

**PUBLIC HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE**  
**McHenry County Government Center – Administration Building**  
**667 Ware Road – Conference Room A**  
**Woodstock, IL 60098**

MINUTES OF FRIDAY, JANUARY 6, 2012

Vice Chairman Salgado called the Public Health and Human Services Committee meeting to order at 8:15 a.m. The following members were present: Sandra Salgado; Mary Donner; Kathleen Bergan Schmidt; Donna Kurtz; and Anna May Miller. Virginia Peschke arrived at 8:38a.m. Randy Donley was absent. Also in attendance: Pat McNulty, Patty Nomm and Kristy Hecke, Health Department; John Labaj, Deputy County Administrator; Jeff Poynter, Workforce Investment Board; Julie Courtney, Workforce Network; and Mary McCann, County Board member.

	Virginia Peschke, Chairman	
Randy Donley		Mary L. Donner
Donna Kurtz		Anna May Miller
Sandra Salgado		Kathleen Bergan Schmidt

MINUTE APPROVAL:

Committee members reviewed the Public Health and Human Services Committee minutes of December 2, 2011. Ms. Schmidt made a motion, seconded by Ms. Kurtz recommending approval of the minutes of December 2, 2011, as submitted. The motion carried with all members present voting aye on a voice vote.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Ms. Kathy Reiland from Island Lake/McHenry area joined committee members to speak about the not for profit section of Animal Control. She stated that the Animal Control facility has been used as a drop off site for the collection of food for those that can't afford to pay for pet food for their animals. This program allows pets to remain in a home. This facility is centrally located for drop off and pick up of this food. She stated that she also donated a check to the Friends of Animal Control but has heard this check is being returned to her. She asked that the committee members look into this issue. Ms. Reiland was informed that Mr. McNulty would address this issue later on during the committee meeting.

PRESENTATIONS

None.

NEW BUSINESS

*Interviews – Senior Services Grant Commission:* Committee members interviewed Mr. Kevin Sarnwick for a possible reappointment to the Senior Services Grant Commission. Mr. Sarnwick's term expired October 1, 2011. Mr. Sarnwick would serve as a citizen at large member for the commission. Ms. Miller made a motion, seconded by Ms. Donner to recommend the appointment of Mr. Kevin Sarnwick to the Senior Services Grant Commission with a term to expire on October 1, 2013. The motion carried with all members present voting aye on a roll call vote (Donner, Kurtz, Miller, Schmidt, Salgado)

Committee members were informed that the McHenry County Housing Authority has recommended the reappointment of their representative, Mary Reid to the Senior Services Grant Commission. This term expired on October 1, 2011. Ms. Donner made a motion, seconded by Ms. Miller recommending the reappointment of Mary Reid to the Senior Services Grant Commission as a representative for the McHenry County Housing Authority with a term to expire October 1, 2013. The motion carried with all members present voting aye on a roll call vote. (Donner, Kurtz, Miller, Schmidt, Salgado)

Mr. Labaj informed committee members there are still three vacancies on this commission. One position is for a representative for the Township Trustees, and two positions for representation by a not-for-profit agency. He stated that various advertisements have been placed without success. He requested that the committee members get the word out that more applicants are needed for this commission. Mr. Joyce had to resign as he no longer works for a not for profit agency. Mr. Hatten resigned because of current commitments. Mr. Labaj requested that they get the word out to the not for profit groups in the County. Committee members requested that Mr. Labaj email them a sheet of responsibilities for this commission. Ms. Salgado noted that she would let Chairman Peschke know what is taking place on this issue.

Ms. Peschke arrived at 8:35a.m.

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*Resolution Authorizing Acceptance of a Modification to the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity Grant #11-681002 and Authorizing and Emergency Appropriation to the McHenry County Workforce Network FY2012 Budget:* Ms. Donner made a motion, seconded by Ms. Miller recommending approval of the above Resolution as presented. Ms. Courtney stated that during the allocation process, a portion of the funds are held back. This is the reallocation of these remaining funds. The motion carried with all members present voting aye on a roll call vote (Donner, Kurtz, Miller, Peschke, Schmidt, Salgado).

