

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

MINUTES OF FRIDAY, MAY 6, 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; Donna Kurtz and Kathleen Bergan Schmidt. Anna May Miller was absent. Also in attendance: Pete Austin, County Administrator; John Labaj, Deputy County Administrator; Tom Annarella, Valley Hi; Mike Iwanicki, Veteran's Assistance Commission; Jane Wacker, Mental Health; and Pat McNulty, 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 April 15, 2011. Ms. Salgado made a motion, seconded by Ms. Schmidt, to recommend approval of the minutes as presented. The minutes were approved, with a unanimous voice vote of all ayes.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

PRESENTATIONS

None

NEW BUSINESS

*Appointment – Senior Services Grant Commission:* Committee members reviewed the reappointment of Mr. Don Kopsell to the Senior Services Grant Commission. Ms. Salgado made a motion, seconded by Ms. Kurtz to recommend the reappointment of Mr. Don Kopsell to the Senior Services Grant Commission. Mr. Donley questioned why a Road Commissioner was making a recommendation for this appointment. Mr. Labaj responded that when the bylaws were created it called for representation from the Highway Township Supervisors Association to address any transportation advice that may be needed. The motion carried with all members present voting aye on a roll call vote (Donley, Donner, Kurtz, Salgado, Schmidt, Peschke)

*Resolution Authorizing Acceptance of a \$100,000 Grant from the Illinois Department of Healthcare and Family Services and to make an Emergency Appropriation to the Dental Care Clinic's FY2011 Budget:* Committee members were informed that the Dental Care Clinic has been a self supporting operation since 1997. The Clinic works in cooperation with the McHenry County Dental Society who is a source of volunteers. The facility provides dental services and referrals for low income and no insurance residents of the County. The Clinic receives no general fund support. Ms. Salgado 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 (Donley, Donner, Kurtz, Salgado, Schmidt, Peschke)

*Resolution Authorizing the Reclassification of the Director of the Workforce Investment Board Position:* Committee members were reminded that Mr. Martens' previous position with the Workforce Investment Board was reclassified to a part-time position. This position is to be vacated and is a requirement for the County's participation in the Workforce Investment Act One-Stop System, youth activities, and employment and training activities under Title 1 of the Workforce Investment Act in partnership with the chief local elected official. This position needs to be reclassified into a full time position. After discussions with Human Resources it was determined that a lower grade of 12E would be a better fit for this position. The department will advertise locally for this position. Mr. Martens has agreed to extend his contract, if needed, month to month in order to provide training to the new person who may fill this position. Ms. Kurtz made a motion, seconded by Ms. Schmidt to recommend approval of the above Resolution as presented. This position is fully funded through the Workforce Investment Act and does not require the use any general funds. There have been indications that the workforce network will likely continue, though they may be funded less. The motion carried with a majority of member's present voting aye on a roll call vote (Donner, Kurtz, Salgado, Schmidt, Peschke) nay (Donley).

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Mr. Austin joined the committee to report on information received regarding the Regional Superintendent of Schools and Assistant Regional Superintendent of Schools. He informed committee members that the State only funded these positions through May, instead of through the whole fiscal year through the month of June under the efforts to change or eliminate the Regional offices. The State has been dealing with this issue for the past year. Mr. Goeglien was scheduled to retire at the end of June, but, because of this issue has tendered his resignation and will retire at the end of May. Mr. Williams has offered to serve in this capacity for one month. Committee members were reminded that Mr. Williams won the McHenry Countywide election to serve as the Regional Superintendent of Schools beginning on July 1<sup>st</sup>. Because of the uncertainty of the State he has been offered and accepted a position in DuPage County. This has left this position vacated as of July 1<sup>st</sup>. Mr. Austin stated he could see two different Resolutions being brought forward for consideration. One to allow Mr. Williams to fill the Superintendent position for one month and one to fill the vacated Regional Superintendent of Schools position. Committee members noted that this situation will trigger a special election for this position. Mr. Austin noted they will need some clarification on this issue, especially with the unknowns going on at the State level. At this point there will be no funding available for the month of June for this position. There is a lawsuit pending on this issue so additional information should be available in the near future. Mr. Williams has voiced his concern regarding what is going on at the State level and has agreed to handle the duties of this position for this one month. Committee members questioned how it would affect the County if a new person was not put into this position? They were informed that it could affect the certification of teachers, finger print processing for bus drivers and handling of the truancy program. This department is the general liaison between the State and the schools. It was stated that if funding for this department goes away, the staff would be eliminated as well. Mr. Austin stated he is not sure how long this will take as we are unsure what the funding will be. The State is pushing the responsibilities of this department to the local districts. He stated at this time it is information only and they are unsure how this issue will be handled. It is hopeful that they will be able to find someone willing to step into a job that may only be available for a one year period. This position requires specific certifications. The position will be advertised for in professional journals and will start on July 1<sup>st</sup>. Committee members thanked Mr. Austin for this information.

### OLD BUSINESS

None

### REPORTS TO COMMITTEE, AS APPLICABLE

*Workforce Network/WIB:* See above.

*Housing Authority:* Ms. Kurtz informed committee members that their discussion centered on establishing a non-profit status to fulfill some of the responsibilities of CAHMCO. They are looking at a proposal that was put together by the executive director to look for new innovative ways to address the slowdown that has taken place at CAHMCO. Committee members questioned why they are not hiring someone with experience to run this program. Mr. Donley informed committee members that a representative from HUD was at the Planning and Development Committee meeting to provide information regarding the grant that was given to CAHMCO and where the contract stands to date. It was stated that CAHMCO needs a director with experience to take over this program. Mr. Donley reported that if the CAHMCO program is not completed per the terms of the contract the County will be held responsible for repayment of the \$2 million dollar grant. Committee members asked if a representative from CAHMCO could provide an update to the County Board to explain what is going on. Mr. Austin stated he could make some calls to see who could provide an update to the County Board.

