

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

MINUTES OF WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 13, 2010

Chairman Orphal called the meeting to order at 8:15 a.m. The following Committee Members were present: Chairman Lyn Orphal; Mary Donner; Sandra Salgado; and Anna May Miller. Mary McCann, Randy Donley and Virginia Peschke were absent. Also present: Peter Austin, County Administrator; John Labaj, Deputy County Administrator; Pat McNulty, Health; Mike Iwanicki, Veterans Assistance Commission; Julie Courtney, Workforce Network; Joe Williams, Regional Superintendent of Schools; James Reaves, Interim Director and staff for University of Illinois Extension; and interested public.

Lyn Orphal, Chairman

Mary L. Donner
Mary T. McCann
Virginia Peschke

Randy Donley
Anna May Miller
Sandra Salgado

MINUTES

Committee members reviewed the committee minutes from September 8, 2010. Ms. Miller made a motion, seconded by Ms. Salgado to recommend approval of the above minutes as presented. The motion carried with all members present voting aye on a voice vote.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

PRESENTATIONS

University of Illinois Extension, James Reaves, Interim Director – Budget Issues: Mr. James Reaves, staff and program participants joined committee members to provide an update on the University of Illinois Extension Service programs and budget issues facing the service. Mr. Reaves has recently accepted a position to service as the Director for the University of Illinois Extension for Lake/McHenry County. Mr. Reaves has worked in these programs in Tennessee and Georgia. Two years ago, the extension service was reorganized. This resulted in the joining of the two counties programs. Staff members for the Extension Service were introduced to the Committee members, who thanked Committee Members for the continued support for the program. For funds received there is a 65% match from the University, which is obtained from State and Federal Funds. The match must be raised locally in order to receive this funding. It is hopeful that this 65% will be reached as the service only got 41% last year. The Multi County reorganization began on July 1, 2010. They plan fund raising events in order to hire additional staff. Mr. Reaves stated that he or anyone from his staff is available to meet with any of the committee members if they should desire. Various participants from the 4H program joined committee members to provide an overview of programs and projects they have been involved in. They stated that the 4H programs have enabled them to become better students and “speakers”. They have all had the opportunity to speak with adults and are taught to strive for the best. Being involved with 4H helps to improve each individual by making friends, becoming involved with various programs, skills, field trips, volunteer programs and fund raisers. The 4H program has been established in all portions of the County. They stated that the 4H helps teach them skills that had previously been offered in the schools. A long term resident stated that his family has been involved with the 4H program for over 55 years. He stated he credits his success as a father, fire fighter and coach by being actively involved with 4H. The 4H program members become extended families for the participants. They stated they would like to see the programs grow for future generations. The program teaches respect and how to give back to your community. Ms. Boltz from the Harvard Food Pantry stated that the 4 H club has helped with collections, donations of money and food for the program. They have been involved with gardens where they have donated over 10,000 lbs of food for those in need. The Harvard pantry feeds 100+ families per week. They received three pigs after the county fair for slaughter. The master gardener program provides the highest quality service which helps to preserve the character of the County and helps reduce the negative impact to the County. They provide produce to area food pantries and help with pest and disease identification. They report to the State and their answers to these questions are researched based. They provide classes, education, and speakers to groups. They are restructuring to reduce space but keep a presence at the county farm bureau. Committee members thanked Mr. Reaves and his presenters for information on the programs of the University Extension Service.

McHenry County Compulsory Attendance Program, Dr. Joe Williams: Dr. Joe Williams, the Assistant Superintendent of Schools, joined Committee Members to provide an update on the McHenry County