*Resolution Authorizing Acceptance of the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity Grant #11-653002:* Ms. Donner made a motion, seconded by Ms. Schmidt recommending approval of the above Resolution as presented. Ms. Courtney informed committee member that this grant pays for case management costs for the administration of the trade program. The funds received are based on the number of individuals being served. She stated that they typically receive funds to administer the program every four months. The motion carried with all members present voting aye on a roll call vote (Donner, Kurtz, Miller, Peschke, Schmidt, Salgado)

*Resolution Authorizing Acceptance of a Modification to the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity Grant #10-662002:* Ms. Kurtz made a motion, seconded by Ms. Donner recommending approval of the above Resolution as presented. Committee members were informed that these funds will be used for the payment processing for the trade grant program. This grant pays for the paperwork for the program. These funds are also received every four months. The motion carried with all members present voting aye on a roll call vote (Donner, Kurtz, Miller, Peschke, Schmidt, Salgado)

Committee members were provided with information regarding their training programs. The information included is the most popular programs and is being used as a marketing tool for the Workforce Network program. The list shows the type of occupations available to train for and what training has occurred over the past four years.

Mr. Poynter provided committee members with the latest labor report. The report was last updated June 30, 2010, which is the end of their fiscal year. \$2.9 million dollars were spent in adult program funds. This equated to having \$9.3 million dollars in wages being put back into the community. This amount does not include any benefits that may have been received. For every \$1 spent on services, \$3 went back into the community. 48% of their expenditures are used for training. These are funds that were put back into the community by individuals that have gone through a WIA program. Figures are not available for those that have obtained additional services at the facility.

Unemployment remains high though the report shows where jobs are being posted. The economy does not seem to be on the downward spiral that was seen in the past. They are now hearing about needs in the employment sector. Production job requests are now higher than requests for health care jobs. Employers are looking for skilled labor and they continue to look for individuals to sign up for the program for machinist. Production occupations are now increasing faster than healthcare. Ms. Kurtz noted that from an economic standpoint, business is driving the need for Workforce Network. They are creating a real economic value for the County.

Committee members were invited to attend the next WIB (Workforce Investment Board) meeting on January 18<sup>th</sup>. Our local legislators will be attending this meeting to discuss the labor issues. The WIB Board meetings are held every other month at 7:30a.m. in this building. The March WIB meeting will with the Department of Commerce and Equal Opportunity for those interested in attending.

Committee members were informed there is a good U-Tube video out there of a report by Diane Sawyer that shows that jobs are being outsourced out of the Country. The report states that they can't find the necessary labor pool here in the United States. It was stated that, yes there is a labor pool but they can't compete with the low labor costs in the other countries. One of the other issues is that previously every middle school offered wood shop or metal shop. Most of these types of classes are no longer being offered in the schools. Not every student is suited to trying to obtain a four year degree so these type of programs are needed. We need to increase awareness to these manufacturing jobs.

Ms. Donner stated that in other states she has seen where they encourage students to try programs other than going to college. Many schools need to retool their approach to these manufacturing careers.

Ms. Kurtz stated they are seeing changes to the global economy. The middle class in China is growing so it may not be as beneficial in the future to outsource these jobs to other countries. This opens up a lot of opportunity for our younger people.

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*RFP 11-50, Franchised Solid Waste Removal Program:* Mr. McNulty, Ms. Hecke and Ms. Nomm joined the committee members for a discussion regarding the franchised solid waste removal program. This is the culmination of a process that has been going on for a couple of years. The success of the current process has allowed the department to improve some of the services offered, as well as lower the costs for services. In areas where this service is currently offered it has reduced complaints, increased recycling rates, improved air quality and provided leaf pick up service. This has all been done by providing lower costs than what was previously paid in the past. Once this plan was in place they were approached by other subdivisions requesting the same service.

The department was approached by Fox Lake Vista area, Covered Bridge area and the Manor areas. The department contacted individuals and groups within each of these subdivisions and looked at the geography of each area to map out areas to find out if there was an interest for these services.

For each of the subdivisions they provided a summary of comments that were received. Meeting notices and bids were provided with the department open to solicit comments.

Most complaints revolved around loss of choice, additional government involvement and some felt there was not a competitive process.

Leaf removal options were included in the bids. Five bids from five vendors were received. This program would be for a three year contract. References and complaints for each vendor were reviewed. After review of the bids, Prairieland Disposal was recommended. This is a very active "green" vendor. They allow electronic drop off for no additional cost. This company has been in business for about eight years with MCCD being one of their current customers. Costs include landscape waste pick up and allow for bulk item pick up and recycling monthly. Overall the residents receive good service.

Most of the comments received were from residents that reside in the Covered Bridge and Fox Fire neighborhoods. One resident has requested that the Fox Fire neighborhood be removed from consideration. If this area is removed the vendor may elect to rebid the current proposal. Ms. Donner stated she would recuse herself from any vote since she lives in the Fox Fire neighborhood.

