

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

MINUTES OF TUESDAY, MARCH 10, 2010

Chairman Orphal called the meeting to order at 8:15 a.m. The following Committee Members were present: Lyn Orphal, Chairman; Mary Donner; Sandra Salgado; and Virginia Peschke. Randy Donley, Mary McCann and Anna May Miller were absent. Also present: Peter Austin, County Administrator; John Labaj, Deputy County Administrator; Marylou Ludicky and Pat McNulty, Health; interested public and the press.

Lyn Orphal, Chairman	
Mary L. Donner	Randy Donley
Mary T. McCann	Anna May Miller
Virginia Peschke	Sandra Salgado

MINUTES

Ms. Salgado made a motion, seconded by Ms. Peschke, to approve the minutes of February 16, 2010. The minutes were approved as presented with all members present voting aye on a voice vote.

Chairman Orphal noted that the interview for the appointment to the Housing Authority will be moved ahead of other business.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None

NEW BUSINESS

Interview for appointment to the Housing Authority – Kevin Russell: Committee members interviewed Mr. Kevin Russell for consideration for the appointment to the Housing Authority. This will be a five year term that will expire June 30, 2015. Committee members thanked Mr. Russell for attending today's meeting.

After discussion, Ms. Peschke made a motion, seconded by Ms. Donner to recommend the appointment of Mr. Kevin Russell to the Housing Authority with the term to expire June 30, 2015. The motion carried with all members present voting aye on a roll call vote (Donner, Salgado, Peschke, Orphal)

PRESENTATION: Ms. Marylou Ludicky from the Health Department joined committee members to provide a presentation on the County's HIV program. This is a small, but very important program within the Health Department. This same presentation was provided to the Board of Health during their previous meeting. Funding from the State is being drastically reduced. Ms. Ludicky stated that the primary goal of the program is to provide anonymous testing and education. 21% of those tested are unaware they are infected. This program has been part of this department since 1987. Deaths have dropped off because of better treatments being available. The educator is and must be certified by the State. They must develop risk reduction plans as well as provide a safe non-judgmental environment for these individuals. They help with referrals and notification of partners. 55% of the positive cases come from high risk heterosexuals. The educator holds programs on HIV education within the jail, Family Services, and the Advantage Group in Crystal Lake. She also holds some community education programs. There is a close connection of HIV to STD's, Hepatitis B & C and TB. Those that have gonorrhea or syphilis are more likely to get HIV. HIV infected individuals are more likely than uninfected people to develop TB as well. HIV infection is the strongest known risk factor for progressing to active TB disease. If a person comes in and shows they have TB they are requested to take a test for HIV as well. Some of the short term goals from the CDC for the HIV program include reduce new HIV infections by 10%, provide targeted testing to increase the number of persons who know their HIV status by 80% and increase by 50-65% the number of newly diagnosed HIV cases that are linked to appropriate care and treatment programs. Grant funding for this program for the past four years was \$30,000. This included the salary for the HIV educator. There will no longer be State support of this program reducing the grant amount to \$5,000. This is a very important program as McHenry County provides anonymous or confidential HIV testing, no others offer counseling for HIV risk factors and ways to decrease the risk, no other provider has direct links to AIDS Foundation of Chicago for referrals, treatment and follow-up and no other organizations offer education on Hepatitis B and C, STD's or TB to individuals, high risk groups or the general public. In January a letter was sent to the Governor from the Illinois Public Health Association and AIDS Foundation of Chicago regarding their response to the budget cuts. They stated that elimination of all state dollars for regional prevention programs puts Illinois in jeopardy of costly and tragic increase in HIV transmission. The elimination of community providers for HIV prevention services will be counterproductive in our fight against HIV and would impact those who are at most risk for infection. Committee members were told that education has helped keep the numbers low and they need the education component. They stated they get a lot of "bang for the buck" so it is imperative to keep this program going. Committee members were informed that they are working with staff to find funding sources in order to continue the program. The educator's need a high level of

knowledge and is required to obtain certification to run the program. Committee members thanked Ms. Ludicky for her presentation.

OLD BUSINESS

Center for Disease Control Letter on McCullom Lake (Continued discussion): Chairman Orphal questioned if committee members had any additional input on this issue. She noted that Mr. Donley requested this item placed on the agenda for continued discussion. Chairman Koehler is looking for direction on this issue as there is not too much that can be done as a County. He is looking into other areas to address these concerns. Committee members questioned how the County can obtain data from 50 years ago when there is no data available. Committee members questioned what the County's role should be in this issue since there is a legal case already going on. Committee members stated that this issue is a great education tool for the County and informing the public what the Health Department does. Committee members noted that there is a potential for clusters anywhere at any time. There is a perception that the County is withholding information and that is not true. The attorneys are withholding the information from the County. Committee members agreed that even some County Board members do not understand the role of the Health Department, compounding this problem. Committee members agreed that education is the key. Chairman Orphal stated that this discussion can continue when additional information has been received. She requested this issue placed under reports to the committee.

NEW BUSINESS CON'T

Proclamation acknowledging health care workers: Committee members reviewed a Proclamation acknowledging health care workers. Ms. Peschke made a motion, seconded by Ms. Salgado to recommend approval of the above Proclamation as presented. The motion carried with all members present voting aye on a voice vote.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: None

REPORTS TO COMMITTEE:

Workforce Network/WIB: The next scheduled meeting is next week. An update will be provided at the next committee meeting.

Housing Authority: Committee members were informed that the only problem the Housing Authority is having is spending the CDBG funds. The process is slow and funding could be lost if the funds are not spent on time.

Board of Health: The next meeting will be on March 22nd. H1N1 continues wind down. Most of the flu being reported is the H1N1 flu. They are not seeing much of the regular flu activity. The H1N1 flu shots are still available for those who would like to get them. They are encouraging college students to get their shots as they always see an increase in incidents during holidays. The H1N1 may get included within the vaccine for next year.

Mental Health: Ms. Lewis is in Washington DC to discuss funding for Mental Health.

Senior Services: Mr. Labaj reminded committee members that their kickoff meeting was recently held. The Pace Ribbon Cutting was a great success. The dates have been set for review of the applications. He stated they should expect an increase in requests because of the state of the economy. Each group is trying to maintain their services.

VAC: Everyone is enjoying their new bus and are thrilled with the expanded program. Ms. Donner reported there has been some minor glitches with the computer system but overall the program seems to be a success

Committee members were informed that Faith in Action has put a new brochure on the web that is a senior guide for services. This is the second year Faith in Action has done this. .

ADJOURNMENT

Noting no further business, Ms. Peschke made a motion, seconded by Ms. Salgado to adjourn the meeting at 6:45 p.m. The motion carried with a unanimous voice vote.

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RECOMMENDED FOR BOARD ACTION:

- Appointment of Mr. Kevin Russell to the Housing Authority
- Proclamation acknowledging health care workers