

**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 15, 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; Randy Donley; Sandra Salgado; and Kathleen Bergan Schmidt. Anna May Miller arrived at 8:20a.m. Donna Kurtz was absent. Ms. Donner left committee at 9:30a.m. Mr. Donley left committee at 9:40a.m. Also in attendance: John Labaj, Deputy County Administrator; Sandy Lewis, Director Mental Health; Pat McNulty and Dr. Lembke, Health Department; interested public.

	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 April 1, 2011. Ms. Schmidt made a motion, seconded by Ms. Donner, to recommend approval of the minutes as presented. The minutes were approved, with a unanimous voice vote of all ayes.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

Chairman Peschke stated that the committee would review the new business prior to holding the presentation scheduled for today's meeting.

OLD BUSINESS

None

Ms. Miller arrived at 8:20a.m.

NEW BUSINESS

Committee members requested the first two Resolutions be reviewed at the same time as they involve grant modifications to their programs for the Workforce Network. *Resolution Authorizing Acceptance of a Modification to the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity Grant #10-661002 and an Emergency Appropriation to the McHenry County Workforce Network Fiscal Year 2011 Budget and Resolution Authorizing Acceptance of a Modification to the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity Grant #09-662002 and an Emergency Appropriation to the McHenry County Workforce Network Fiscal Year 2011 Budget:* Committee members were informed that the first Resolution is the result of account modifications to award additional funding for the Trade Adjustment Assistance Program. These funds are used to train workers that have been affected by foreign trade. The second Resolution is the result of account modifications to the Trade and Globalization Adjustment Assistance Act (TGAAA) for program year 2009-1020. The funds will be used to continue serving laid off workers from Intermatic in Spring Grove, Allstate in South Barrington, SKF Sealing in Elgin, Chrysler in Belvidere and Zebra Technologies in Vernon Hills just as the original grant stated. Ms. Salgado made a motion, seconded by Ms. Donner to recommend approval of the two above Resolutions as submitted. The motion carried with all members present voting aye on a roll call vote (Donley, Donner, Miller, Salgado, Schmidt, Peschke)

*Resolution Authorizing Acceptance of Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity Grant #08-677002 and Authorizing an Emergency to the McHenry County Workforce Network Fiscal Year 2011 Budget:* Committee members were informed that the State had some extra recovery act funds available that must be used for a Work Experience Opportunity grant for the period of April 1, 2011 to June 30, 2011. The funding will be used for wages for a work experience program for the youth. Ms. Salgado made a motion, seconded by Ms. Miller to recommend approval of the above Resolution, as submitted. The motion carried with all members present voting aye on a roll call vote (Donley, Donner, Miller, Salgado, Schmidt, Peschke)

Committee members were informed that the WIB got funded for the coming year. The funding was cut 11% from FY2010 levels. The Legislative Committee received an update and it seems there was a lot of lobbying in order to keep this

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funding in place. The business community needs to continue with their efforts in support of this program as it seemed to have an effect on the funding levels for the WIB. Committee members were informed that Congressman Manzullo voted in favor of this program but Congressman Walsh voted against the program. It was noted that he felt there were not enough cuts made to the overall budget. Meetings have been scheduled by the WIB (Workforce Investment Board) in hopes of changing his mind on this issue. Support will be needed next year as well.

### PRESENTATIONS

*National Public Health Rankings:* Committee members were provided a report on the County Health Rankings as requested at the last committee meeting. This is the second year of this project. This project started out as a grant in order to compare the counties in each state. The last pages in the report include the measures, data sources and years of the data that was used in compiling this information. Looking at the data presented it shows none of the information includes the most recent data. Most of the information includes older data and most of the changes that will be made won't show up for many years down the road. Mr. McNulty asked that committee members realize where the data was coming from and how current the information is. Committee members were informed that the community health data report includes more current data and is more representative of the County. Each County receives two summary ranks, one for Health Outcomes and one for Health Factors. McHenry County came in #4 for Health Outcomes and #5 for Health Factors. The health outcomes ranking is based on measures of mortality and morbidity. McHenry County ranked #3 on the Health Outcomes Rankings. The last grouping, the Health Factors ranking is based on four factors; health behaviors, clinical care, social and economic and physical environment factors. Based on these four factors, McHenry County ranked 16 out of 102. In the clinical care section, the county did not rank very well as this ranking is based on access to physicians. McHenry County ranked #53 this was because many in the county go outside the county to receive their medical care. Mr. McNulty stated that this information will be released again next year. This report is reviewed extensively by the Board of Health. Some of the information is important but because of the age of the data not all of the information is useful. Committee members thanked Mr. McNulty for the update.