Ms. Bergan Schmidt stated that she spoke to one of the residents who complained of a lack of communication regarding the proposal. She was told there were no pluses to the program. Committee members were informed it is easier when a subdivision has a homeowners association in place for easier communication with the residents. Ms. Donner noted that the homeowners association in her neighborhood has been dissolved. She stated that when she received her letter, it did state that you could "opt" out of the program.

Committee members were informed that with the program in Wonder Lake they have an 80% participation rate. Committee members stated that maybe these subdivisions need to be informed of what alternatives would be available and to encourage dialogue on how to provide better information. Committee members voiced concern that they may eliminate or alter a program because of the complaints of just a few individuals. Complaints in the areas where contracts currently exist have decreased. They were reminded that they usually hear from those that have a complaint, not those that agree with an issue. Committee members were informed that notification letters were sent out to every household in each of the areas and very few responses were received. Ms. Kurtz made a motion, seconded by Ms. Miller to remove the Fox Fire Area from this proposal. Ms. Bergan-Schmidt questioned what would happen if this area is removed from the contract and the vendor agrees to keep the current pricing. She stated that this could result in the need to get new bids. Committee members questioned what happens if a resident "opts" out of the program? Ms. Miller stated that the residents have had ample opportunity to respond to these mailings. If the department does not hear from the residents we have to assume there aren't any objections and if the department can get a better price for these services for the residents we need to move forward. If the committee members feel they need more feedback then the department will need to go back to the subdivision to see if another "meeting" for the residents is needed. Ms. McCann stated that she hears concern with the constituents regarding "too much government involvement". She suggested that one additional attempt be made to send out postcards requesting a response from the residents regarding the proposals.

Mr. Labaj suggested that the department also reach out to the vendor at the same time to see if they would honor the pricing if the one area should be removed from the contract. Ms. Kurtz removed her motion with Ms. Miller removing her second. They stated this will allow time for the department to send out new postcards to the residents. It was suggested that information regarding possible price changes be included on the postcard so they are aware of the possible changes.

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Ms. Kurtz voiced concern that we are going through so much time and expense in order to appease a few people, though she stated she respects the committee's decision.

Ms. McCann stated that it is important that they clarify the reasons for providing these contracts. They will be receiving much more service for much less cost.

It was stated that this issue will be brought back to the February committee meeting for review. The County is trying to be as open and helpful as it can and unfortunately there are a few naysayers that seem to be affecting the contracts. They stated that it is interesting that we are going to let this subdivision affect the costs for their other neighbors. The contracts address their landscape waste pickup in addition to what is currently offered, for less cost. There will always be those that will say no.

Committee members again requested the department to reach out one more time to these residents with a request to return the cards with an answer whether they agree to these changes.

It was noted that a majority of the properties in the Fox Fire area have one acre lots. Not everyone in this area burns their leaves so the landscape pick up is a good incentive for this program.

### OLD BUSINESS

None.

### EXECUTIVE SESSION

None.

### REPORTS TO COMMITTEE

*Board of Health:* Committee members were reminded that they will be having a joint meeting with the Board of Health on Monday, January 23, 2012 at 7:00p.m. The meeting will be held in this facility.

Mr. McNulty joined the committee to provide information regarding the issue voiced in this morning's public comment session. He informed committee members that a couple of years ago the Animal Control Coalition was formed in order to bring the animal welfare groups in the County together. The 501c3 is a separate group.

The coalition helps individuals obtain food and litter for their animals so they are able to keep the animals in their homes. The Animal Control facility has been used as a drop off site for these items. For a time, this location became a site for pick up of these items as well, which became an issue. The food pantries already have a process to handle these donations so they will be providing these items to the food pantries for distribution. The Animal Control facility will still be a drop off site for the donations.

He stated that in regards to the check that was donated, it did not go to the 501c3 but instead to the Coalition, which cannot accept donations. Mr. McNulty stated that he would speak to Ms. Reiland after the committee meeting to address her concerns.

Ms. Peschke questioned if the committee could receive a report regarding the TNR (Trap, Neuter, and Release) program for the feral cat population in the County. Mr. McNulty stated that he is working with State's Attorney to make some changes within the ordinance on this issue. Getting data from the Animal Welfare Agencies has been very difficult. They are working to formulate a process that will include more meaningful data. The current program is not working like they thought it would. They are currently working through some changes that have been forwarded for legal review. The department receives very few complaints on these animals. If a complaint is received they trap and remove the animal to an acceptable location. He stated that he is not clear of the ability of the volunteers to get the information needed since feral cats have the ability to stay out of sight.