*Board of Health:* Mr. McNulty informed committee members that there are currently four vacancies on the Board of Health. These positions have been advertised for. One position must be filled by a physician and one of the other positions must be filled by a dentist. The physician and dentist have applied for reappointment to the board. The two remaining positions are for a member at large. The Board of Health President, Andy Andresky, has suggested that the board be an odd number. The Board is having discussions about filling only one of the two remaining open positions so the board would be 11 members and not the full 12 member board.

Committee members were informed that during the Board of Health's meeting on the 23<sup>rd</sup> their Strategic Plan will be discussed. This meeting is to be held at Prairie View.

*Mental Health Board:* Committee members were informed they have poured the foundation for their construction project. They are refining their annual budget. They have scheduled a public hearing on May 16<sup>th</sup> at MCC for those interested in attending.

*Senior Services Grant Commission:* Applications for the new grant year will be available on May 23<sup>rd</sup>.

*VAC:* Mr. Iwanicki reported that McHenry County Veterans received \$800,000 last year in new claims from the VA thanks to prosecution by the VAC. McHenry County now ranks 10<sup>th</sup> in the State for receipt of VA compensation and

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pension dollars. They are waiting to hear back on some grant applications. A job fair, specifically for Veteran's will take place in Rockford on May 17<sup>th</sup>. He stated there is some good news to report, they are seeing some Veteran's finding good paying jobs. Ms. Salgado informed Mr. Iwanicki that Pioneer Center is looking to hire some Veteran's. She stated they would like to hire some recent war Vets, though she stated there are a couple of positions available. Mr. Donley stated that he was put in contact with a widow of a Vietnam Vet that was losing her home because of the lack of funds. Mr. Donley reported he got in touch with the VAC and they were able to help this widow obtain some much needed help. He thanked Mr. Iwanicki for his help.

Committee members questioned if there were any opportunities to streamline the dental service program in the County. Mr. Iwanicki noted they do work together on joint efforts and refer persons to the appropriate programs. He stated that they do run into problems because some of the programs only deal with preventive services. He deals with severe cases. It was stated that it would be nice if there was one website where they would address all the dental programs available.

*Valley Hi:* The Commission is working to develop the strategic plan for Valley Hi. Ms. Schmidt stated this process should be completed at the next meeting. They are now working on the goals and how to accomplish the goals. She reported that one of the commission members resigned. This position will need to be posted. They would like a person with a business background. This is a seven member board that includes two County Board members.

Mr. Annarella reported that next week is National Nursing Home Week, starting on Mother's Day. They have special events scheduled daily. The last big event will be a cookout with the residents and staff.

The annual survey has concluded. Some deficiencies were noted, though most of these were paperwork procedures. None were high scope of severity. One of the deficiencies may result in some work needing to be done at the facility. They are researching this issue with the architect and may request an extension in order to find out what needs to be done to address the issue.

He stated he wanted to highlight the financials. The facility has been in the positive the first four months this year. The receivables are coming in and they are controlling costs at the facility.

Mr. Annarella stated they are participating in the 6% tax protest by sending letters to the Illinois Health Care Association. They hope to stave off the cuts to the nursing homes.

The residents are looking forward to watching the old Valley Hi facility being torn down. The Sheriff's Department will be holding a swat training event at the old facility on the 23<sup>rd</sup>. They are excited about using this facility for training purposes.

*Human Service Advocates:* Mr. Finzel joined committee members to inform them that the Human Service Advocates are participating in this letter writing campaign as well. He provided a letter that could be used as a draft to send to the Governor and legislators to protest these cuts. They are now handling "crisis" medical care and the rest are being placed on waiting lists. Voices need to be raised on this issue. He requested that everyone please forward a signed letter in protest. He stated that only "loud" voices will be heard and it is important that the voices be louder in order to get the Governor's attention. Committee members requested that the letter be sent to them electronically so they could forward this letter to others via email. Mr. Finzel stated it is very important that more voices get heard in Springfield in order to address this issue. Ms. Salgado stated that this 6% cut that has been proposed is on top of the State not paying for bills already owed. None payment for some of these programs could result in losing Federal Match funding as well.

Ms. Kurtz questioned how to free up some of the "cash reserves" being held by the Mental Health Board. She reminded committee members that the Mental Health Board is carrying between \$7 - \$8 million dollars in cash reserves. She stated that some of the not for profit agencies in the county are taking out loans, based on payments owed to them by the State, in order to stay afloat. Ms. Kurtz stated that some of these funds should be freed up in order to protect those that may end up going bankrupt because of non-payment by the State. Committee members were informed that the Mental Health Board has been assisting some of the area agencies. They are being proactive with the needs of the community though there are some limitations on how these funds can be used. Committee members stated that the funds are used to address various issues though they feel additional conversations is needed regarding this issue.

Ms. Bergan Schmidt informed committee member's there was a great article featuring Sandra Salgado in the Historical Society magazine.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

None

OTHER BUSINESS

None

Approved 06 03 11

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ADJOURNMENT:

Noting no further business, Ms. Donner made a motion, seconded by Ms. Kurtz, to adjourn the meeting at 9:58 a.m. The motion carried with a unanimous voice vote.

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**RECOMMENDED FOR BOARD/COMMITTEE ACTION:**

Appointment of Don Kopsell to the Senior Services Grant Commission

Resolution authorizing Acceptance of a \$100,000 Grant from the Illinois Department of Healthcare and Family Services and to make an Emergency Appropriation to the Dental Care Clinic's FY2011 Budget

Resolution Authorizing Reclassification of the Director of the Workforce Investment Board Position

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