

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

MINUTES OF FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 2011

Chairman Peschke called the Public Health and Human Services Committee meeting to order at 8:15 a.m. The following members were present: Virginia Peschke, Chairman; Randy Donley; Mary Donner; Sandra Salgado; Anna May Miller and Kathleen Bergan Schmidt. Donna Kurtz was absent. Also in attendance: Peter Austin, County Administrator; John Labaj, Deputy County Administrator; Sandy Lewis, Director Mental Health; Jeffery Poynter and Julie Courtney, Workforce Network; Pat McNulty and Fran Stanwood, Health Department.

|                |                            |                         |
|----------------|----------------------------|-------------------------|
|                | 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 January 25, 2011. Ms. Salgado made a motion, seconded by Schmidt, to recommend approval of the minutes as presented. Chairman Peschke noted that she did attend the last meeting and should be included in the roll call votes. The minutes were approved, as amended, with a unanimous voice vote of all ayes.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None

PRESENTATIONS

*Review of Workforce Network Federal Budget:* Julie Courtney and Jeffery Poynter from the Workforce Network joined committee to review the proposed Federal funding for the Workforce Network. If the current funding should pass, the funding for the Workforce Network would be zeroed out and will result in the closing of not only the County's workforce center by July 1<sup>st</sup> of this year, but 3,000 centers nationwide. Nationally, the Workforce Investment Act (WIA) programs have been at the heart of our nation's response to the recession. Last year over 8.4 million job seekers utilized the workforce system with over 4.3 million of these individuals getting jobs. Use of the WIA programs went up 234% nationally in the past two years, despite the fact that funding for these programs have remained at 2008 levels. Ms. Courtney reminded committee members that these centers offer more than just unemployment and job searches. Most of the programs are heard about by word of mouth. Ms. Courtney stated they would find out in very short order whether these cuts will be made or not. They could ask for some of the funds to be returned as well. Committee members asked if a Resolution should be brought forward supporting the funding of the Workforce Investment Board and also asked what the role of our lobbyist in Washington is on this issue. Committee members were informed that we do have a statement included in our Federal program but our lobbying efforts are more about McHenry County and this is a National issue and therefore does not fit into our local requests. The Ferguson Group does contact us about any issue that may affect the County so they have been bringing forward updates on this issue as soon as they hear anything. Committee members were informed that if the legislators in Washington do not hear any voices from our community they think everyone agrees with what is going on so it is very important to reach out and voice your concerns. Chairman Peschke noted that in the past foreclosures were caused by varying issues, not all because of the loss of jobs. Now it seems all of the foreclosures are because of job losses. Ms. Miller stated that maybe the Township Association Groups, as well as the Lobbyist group could help through a collaborative effort. It was stated that businesses could help by contacting their representatives and letting them know that they need these programs to continue in order for them to obtain a trained workforce. Ms. Courtney stated the EDC has sent information to the business community in order to get these issues known and to inform them that these programs could be cut. She reminded committee members that staff can provide information regarding these programs but cannot lobby on behalf of the program. Ms. Campata will be going to Washington DC and has already scheduled meetings with the local Federal Legislators to address this and other issues. Our local legislators have been informed of this issue as well. Ms. Courtney stated that the Workforce Network was prepared to take some additional funding cuts, but, was not prepared to be totally zeroed out. Committee members thanked Ms. Courtney for her information.

OLD BUSINESS

*Appointment – Mental Health Board:* Committee members were informed that because of a conflict of interest, the previous recommended appointment to the Mental Health Board would not be allowed. Mr. Donley made a motion,

seconded by Ms. Miller to recommend the reappointment of Don Larson to the Mental Health Board. Ms. Salgado noted that she feels the position should be re-opened to accept new applications, so she will be voting no on this motion. She stated that she feels Mr. Larson is too friendly with staff and she would like to see new members appointed to the Mental Health Board. Ms. Donner informed committee members that she is the liaison for the Mental Health Board and Mr. Larson is a valuable member of that Board. She stated he has the time, wherewithal, and is very qualified at what he does. Ms. Miller stated that it is nice to open these appointment positions up when possible, but, when a person is doing a great job and has the support of that board she does not feel that change should be made just for the sake of change. She feels that Mr. Larson is very qualified to do this job. Committee members stated that committees need to make it clear that if an applicant works for an agency that receives funding from the Mental Health Board, they cannot serve on the Board. The motion carried with the majority of member's present voting aye on a roll call vote (Donner, Donley, Miller, Peschke) nay (Schmidt, Salgado)