*Animal Control:* Dr. Lembke joined committee members to provide a report on Animal Control. Dr. Lembke has been at Animal Control since August 2010. The Animal Control facility is overseen by a 10 member Advisory Board. The organization chart shows the four different divisions of Animal Control, Kennel Tech, Administration, Officers and Health Educators. This last section includes the volunteers for the facility. They are trying to change the bad image the facility had from the past. They were previously known as the dog killers. The official name for the department is the Department of Veterinary Medicine. Committee members questioned if the name of the facility could be changed to be more "friendly". The name still seems to sound like they are the "dog catcher" from the past. Committee members noted there is still some animosity for the facility because of what is perceived as unfair treatment by Animal Control. Committee members were informed that the last complaint letter was in regards to a person that was taken to court and the judge came down hard on this individual. It is rare to see harsh treatment of these cases as they usually only result in court costs. The Animal Control Division has done an about face from the past. They try to get face to face contact when a complaint is received. They just entered house where they found 106 dogs living. They knew there were a lot of dogs in the home, but were unaware of the large amount. The owner claims she runs a dog rescue, though she is not registered. In order to be a rescue facility you must obtain a license as a shelter and be recognized by the State as such. This is a rental house and the landlord was unaware of what has been going on at the house.

The facility is responsible for rabies vaccinations. The County has the highest percentage of bats with rabies in the State. This could be the result of aggressive surveillance by the department. Bats have the highest concentration for rabies disease. This is one of the reasons it is important to get your animals vaccinated. The bat bite is so small it is undetectable.

There were 437 dog bites and 95 cat bites reported in the county in 2010. One half of the individuals bitten were family members and most bites are accidental. Declawed cats bite more frequently than those not declawed. A declawed cat can cause the cat to become protective aggressive and can cause the cat to become litter-box aversion. This is because of the pain caused by moving the litter around.

There were 12 dogs declared dangerous in 2010. These are animals that have caused injury to a person or other animal. They can place restrictions on those declared dangerous. If three dangerous designations are declared on an animal, they can be declared vicious. If this happens, an animal could be put down. This has never been done in the County.

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There were 873 dogs and 863 cats turned into Animal Control in 2010. 66% of the dogs are reclaimed by the owners. Only 8% of cats are reclaimed. Dr. Lembke stated this is why it is important to microchip your pets. Only dangerous or sick animals are put to sleep. There is currently no disease at the facility.

In 2010 there were 5,251 visitors to the facility. There are currently 54 volunteers registered with the facility. There has been a huge jump in the volunteer hours in the past few months. They have volunteers that help every day of the week. They try to get every dog outside at least one time a day and usually more.

The "Friends of Animal Control" is a 501c3 group that raises funds and provides resources for the adoption center. They educate and bring awareness for responsible pet ownership. The Coalition finds homes for every animal at the facility. They provide support to groups and rescuers in the County.

In the future, the facility would like to increase the low cost vaccination, micro-chip events, provide additional education and purchase additional equipment for medical services. The facility is almost ready to provide surgical services at the facility. They would be able to handle all routine surgical needs for the facility; they are refining their disaster plan for domestic animals, increase volunteer participation. They are collaborating with county businesses to increase adoptions and they would like to revisit cat registration as well. Committee members noted they had heard about a study going on with feral cats in the county and asked Dr. Lembke if she could provide an update on this study. Committee members were informed that there is a "McGraw Study" going on that tracks 135 feral cats in the study. Committee members asked if the group had permission to release these cats in the County. They were informed that since this is ruled as research they are able to get around the rules of notification. County residents have voiced concern regarding these unneutered cats. The county currently has approximately 200 feral cat colonies. Some of the shelters and rescue groups hide the locations of some of these colonies. Committee members were informed there is a large spectrum of cats in the County from domestic to community to feral cats. Community cats are animals that are being fed by the community and interacts some individuals in the community but does not live with any one person or household.