Compulsory Attendance Program. He stated when he started in this position, approximately 5 years ago, his first responsibility was to address at risk students. These students are generally kids that need people to intervene on their behalf. If a school has done everything they can to address truancy, the Superintendent of Schools office gets involved. One of his main objectives was to keep kids out of courts. Most of the kids involved with truancy issues live in poverty. Once a child is placed in this program, the office follows the case for the whole school year. He stated that many villages and municipalities have created truancy ordinance, which do not work. Fines do not help in keeping kids in school as most of the families being fined are already living in poverty. Their goal is to keep kids in schools with outreach programs and keep them out of the court system. A letter is sent to the student's parents informing them of the truancy issues. Most of the kids want to go to school. Poverty in the county is rising so truancy is rising as well as these issues go hand in hand. If these kids cannot work within the system, they become a part of the court system. The department is also involved in homeless education. Homelessness in the County is increasing as well. In the past they had identified 47 homeless families. Within the past 5 years this number has increased to 450 homeless families. They have also seen an increase of multi-families living together. Intervention in these programs is different if they deal with little kids versus older children. Sometimes it is necessary to get help for the families before they are able to get help for the kids. One parent had their child in hiding for over six weeks before it was discovered that the mother had multiple warrants out for her arrest. A family member was found to place this child in their care in a more stable environment. The child is now attending school daily. The Superintendent of Schools office is responsible to mobilize services to help these truant kids. They are trying to change the thought process for truancy. Illinois has an "interactive" report card where you can see the health of each school. The data is from every district and every school in each district. The biggest impact to schools is the parents, as they are the primary teachers of children. One of the duties of the office is to enforce the legal codes and make sure the schools are meeting the State minimums. Programs cannot be threatened as they must meet the State mandates. Committee members stated they would like to see this presentation in front of the County Board, after the new County Board Members take office in January as economics play a huge roll in how some of these programs are run. Committee members thanked Dr. Williams for his presentation.

OLD BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

Resolution Authorizing Acceptance of a Reduction Modification to the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity Grant #10-071002 and a Reduction Emergency Appropriation to the McHenry County Workforce Network Fiscal Year 2010 Budget: Committee members reviewed a Resolution Authorizing Acceptance of a Reduction Modification to the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity Grant #10-071002 and a Reduction Emergency Appropriation to the McHenry County Workforce Network Fiscal Year 2010 Budget. Ms. Donner made a motion, seconded by Ms. Miller to recommend approval of the above Resolution as presented. Ms. Courtney joined committee members and informed the committee that these funds were from Recovery Act Funding. They did not receive this funding in time to spend the funds by the deadline. 28 youth were able to be served with 5 continuing on in the year round program. If the funds had been received earlier, they may have been able to serve more youth. Committee members were informed that they have received \$97,000 in dislocated worker funds. Not every Workforce group received this funding. They will be holding a job fair on October 26th along with the EDC and Shah Center to help the workers from Precision Twist that received notice of their facilities closing. So far eight (8) employers in the County will be attending that job fair. 167 employees will be laid off. After review, the motion carried with all members present voting aye on a roll call vote. (Donner, Miller, Salgado, Orphal)

Resolution Authorizing Budget Line Item Transfers in the Fiscal Year 2009-2010 Budget for the Mental Health Building Expansion Project Fund: Committee members reviewed a Resolution Authorizing Budget Line Item Transfers in the Fiscal Year 2009-2010 Budget for the Mental Health Building Expansion Project Fund. Ms. Donner made a motion, seconded by Ms. Miller to recommend approval of the Resolution as presented. Committee members were informed that this Resolution allows them to put the funding into the appropriate line items for expenditure of the funds. The motion carried with all members present voting aye on a roll call vote (Donner, Miller, Salgado, Orphal)

Resolution Authorizing an Increase in Hours to Position #022-0905-08 (Part-Time Veterans Service Officer) in the Veterans Assistance Commission Departmental Roster: Committee members reviewed a Resolution authorizing an increase in hours to position #022-0905-08 (Part Time Veterans Service Officer) in the Veterans Assistance Commission Departmental Roster. Ms. Donner made a motion, seconded by Ms. Salgado to recommend approval of the above Resolution as presented. Mr. Iwanicki informed Committee Members that the department has seen an increased request for services. The Veterans Service Officer is accredited to present, develop and prosecute VA claims on behalf of veterans as recognized by the VA General Counsel's office. The funds for this request would come out of fund balance enhancement. This person has the necessary certifications for this position. The certification takes up to one year to qualify. After review, the motion carried with all members present voting aye on a roll call vote (Donner, Miller, Salgado, Orphal)