Committee members stated that with the two major boards, the McHenry County Conservation District and the Mental Health Board, which both deal with large amount of funds, there needs to be more scrutiny over the appointments. Ms. Miller stated that she agrees but she has great accolades for the Mental Health Board and she has heard nothing but positive comments on what that group has accomplished with the funds they receive and the agencies they are funding. Mr. Donley noted that each appointment should be open for anyone that wishes to apply. Ms. Salgado stated that she feels this appointment was very political, with a lot of phone calls going around, and each of the appointments should be based on their applications and the interview process. The majority of the committee members stated they had not received any calls regarding these appointments. Ms. Donner stated that she is concerned because she heard that there are concerns with the Health Board members being too cozy with staff there as well. Chairman Peschke stated she does not feel this is the case and does not feel the board is being led by the staff. It was stated this it is difficult not to be supportive of staff but does not feel this is an issue. It was noted that each board member, either on a liaison board or the county board brings different skills to the board which is required to have a good board. Ms. Salgado stated that the board members should not develop strong relationship with staff and they should be more removed from the department. Ms. Miller disagreed and stated that good strong leadership comes from good relationships. Ms. Schmidt voiced concern as there seem to be many board where there are problems as the Board Chairman has more control in a department than they should have. She stated that she has a problem with the direction of the whole board so she feels the president should change. It was stated that the due diligence of most boards is fiscal responsibility and this becomes the most important issue for a board member. They have a primary responsibility to hire someone to move the agency forward. If the person the board hires is not doing their job, they get fired. The Board's responsibility is to keep the agency fiscally sound. Once a department head is hired, they do take advice from the Board, if the Board does not feel the department head is running the agency as it should be that person is fired, not the Board Members. Most of the Board Members do not know the President of the Mental Health Board but the Chairman of any board has more contact with a Department Head or President in order to bring agenda items to the Board. Ms. Salgado stated that the appointment process is the one area the County Board has control over, this is the way to appoint who she thinks would be to best represent her values. Ms. Miller stated that she feels this appointment is a good fit and feels it works well for this group.

Ms. Donner left committee at 9:00a.m.

#### NEW BUSINESS

*Resolution Authorizing the Acceptance of an Additional \$12,000 in Grant Funding from the Illinois Department of Human Services, Increasing the Hours of Two Staff Positions and an Emergency Appropriation to the Health Department FY11 Budget.* Committee members reviewed a Resolution Authorizing the Acceptance of an Additional \$12,000 in Grant Funding from the Illinois Department of Human Services, Increasing the Hours of Two Staff Positions and an Emergency Appropriation to the Health Department's FY11 Budget. The additional funding will be used to amend the existing contract to expand the breast feeding efforts to the Latino population. Two part time positions will be expanded to help with the increased duties. WIC has decided to put more efforts into breast feeding awareness for the Latino Community and the benefits received by breastfeeding. Awareness starts at birth and is transitioned into the workplace. It has been found that the minority population tends to be "modern" in their feeding so they are being pressured to bottle feed. Committee members voiced concern that merit increases were included in this budget. Ms. Salgado made a motion, seconded by Mr. Donley, to recommend the County Board approve the above resolution. Committee members were informed this is the proposed budget for 2012 and the Department would have to build this increase into their overall budget, if a merit should be provided to the regular employees. Committee members stated they would feel more comfortable if this item was removed from the Resolution. The motion carried with all members present voting aye on a roll call vote (Donley, Miller, Salgado, Schmidt, Peschke) Committee members were informed that the department follows the merit of the County and if merit is given, other areas in the proposed Resolution would be reduced.

