairman Ken Koehler: Chairman Koehler joined committee members to address concerns over a request for reimbursements of public assistance funds spent by Cook County on McHenry County residents. Chairman Koehler noted that he does not know all of the facts or figures regarding the issues raised by Cook County. He informed committee members that he was approached during a Metro County meeting approximately 6 months ago regarding issues at Cook County Hospital and an attempt by Cook County to get reimbursed for public assistance funds spent on McHenry County residents. He stated that at that time he did not think McHenry County would or could be affected much by this issue. A meeting was held approximately 6 weeks ago, inviting County Board Chairman, to discuss this issue. He noted he was the only Chairman to attend the meeting. Because of funding issues surrounding Cook County and Cook County Hospital they are looking for outside counties to charge off on these charges. Chairman Koehler noted that the issue being, they don't know the amount charged for McHenry County Residents. They are only providing 10 months of data to base their reimbursement costs on. During 10 months, approximately 3,000 prescriptions were filled at a cost of \$18 each. This cost alone amounts to over \$53,000. We don't know if this cost is for 3,000 people or less people with multiple prescriptions. They will also be chasing in patient care funds of which they are stating they saw 54 county patients at a cost of \$915,000. They are also requesting reimbursements for out-patient care, of which they have no data. Cook County has requested the collar counties sign off on an agreement by November 15th, guaranteeing reimbursement for costs, or have Cook County refuse treatment and refer these individuals back to the area for treatment. Chairman Koehler noted that he and Mr. McNulty had a meeting with Family Health Partnership regarding why Cook County would be receiving McHenry County residents for treatment. They were informed that McHenry County is the only county in the state that does not have a FQHC (Family Quality Health Care) program to refer general assistance patients to. She stated there have been 3 or 4 pediatric heart patients referred to Cook County because these same services were not being offered in the area. Dr. Simon from Cook County stated that Cook County does not get adequate funding from the State to address their indigent patient needs. Representative Tryon believes this is a false statement and has stated that over \$100,000,000 is sent annually to Cook County to address these needs. The Federal representatives will be called to find out how much they send to Cook County as well. Chairman Koehler stated he questions whether Cook County can refuse these services or charge McHenry County for these costs. The States Attorney will need to check the legality of this process. Chairman Koehler noted that they are not talking about a large group of patients, but about patients that receive high cost treatment. It was stated that the Doctors do not have to offer "free" service, but, the hospitals do. Chairman Koehler noted that McHenry County needs to have a plan in place by December 1st to address these issues. As a county, do we have an obligation to pay for health care for those that request services they cannot afford to pay for? Committee members stated the County should not sign off on an agreement without having all the facts and questions answered. A legal opinion would be needed from the State's Attorney regarding the legality of Cook County to refuse these services. The question being, if Cook County is receiving both State and Federal funds, can they refuse treatment to individuals who do not reside in Cook County? Committee members noted that Chairman Koehler should inform Cook County that because of a lack of data, we are not in a position to sign on to their request. We cannot sign an agreement that does not exist. McHenry County also provides a lot of services to individuals who move into this area to get the services that our County has to offer. Is Cook County going to reimburse us for these service costs as well? It was suggested that two different Resolutions be prepared for presentation at a special meeting on the 20th for approval at the County Board meeting scheduled for the same day. Mr. McNulty informed committee members that if the Health Department would be required to handle case management services, additional staff and resources would be needed. It was noted that the State of Illinois needs to be made aware of these issues as well.

OLD BUSINESS

Open Burning Ordinance Committee members were provided a list of what area haulers are charging to remove yard waste. The Solid Waste Manager will be working on this issue for a meeting scheduled next Wednesday. The Health Department

Approved: 12/14/07

has received an oral commitment from the Fire Chiefs Association to support the no burning effort. Chief Tobias, the president of this association will address the County Board on this issue. Committee members questioned what the roll of the fire districts will be. Committee members were told it would be dependant on the district. They have raised concerns regarding how much they are expected to be involved as many of these agencies are very short staffed and would be unable to spend time coming to court to address these concerns. It was noted the fire districts would only become involved if it was a life safety issue. It was noted that this would not be a "ticketable" offense. The offender would be given a "notice to appear" to address these issues. Another meeting will be held on the 19th at which time these issues will be discussed. One committee member noted that Marengo Waste was getting out of the leaf hauling service. Mr. Labaj noted he would check into this issue. In order to obtain a County haulers license, they have to agree to pick up landscape waste. This is not an option. This will be brought back for additional discussion.

NEW BUSINESS

Housing Authority – Tenant Appointment: Committee members were informed that an application has not been completed by the tenant yet. This will be brought forward to a future meeting.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

None

REPORTS TO COMMITTEE

WIB: The board is discussing their legislative program. They are focusing on the needs of the "boot camp" programs. These programs identify what jobs are needed by the employers and then get people trained to address these needs. These programs have worked well in the County.

HRC: The next meeting has been scheduled for November 28th.

Housing Authority: The next meeting will be held on November 13th. New money has been identified for a new housing program. These funds will be coming from an increase in recording fees.

Board of Health: The Board of Health is working to address concerns seen from MIRSA. They will be working with the schools and healthcare providers on how to address these concerns. Materials are available on the web site for review as well.

Animal Control: Progress is being made at the facility. They are moving forward with the block walls, steels walls, plumbing and will be setting the roof top units in place in the near future.

Mental Health Board: The next meeting is scheduled for Monday at 7:00p.m. The Foundation is investigating how to get information to the returning Veteran's on what resources are available to them. The Human Resources Committee had a presentation by Mental Health outlining the distinction between the Mental Health Board and the McHenry County Board and the relationship between the two. They had put in supplemental requests that previously had been denied.

Noise Ordinance: None

VAC: Mr. Iwanicki informed committee members that the transportation services for veterans are reaching maximum capacity. They will be looking for solutions to this issue.

Senior Services Grant Commission: None

ADJOURNMENT

Noting no further business, Mr. Heisler made a motion, seconded by Ms. McCann to adjourn the meeting at 9:58 a.m. The motion carried with a unanimous voice vote.

RECOMMENDED FOR BOARD ACTION:

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