

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

MINUTES OF FRIDAY, APRIL 1, 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; Mary Donner; Donna Kurtz; and Kathleen Bergan Schmidt. Randy Donley; Sandra Salgado; and Anna May Miller were absent. Ms. Donner left committee at 9:00a.m. Also in attendance: Ralph Sarbaugh, Associate County Administrator-Finance; Sandy Lewis, Director Mental Health; Pat McNulty, Health Department; Tom Annarella, Valley Hi Nursing Home and Mike Iwanicki, Veteran's Assistance Commission.

	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 March 18, 2011. Ms. Schmidt made a motion, seconded by Ms. Kurtz, to recommend approval of the minutes as presented. The minutes were approved, with a unanimous voice vote of all ayes.

Chairman Peschke requested the presentation by the Health Department on Solid Waste, that was previously provided to the McHenry County Board of Health be presented to this committee. Mr. McNulty stated that there was a presentation regarding Animal Control that they may be interested in hearing as well. Chairman Peschke requested the Solid Waste presentation provided at the next committee meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

PRESENTATIONS

None

OLD BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

*Appointment- Lake in the Hills Sanitary District:* Committee members reviewed a request for the reappointment of Shelby Keys to the Lake in the Hills Sanitary District. Chairman Peschke informed committee members that Mr. Keys has served on this committee for at least 9 years and is a good fit for this position. This position was advertised for and this was the only application received. Ms. Donner made a motion, seconded by Ms. Schmidt to recommend approval the reappointment of Shelby Keys for a three year term. The motion carried with all members present voting aye on a roll call vote (Donner, Kurtz, Schmidt, Peschke)

*Resolution Authorizing the Paving of the Emergency Access Road at Valley Hi Nursing Home and a Budget Line Item Transfer in the Valley Hi Fiscal Year 2011 Budget:* Committee members reviewed a Resolution Authorizing the Paving of the Emergency Access Road at Valley Hi Nursing Home and a Budget Line Item Transfer in the Valley Hi Fiscal Year 2011 Budget. During the construction of the facility this access road was built based on the current code. During the 2010 Life Safety Code Survey, the facility was cited for not having this emergency access road paved. The Illinois Department of Public Health has been pushing Valley Hi to get this project completed. There has been a deadline of June 15<sup>th</sup> placed on this project for completion. In order for the Nursing Home to not face additional penalties bids were sent out for this project. The cost should not exceed \$21,525 for the paving of this road and an additional \$8,000 for installation of a sidewalk and landscaping from the building to the access road. These funds will be taken from Valley Hi's contingency budget. Ms. Donner made a motion, seconded by Ms. Kurtz to recommend approval of the above Resolution, as submitted. The motion carried with all members present voting aye on a roll call vote (Donner, Kurtz, Schmidt, Peschke)

## PUBLIC HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE

April 1, 2011

Page 2

*Resolution to Accept \$13,197 in additional funding from an HIV Prevention Grant from the Illinois Public Health Association and to Make an Emergency Appropriation to the Health Department FY11 Budget:* Committee members reviewed a Resolution to Accept \$13,197 in additional funding from an HIV Prevention Grant from the Illinois Public Health Association and to Make an Emergency Appropriation to the Health Department FY11 Budget. Mr. McNulty informed committee members that this is additional funding received for the HIV program that will target high risk groups and provide additional support to these individuals. Committee members questioned how many HIV positive cases are seen in McHenry County. They were informed that the County sees approximately 5 new positive cases per year. There are approximately 100 active Aids cases in the county at this time. Most of these cases started out as HIV positive. Ms. Schmidt made a motion, seconded by Ms. Donner to recommend approval of the above Resolution as presented. The motion carried with all members present voting aye on a roll call vote (Donner, Kurtz, Schmidt, Peschke) Ms. Kurtz questioned where you go if you need testing services in the County. Mr. McNulty informed committee members that these cases are handled at Annex B and they provide a separate entrance for these individuals. They keep the populations separate from each other. Mr. McNulty stated that there are vaccination services available at the satellite offices in Crystal Lake, Harvard, Algonquin and Woodstock.