PUBLIC HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE

February 18, 2011

Page 3

*Resolution Authorizing Acceptance of \$5,000 from the National Association of County and City Health Officials for a Medical Reserve Corps Grant and an Emergency Appropriation to the Health Department FY11 Budget:* Committee members reviewed a Resolution authorizing acceptance of \$5,000 from the National Association of County and City Health Officials for a Medical Reserve Corps Grant and an Emergency Appropriation to the Health Department FY11 Budget. This is the third year that the Health Department has received this funding which is used to help improve the capacities for the Department's Medical Reserve Corps. The Medical Reserve Corp consists of several hundred volunteers who assist the Department with response to natural and manmade emergency events. Ms. Salgado made a motion, seconded by Ms. Miller to recommend approval of the above Resolution as presented. The motion carried with all members present voting aye on a roll call vote (Donley, Miller, Salgado, Schmidt and Peschke).

Ms. Salgado left committee at 9:18a.m.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: None

REPORTS TO COMMITTEE:

*Workforce Network/WIB:* None.

*Housing Authority:* None.

*Board of Health:* Committee members were informed that the Health Department has a daily surveillance system to keep track of how many flu like symptoms are being reported. Up until one week ago there had not been a lot of incidences reported. In the past week this has increased with more positive results occurring in the 20 to 40 year old population. Committee members were informed that it is not unusual to see an increase in the numbers at this time of year. If the Department sees an increase of at least 10% staff will work with the area schools to provide flue prevention education. This system is an early warning system to track illness outbreaks.

*Mental Health Board:* Ms. Lewis reported that the next opening on the Mental Health Board occurs in 2013. Ms. Lewis reminded committee members that the Public Health and Human Services Committee members generally meet with the Mental Health Board each year. She stated that they are in the middle of their three year planning process and she would like this committee to be a part of these discussions. It was stated at April would be a good month to meet. Committee members were reminded that the Mental Health Board meetings are held the third Monday of the month at 6:00pm.

*Senior Services Grant Commission:* Committee members were reminded that the next Senior Services Commission meeting has been scheduled immediately following the Public Health and Human Services Committee meeting on March 4<sup>th</sup>. Committee members requested Mr. Labaj contact the commission members to remind them of this meeting.

*VAC:* Ms. Donner informed committee members that the Lake County/McHenry County joint grant is going well. She stated that a presentation with the Veterans Assistance Commission and the Mental Health Board could be provided if interested.

*Valley Hi:* The last Valley Hi Operating Board meeting was cancelled because of the weather. Mr. Annarella sent changes being made at the State level to the board members. It was stated that it is impressive on how on top of the issues Mr. Annarella is.

Committee members voiced concern on how long Medicare allows a person to stay in a hospital for treatment. Once your time is up, you must leave the facility immediately. Chairman Peschke stated that her husband was recently hospitalized and was required to leave, on a Friday afternoon. When Valley Hi was contacted she was informed that the Nursing Home does not accept admissions during a weekend. She stated that a call was placed to Valley Hi before noon on a Friday so admissions should have been accepted at that time, if a bed was available. Committee members stated that a Nursing Home is a 24 hour business so admissions should be accepted at any time. Committee members suggested this issue brought up to the Valley Hi Operating Board for discussion.

Mr. Donley stated that Ms. Zierer, a former County Board Member, had voiced concern over calls she had received regarding turnover at the Facility. It was noted that she was concerned that employees were leaving the facility at an alarming rate. Ms. Schmidt stated that she hadn't heard too much regarding turnovers at the facility, but, would question if there has been an unusual amount of turnover at Valley Hi. She noted that there will always be a certain amount of turnovers at the facility because of the type of business.

OTHER BUSINESS: None.

PUBLIC HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE

February 18, 2011

Page 4

ADJOURNMENT:

Noting no further business, Ms. Miller made a motion, seconded by Ms. Schmidt, to adjourn the meeting at 9:35 a.m. The motion carried with a unanimous voice vote.

\* \* \* \* \*

**RECOMMENDED FOR BOARD/COMMITTEE ACTION:**

Resolution Authorizing the Acceptance of an Additional \$12,000 in Grant Funding from the Illinois Department of Human Services, Increasing the Hours of Two Staff Positions and an Emergency Appropriation to the Health Department FY11 Budget

Resolution Authorizing Acceptance of \$5,000 from the National Association of County and City Health Officials for a Medical Reserve Corps Grant and an Emergency Appropriation to the Health Department FY11 Budget

:ksf