Committee members were informed that if a dog is picked up two times, they have the authority to sterilize the animal. This is not the case for cats. They would like to get Article XVII changed to address this issue.

Committee members questioned how effective the rabies vaccination is. Dr. Lembke reported that once an animal has received a lifetime dose, they are durable. They have vaccines for raccoon, skunks and coyotes but not bats. If a person or animal is bit by a bat they try to quarantine the bat. Infection is the primary concern with bites from a vaccinated animal. Committee members thanked Dr. Lembke for the information.

REPORTS TO COMMITTEE, AS APPLICABLE

*Workforce Network/WIB:* See above.

*Housing Authority:* None.

*Board of Health:* Chairman Peschke questioned if Mr. McNulty thought it would be a good idea for this committee to hold a joint committee meeting with the Board of Health. Mr. McNulty thought this would be a good idea and stated that he would review the calendar for a joint meeting in June or July. Committee members will be provided information on this meeting as it is received.

*Mental Health Board:* Committee members were reminded that there is a joint meeting with the Mental Health Board scheduled for 6:00p.m. on Monday. There will be three presentations provided at the meeting. They will hear from Family Services, the McHenry County Special Courts, and assessment of youth programming interventions. Ms. Lewis stated she is hopeful that there will be time for dialogue with this committee about their three year plan, what they are doing, that they should continue and what should be changed. The presentations will be held first with a discussion to follow on the strategic plan. This will allow for those who have to leave early.

*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 today.

*VAC:* Ms. Salgado informed committee members that she had received a letter from an individual that wanted to thank the VAC and Mike Iwanicki for getting this individual the help he needed through the VAC. The next VAC meeting will be held on the third Wednesday of the month at 7:00p.m. in the Administration Building.

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*Valley Hi:* Committee members were informed at the State evaluators came in for a review of the facility. An update should be available at the next operating board meeting.

Ms. Donner left committee at 9:30a.m.

Committee members were informed that the members of the Senior Services Grant Commission do not have to file the county addendum to the Statement of Economic Interest. It has been determined they are only an advisory board so they are not required to file this statement. Committee members questioned if the CDBG persons have to file. It was noted that the list is being reviewed by the State's Attorney. The document stated that if they are an advisory body, they are exempt from filing. If a person receives pay for serving on a commission or board they are required to file the form. It's the County Boards job to determine who should be filing these forms. Committee members voiced concern that there is a misunderstanding on what the form is requesting and stated that the intent of the form is not clear. Committee members agreed that the requirements are very confusing on who should file and what should be reported.

Mr. Donley left committee at 9:40a.m.

Committee members stated that they enjoyed the presentation by Animal Control. They stated that it may be time to revisit the cat registration issue. It was noted that cats should be treated the same as dogs. It was noted that individuals place more value in a dog than a cat. Committee members stated that they should start by addressing the current cat owners in the County. They stated they should lead by example. It was stated that McHenry County is a large agriculture community and they suggested maybe the county could see if they could help with this issue. It was stated that the County needs help with facilitating responsible cat ownership. Part of this issue may be addressed by providing a low cost immunization program for cats.

*Human Service Advocates:* None.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

None

OTHER BUSINESS

None

ADJOURNMENT:

Noting no further business, Ms. Salgado made a motion, seconded by Ms. Miller, to adjourn the meeting at 9:43 a.m. The motion carried with a unanimous voice vote.

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**RECOMMENDED FOR BOARD/COMMITTEE ACTION:**

Resolution Authorizing Acceptance of a Modification to the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity Grant #10-661002 and an Emergency Appropriation to the McHenry County Workforce Network Fiscal Year 2011 Budget  
Resolution Authorizing Acceptance of a Modification to the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity Grant #09-662002 and an Emergency Appropriation to the McHenry County Workforce Network Fiscal Year 2011 Budget  
Resolution Authorizing Acceptance of Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity Grant #08-677002 and Authorizing an Emergency to the McHenry County Workforce Network Fiscal Year 2011 Budget

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