*Resolution to Accept a \$13,000 Illinois Tobacco Free Communities Grant from the Illinois Department of Public Health and to Make an Emergency Appropriation to the Health Department FY11 Budget:* Committee members reviewed a Resolution to Accept a \$13,000 Illinois Tobacco Free Communities Grant from the Illinois Department of Public Health and to Make an Emergency Appropriation to the Health Department FY11 Budget. The acceptance of this grant will help the department to improve its ability to work with a more difficult to reach population to deliver anti-tobacco message. They will partner with Centegra in order to get this public education information out to the community. Ms. Kurtz made a motion, seconded by Ms. Schmidt to recommend approval of the above Resolution as presented. The motion carried with all members present voting aye on a roll call vote (Donner, Kurtz, Schmidt, Peschke)

*Resolution Authorizing Acceptance of a \$203,926 Grant from the Illinois Department of Public Health for Public Health Emergency Response Program and to Make an Emergency Appropriation to the Health Department's FY11 budget:* Committee members reviewed a Resolution Authorizing Acceptance of a \$203,926 Grant from the Illinois Department of Public Health for Public Health Emergency Response Program and to make an Emergency Appropriation to the Health Department's FY11 budget. These are funds that were remaining or returned from the H1N1 program that was not used. The acceptance of the grant will help the Health Department to improve its capacity to plan and respond to pandemic influenza and similar emergencies that may impact county residents. This is a short term grant that must be spent by July of this year. Mr. McNulty stated that a portion of this grant will be used to purchase generators to address storm outages in order to protect the vaccines that must be refrigerated at the County. An additional trailer command center with upgraded software will be purchased as well. Ms. Donner made a motion, seconded by Ms. Kurtz to recommend approval of the above Resolution as presented. Committee members questioned if vaccines have been lost due to the lack of generators. Committee members were informed that all of the refrigeration units are hooked to monitors and alarmed in case of any outages. No losses have occurred but if an outage should occur staff must move the vaccines to an alternate location. The motion carried with all members present voting aye on a roll call vote (Donner, Kurtz, Schmidt, Peschke) Committee members were informed that the trailer will be used to move supplies in cases of emergencies. The department is involved with the emergency hazard plans through the Emergency Management Agency. The department also works with the State Highway department for the trucking of supplies through the State and County. It was suggested that a presentation on the Emergency Hazard Plan for the County be presented to the committee since there are new County Board members that have not seen this presentation.

### REPORTS TO COMMITTEE, AS APPLICABLE

*Workforce Network/WIB:* There wasn't any meeting this month. Representative Walsh visited the Workforce One Stop Center as scheduled. The letter of support for the Workforce Center, as discussed at the previous meeting was cleaned up and presented to him during his visit.

*Housing Authority:* Committee members were informed that the primary discussion that took place at the Housing Authority Board Meeting was whether they wanted to become a CHODO (Community Housing Development Organization). Their attorney recommended the Housing Authority take a conservative approach and not become a CHODO. The Housing Authority feels they have other programs they are able to offer without the restrictions of a CHODO. They know there are Federal funds available for CHODO's but, in order to get these funds they must fulfill the requirements of a CHODO. The process is very involved so they chose not to go that direction with the Authority. They noted they did not want to risk any of the current programs they are involved with by agreeing to become a CHODO. Ms. Schmidt voiced concern as there is a need for additional CHODO's within the County as there are currently only one CHODO at this time within the County. It was stated that we don't necessarily need additional programs, including  
Approved 04 15 11

PUBLIC HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE

April 1, 2011

Page 3

CHODO's, but need more low cost housing in the County. There are other programs available that offer services and there are additional funds available through HUD without being a CHODO but the Authority feels they are taking a responsible view to manage the appropriate risks without jeopardizing the programs they are already involved in. They have stated that they don't want to be a "developer" for these types of grants. The Housing Authority provides services without being a developer. Some of the Committee Members feel that if they were a CHODO they could provide these services and continue to offer the other services they already do. Committee members were informed that the Housing Authority did not want to risk the other programs because of the overhead costs of the CHODO.

*Board of Health:* Committee members were informed that the Health Department has completed the year long "Healthy Community" studies. A presentation on the results of the study will be presented on April 13 at MCC from 9:00a.m-Noon. The study results have been posted on the Health Department's website. The Board of Health uses this study as a planning tool. This study encompasses a broad range of community characteristics that define the ingredients of a healthy place to live. This study is conducted every 4 years with the intent to understand and address the County's most pressing needs, involving partners from diverse organizations in order to improve the health of County residents. Ms. Kurtz suggested that the Health Department provide a presentation on the report so they can answer questions from the committee. Committee members were reminded that the community presentation is scheduled for April 13<sup>th</sup> for those interested in attending. Chairman Peschke stated she may be late for this presentation as there is a Natural and Environmental Resources Committee meeting scheduled for that day.