Administrative Adjudication potential for the Health Department: Committee members were informed that the Planning and Development Department has been looking into the possibility of creating an Administrative Adjudication process to handle some of the small cases that are sent into court. This would eliminate the need to take some of the small cases to court. There are approximately 3 issues a month in the Environmental Health Division and 20+ cases in Animal Control. This is not a higher priority at this time for the Planning and Development Department as they are in the middle of reorganizing and expanding their department. The Health Department is ready to review what would be necessary to start discussions and research on this issue. The primary cost for this program would be for the Adjudication Officer. After setting up this program it would create a segue into the program when the Planning and Development Department is ready to join. Committee members stated this is a great idea, but, not at this time. They stated that if the Health Department can find the funds to start this program it may result in decreased court fees. Money generated would move from one area into another. This program could eventually be used as a "whole County" program. Committee members requested that a model for the program built so they can review the numbers, with estimates for the program. The Hearing Officer would need to be trained on the regulations, but, may not need a law degree. They must be familiar with the issues, especially the Planning and Development and Health Ordinances. Committee members stated this issue should be placed on a 6 month review with time to put the program numbers together. They were hopeful that this program could be budget neutral.

REPORTS TO COMMITTEE

Workforce Network/WIB: None

Board of Health: Committee members were informed that this is the beginning of the flu season and it is recommended everyone obtain a flu shot. There are plenty of shots to go around. There is a new campaign starting on how to prevent the spread of the flu. Committee members were informed that information regarding the Breast and Cervical program at the Health Department has been placed in their mail boxes for review. They want to keep the County Board Members updated on the information for this program. 1 in 8 women will develop breast cancer so this program highlights the need for everyone to get breast exams. They are finding a lot of women who are in the late stages of the disease, highlighting the need for this program.

Mental Health Board: See above.

Housing Authority: None.

Senior Services Grant Commission: Committee members were informed they have received a request from Family Alliance to move some of the funding from the current grant year into the coming year's program. They want to shift these funds to another contract. This request requires the approval of the Commission and County Board. According to the Strategic Plan for the Commission, if funding is not expended, it becomes part of reallocation funds. There is a policy to this affect which does not allow these funds to be rolled into the next years funding. Family Alliance is not filling positions so they are under-spending their funds. Committee members suggested a Strategic Planning session scheduled on a Saturday Morning, along with some educational presentations. Committee members voiced concern there would not be a lot of attendance because of the day. Committee members were reminded that the groups know the requirements of the grant and these funds, if not expended, would be returned for reallocation. Committee members agreed to deny this request.

Mr. Austin noted that this morning the Committee Members heard a powerful presentation from the University of Illinois Extension and some of the programs offered through their group. A meeting has been scheduled to meet with Lake County Officials to review how both County's funding would be used. The joining of the two counties should reduce overhead and staff costs for the Extension. One of the questions being asked is if the funds received are being used to pay for staff. This meeting will review how the program will now work and fit the pieces together. \$70,000 was provided by McHenry County last year. This year's funding has been

reduced to match what was provided prior to last year. Mr. Austin stated he should know more by Tuesday and adjustments could still be made to the budget if needed. Since this group is consolidating their efforts, where are the cut backs? One of the biggest question that remain is the 4H is a great group, but, there are other as worthy groups located in the County so how much of these funds are for salaries versus going into the program. What percentage of their funds is received through fund-raising events? It was stated that the County deserves to know what amount is being spent in each County as well as why they need more funding if their current space is more than they need.

McCullom Lake: None

EXECUTIVE SESSION: None

OTHER BUSINESS, AS APPLICABLE: None

ADJOURNMENT

Noting no further business, Ms. Miller made a motion, seconded by Ms. Donner to adjourn the meeting at 10:06a.m. The motion carried with a unanimous voice vote.

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RECOMMENDED FOR BOARD ACTION:

Resolution Authorizing Acceptance of a Reduction Modification to the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity Grant #10-071002 and a Reduction Emergency Appropriation to the McHenry County Workforce Network Fiscal Year 2010 Budget

Resolution Authorizing Budget Line Item Transfers in the Fiscal Year 2009-2010 Budget for the Mental Health Building Expansion Project Fund

Resolution authorizing an increase in hours to position #022-0905-08 (Part Time Veterans Service Officer) in the Veterans Assistance Commission Departmental Roster