Committee members were informed that Pertussis continues to increase, though it has slowed some. They are up to 270 cases which is the largest outbreak the county has seen since records have been kept.

*Mental Health Board:* Committee members were reminded that the Mental Health Board is at the end of the Family Care project, though they are in the 7<sup>th</sup> year which is a no cost extension to the project. Ms. Lewis also informed the Board that the MHB is currently in discussion with the State Division of Mental Health towards a contract to support a statewide

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System of Care initiative that was funded. Todd Schroll, current Project Director of Family Care was written into the state proposal last year as the Project Director. The proposal was approved by SAMHSA in the Fall. They are working with the State to contract for up to 80% of his time and possibly act as the administrative liaison for the majority of funding, close to \$700,000. The state would provide an administrative fee to the MHB for this activity. However, we have some accounting/budgeting issues regarding this and will be meeting with the County's Auditor's office and Budget/ Finance following this meeting. She stated this is not similar to the previous grants which provided services to only our county, and therefore their Board is concerned about the ability to take this on as well as the impact on the county departments.

Also, as part of the Mental Health Board's continuing efforts to partner with organizations, a request to youth serving funded organizations has been released to determine interest in partnering for the administration of the MHB's AmeriCorps program effective January 2012.

The McHenry County Mental Health Board approved funding for FY12 last month, which represented an overall increase of 4% over last year. The allocations included some new programs aimed at increasing services at the schools. One example is Omni Youth Services who will be working with District 154 to increase outreach to Latino students and families and provide experiential programming.

As part of the MHB's contract obligations under State contracts, national accreditation is required. The MHB recently underwent a CARF survey (Council on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities) and the survey went extremely well. A final report will be released by CARF in 30-60 days. CARF also surveys other local providers, such as Pioneer Center for Human Services and Family Alliance.

The 377 Board will be hosting a meeting to educate the public and discuss how to get a possible referendum passed. The need in the community is obvious. Many meetings will be hosted within the new facility.

*Senior Services Grant Commission:* Committee members were reminded there are two vacancies on the commission for representation by the not for profit groups. Committee members agreed to help recruit for these vacancies.

*VAC:* The last executive board meeting was held last month. They have presented County Administration for the VAC's need for more space. The Veteran's Court will be started soon and with the service personnel returning to the United States there is a need for more space to service them, there are two different conferences being held in the Spring that Ms. Donner was asked to attend.

*Valley Hi Operating Board:* Ms. Bergan Schmidt informed committee members there weren't any meetings held recently because of the holidays. She stated she hopes the committee members saw the nice letter to the editor that was in the newspaper. The holiday meals were a great hit with the residents. They are starting to get nervous regarding the State funding.

*Human Service Advocates:* Ms. Peschke informed committee members that she spoke with Mr. Finzel of the Human Service Advocates. He informed her he would attend the meeting when/if something should come up. She stated she would have this group removed from the agenda.

*Housing Authority:* Ms. Kurtz stated that the Housing Authority met has some good news. They have implemented the neighborhood stabilization program (NSP). They also put together a proposal to place homeless women in permanent housing. They did not get this contract though they have made overtures to the contractor to help with management oversight for this program.

The reporting requirements for the Housing Authority have been put into place. Their ratios are out of sync with HUD for their expenses versus capitals. HUD had the Housing Authorities reserve taken away, which amounts to \$1 million dollars. She stated that their reports look like there are issues when there really isn't. The ratios are improving so they are moving to improve HUD's acceptance of these ratios. Through their current leadership and due diligence with their

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reporting, they are seeing improvements.

The Housing Authority had a discussion about a possible new facility. The facility is full though they decided to put this project on hold.

*Workforce Network/WIB:* Committee member were informed that the Youth WIB met in December. MCC will partner with the WIB for a youth training program. The Bill and Linda Gates Foundation has partnered with federal funding in order to help people start careers.

OTHER BUSINESS

None.

ADJOURNMENT:

Noting no further business, Ms. Donner made a motion, seconded by Ms. Miller to adjourn the meeting at 10:05 a.m. The motion carried with a unanimous voice vote of all members present.

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**RECOMMENDED FOR BOARD/COMMITTEE ACTION:**

- Appointment of Kevin Sarnwick and Mary Reid to the McHenry County Senior Services Grant Commission
- Resolution Authorizing Acceptance of a Modification to the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity Grant #11-681002 and Authorizing an Emergency Appropriation to the McHenry County Workforce Network FY2012 Budget
- Resolution Authorizing Acceptance of the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity Grant #11-653002
- Resolution Authorizing Acceptance of a Modification to the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity Grant #10-662002

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