*Mental Health Board:* Ms. Lewis joined committee members to provide an update for the Mental Health Board. She reminded committee members that she has returned from the Legislative Conference that took place in Springfield. Ms. Lewis provided an update to committee members on the free community education programs taking place in the area. Reservations for attendance to some of the programs are recommended. Ms. Donner left committee at 9:00a.m. The second packet of information is from a presentation given to the Mental Health Board on the Environmental Scan, which is a planning view for fiscal years 2012, 2013 and 2014 and the trends for the Federal, State and local levels. Information on their three year strategic plan as well as a series of annual reports was included for review. Financial trend-lines for 708 Board support to agencies were provided. These trend-lines show an increased need for support because of the decrease in funding from the Federal and State governments. Charts were created with this information so they can see where the funds are being spent based on priority. These services are separated by Emergent, Urgent, Non-Urgent and support services. A chart was also provided that shows the FY10 dollars by disability by funding type. Ms. Lewis noted that they continue to have resources for critical services as they are threatened by the State. Ms. Kurtz thanked Ms. Lewis for the materials provided in reference to what the 708 Board does. She stated that she is impressed with the detailed information provided. Committee members were reminded there will be a joint meeting with the Mental Health Board on Monday April 18<sup>th</sup> at 6:00pm at the Dakota Street facility.

*Senior Services Grant Commission:* Committee members were reminded there will be a Senior Services Grant Commission meeting following the Public Health and Human Services Committee meeting on the 15<sup>th</sup>.

Committee members were informed that there is a ground breaking ceremony scheduled for the McHenry Community Health Center on Friday April 8<sup>th</sup> at 10:00a.m. for those interested in attending. The location will be at 3901 Mercy Drive in McHenry.

*VAC:* Mr. Iwanicki joined committee members to provide an update on the Veteran's Assistance Commission. Committee members were reminded that a drop in center was developed with a SAMSA grant that is for both Lake and McHenry Counties. A drop in center has been opened in the old Family Services Center in McHenry. A wish list of items needed for the Veterans' drop in center was provided to committee members. Space was freed up in the facility for use by the VA in the center. This facility has offered the space rent free until September 30<sup>th</sup>. The Mental Health Board pays for the utilities for this facility. They expect a grant request for these services in the future. Mr. Iwanicki stated that he has been providing educational outreach where he goes out to speak about the various veteran benefits that are available. He also goes to the area hospitals to help with those Veteran's admitted to the hospitals. They also provide services to the Sage Cancer Center which is included in the back of NIMC. A grant has been applied for from the McHenry County Community Foundation to convert one of their van's to an office. This would allow for the van to be set up ready to go. They would get the grant in July if awarded in May. The VAC has also applied for a dual Federal grant for Lake and McHenry Counties to offer services through Prairie State Legal Services. This is a supportive grant to assist with legal services for low income Vets. They would help with evictions, foreclosures as well as security deposits for low cost housing. This grant would also help with promotion, outreach and education. The VAC is trying to get back the lottery grant in order to bring back the highly successful dental grant. They should hear about this sometime in June. The inspectors were

Approved 04 15 11

## PUBLIC HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE

April 1, 2011

Page 4

impressed on how the funds for the previous grant were spent. Our VA dental program was the pilot program for the State.

The 2003 bus will be turned in because of the high mileage of the bus. They will enter a new lease for an additional Pace bus. The lease cost is \$1,000 down and \$100 a month for the use of the Pace bus. Committee members were informed that the Health and Human Services Commission has changed the poverty level guidelines. He noted the threshold changed by a very small amount. The changes also included minor rule changes and clarifications. Committee members requested an update on the grant applications in June.

*Valley Hi:* Committee members were reminded that Ms. Schmidt will provide updates to the committee as the liaison for the Valley Hi Operating Board. She stated they are currently working on their strategic plan for the facility. One of the requests for the facility is to become a "sustainable organization". They have discovered that the Quality Assurance Director for the facility is a "foody" which helps to make sure they continue to serve good food to the residents of the facility. She noted the residents are always concerned with the quality of the food being served. An advertisement has been placed in one of the supplements of the Northwest Herald for health services, advertising Valley Hi's rehabilitation program. The Community Liaison has been hired and starts on Wednesday. This position was required to be a nurse in order to address various diets of the residents and go into the hospitals to "sell" the services of Valley Hi.

*Human Service Advocates:* Mr. Steve Finzel joined committee members to provide an update for the Human Service Advocates. He thanked committee members for recognizing this group in the community. He reminded committee members that an update was presented to the County Board which included an introduction of the 22 agencies included in the group. These agencies created this group to address how the cuts being made to their budgets will affect these agencies. Hundreds of county residents are being turned away from receiving services critical to their future livelihood and wellbeing because of the State budget crisis and resultant cutbacks to agencies trying to serve them. In 2009, approximately 85,000 people in McHenry received one or more services from a social service agency. This group is a coalition of not for profit agency Board of Directors to build a unified and strong voice to local legislators and through them to the State to advocate for consumer who receives services from their agencies. They are also looking for help to carry messages to our Legislators on these issues. Messages need to be sent regarding not only the critical services provided but those extended services that are no longer being provided. The services agencies have 34% less cash on hand than prior to 2009. A minimum of \$400,000 of interest expense has been incurred by these agencies and this is increasing as agencies are forced to borrow money to stay in operation while waiting for payments from the State, which is 6 to 12 months in arrears. Up to 10% of direct service agency positions have been eliminated, creating a staff that is receiving less pay for more work. These issues are becoming critical. The message needs to be sent out of the critical consequences their cuts will have because of the lack of funding. This advocacy group will continue to evolve as they grow and they will have a stronger voice instead of just one voice from each individual agency. Their priority is the consequences that will be seen because of the severe cuts being made to the Human Service priorities of the State. These cuts become a public safety issue. It is important to get the message out to the legislators as they don't seem to consider the consequences of their decisions. The group has spoken to the area Fire and Police Associations and they are very concerned with the changes being seen and the cuts being made to these necessary services. Committee members stated they would like the Human Service Advocates to provide minutes from their meetings in order to get current updates from the group. Mr. Finzel stated that the committee members are welcome to attend their meetings which are held the third Thursday of each month. Concern was voiced as chilling information is being brought forward which is becoming more relevant in light of the cuts to services. Families are unable to find care for those in need because the cost of these services is cost prohibitive for some. Now the State is only funding for crises, not care. If those in need of care are not funded, they become a "crisis", which costs more to fund than if they would have provided the needed care in the first place. There is a waiting list for services for all agencies. This is a result of "non-Medicaid" population. It was stated that it is unbelievable that the State would abandon people already receiving these services. The Mental Health Board works with the agencies in the area to address what services could be extended. If an individual can't get services in one location, they are referred elsewhere. The big picture for the group is that Mental Health Services should not be cut. Mr. Finzel noted that since the County, the police departments and fire departments carry more weight than each group individually, it is important that they address these immediate needs in order to make sure the State or Federal Governments do not cut any more of these services. Borrowing is not an option for these groups. As they advocate for those in need it is hopeful that they will stop further cuts to these agencies. It is important that everyone demand of our legislators, fiscal responsibility and accountability for the people of the County as well as all of Illinois. Mr. Finzel thanked committee members for their time.

PUBLIC HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

April 1, 2011

Page 5

EXECUTIVE SESSION

None

OTHER BUSINESS

None

ADJOURNMENT:

Noting no further business, Ms. Schmidt made a motion, seconded by Ms. Kurtz, to adjourn the meeting at 10:03 a.m. The motion carried with a unanimous voice vote.

\* \* \* \* \*

**RECOMMENDED FOR BOARD/COMMITTEE ACTION:**

Reappointment of Shelby Keys to the Lake in the Hills Sanitary District

Resolution Authorizing the Paving of the Emergency Access Road at Valley Hi Nursing Home and a Budget Line Item Transfer in the Valley Hi Fiscal Year 2011 Budget

Resolution to Accept \$13,197 in additional funding from an HIV Prevention Grant from the Illinois Public Health Association and to Make an Emergency Appropriation to the Health Department FY11 Budget

Resolution to Accept a \$13,000 Illinois Tobacco Free Communities Grant from the Illinois Department of Public Health

Resolution Authorizing Acceptance of a \$203,926 Grant from the Illinois Department of Public Health for Public Health Emergency Response Program and to make an Emergency Appropriation to the Health Department's FY11 budget and to Make an Emergency Appropriation to the Health Department FY11 Budget

:ksf