

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

MINUTES OF FRIDAY, JUNE 3, 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; and Sandra Salgado. Kathleen Bergan Schmidt arrived at 8:17 a.m. Donna Kurtz and Anna May Miller were absent. Also in attendance: Pete Austin, County Administrator; John Labaj, Deputy County Administrator; Tom Annarella, Valley Hi; Mike Iwanicki, Veteran's Assistance Commission; Sandy Lewis, 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 May 6, 2011. Ms. Salgado made a motion, seconded by Mr. Donley, 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

Reduced Animal Registration Fees for Disabled Persons (T. Hill): Chairman Peschke stated that this item will be placed later in the agenda to allow for Ms. Hill to arrive for this discussion.

REPORTS TO COMMITTEE

Mental Health Board: Ms. Lewis informed committee members that they recently held a public hearing and during the hearing they changed the process in order to facilitate more dialogue. They broke their hearing up by topic. They had approximately 50 individuals attend this hearing.

The funding applications for FY12 have been released along with their guidelines. There are six (6) different categories that they can put applications in for. She stated that the last category is very competitive.

Dialogue continues to try to collaborate the transportation issues in the county.

There is not a lot of information being brought forward on the State budget cuts. Previously there was a proposal to cut 6% for funding of Medicaid. Instead of a 6% cut they have proposed a reduction in the Medicaid entitlement line, though this bill has been pushed into next year.

The Mental Health Department is working with the local agencies that may be having cash flow problems. When the State begins making their payments, the agencies will refund their "loans".

Ms. Lewis reported that SB 1584 (Sen. Crotty/Rep. Riley) is on its way to the Governor. This bill was supported by the Association of Community Mental Health Authorities and provides for "ubiquity" as it relates to mental health services planning across the state. The bill amends the Counties Code requiring that in any county without a similar mental health authority or county health department with mental health programs, the County Board Chairman must appoint a seven member mental health advisory committee.

Appointment – Valley Hi Operating Board: Committee members interviewed Ms. Alice L. Howell, Ms. Jodi A. Borck and Mr. James P. Kennedy for appointment to the Valley Hi Operating Board. There are two vacancies on the board because of the resignations of Dallas Larson and Victor Narusis. Mr. Larson has stepped down because of health reasons. The Valley Hi Operating Board has requested the Public Health and Human Services Committee consider the appointment of

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Mr. Kennedy to the Valley Hi Operating Board, since he is a former member and is already familiar with how the Operating Board runs. Concern was voiced regarding one applicant that is a daughter of one of the residents and another applicant who is familiar with long term care. It was stated because of these issues there could be an appearance of a "conflict" for either of the remaining applicants. The bylaws do not address either of these issues. Chairman Peschke noted that the committee does not have to make a decision today regarding the appointments. She suggested the committee wait for these appointments until it can be researched further to make sure there is no assumed conflict.

Reduced Animal Registration Fees for Disabled Persons (T. Hill): Ms. Hill joined committee members to discuss a request she has received to reduce the animal registration fees for disabled persons. It was noted that these fees are already reduced for seniors. Ms Hill stated she received a request to lower the fees for the disabled to be the same as those fees being paid for by seniors. Committee members voiced concern as the ADA (American's with Disabilities Act) covers a wide range of individuals and they did not feel everyone under this designation qualifies for a reduced registration fee. Committee members questioned if an applicant needs a reduced fee, can they really afford to have the animal? It was stated that pets do help with the quality of life for some of the disabled. Mr. McNulty stated they do have a review process where an individual can request a reduction in the fee in cases of hardship. He stated they can also appeal to the Board of Health as well. This information is in their ordinance and their staff knows about the appeals process as well. Committee members stated that as long as there is an appeals process they do not feel the fees need to be changed at this time.

Interviews for appointment to the McHenry County Board of Health: Chairman Peschke informed committee members that there are four openings on the Board of Health. One of the appointees must be a physician. In the past this was an issue and a physician from outside of the County was appointed to the board. This same physician has reapplied for consideration of reappointment. There is an issue, because the County has now received an application from a physician within the County, which fulfills the bylaws of the board. There is a question that if this out of county physician has already served on the board, can he be reappointed, since they have received an application from an in-county physician? Committee members interviewed William E. McNerney, William A. Stinson, David R. Banaszynski, Dean E. Wolanyk and Mary J. Foszcz for appointment to the Board of Health. Chairman Peschke stated they will consider the appointments during the next committee meeting.

REPORTS TO COMMITTEE CON'T

Human Service Advocates: Mr. Finzel joined committee members to highlight the need to continue with the letter writing campaign protesting the cuts being made to the budgets of the Human Service Advocates. He stated that the public need to get their voices heard by the legislators on this issue. The public needs to help to get the message out. These agencies can't absorb all of the cuts being proposed and individuals are having difficulty in finding sources for care. Mr. Finzel requested everyone to continue with getting the word out to the legislators regarding the cuts being proposed.

Valley Hi: Mr. Annarella joined committee members to provide an update on Valley Hi Nursing Home. He informed committee members that the previous 6% cut has been eliminated from the budget. They have decided to put in a 2 month delay for payments to the nursing home. This is good news and Valley Hi would be okay, even with a 6 month cycle. As an industry, they were successful in elimination of the 6% cut being considered. Mr. Annarella stated there is a targeted approach by the State to push people into the Medicaid program. They need this to be accomplished by 2014, when there will be changes to the healthcare plans nationwide. The County will need to continue to watch what is happening to the County Nursing Homes. Both Winchester House (Lake County) and the DuPage County Nursing Home is looking to sell their Nursing Homes to private industry. Mr. Annarella stated it will be important to keep an eye on this issue.

The Illinois Department of Health returned for a re-inspection of the facility. The facility is now back in compliance. The road at the side of the facility is scheduled to be blacktopped today. He stated they have until October to address concerns regarding a back door.

Ms. Salgado stated she is in favor of the County getting out of the nursing home business and questioned how the other committee members felt about this issue. It was noted that the bonds are scheduled to be retired in the new future and the County can then look at the options for the home. Prior to the referendum, there had been discussions on this issue and it was determined at that time that when the County was in the black with the nursing home, they could then enter discussions on this issue. The nursing home is now in the black and Ms. Salgado stated that it is time to reenter into

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these discussions. Mr. Donley stated he does not feel the County should be in the nursing home business. Valley Hi only has 128 beds for a community of over 300,000 and does not feel the County should be offering this service for so few in the County.

Resolution Approving a Delegation Agreement with the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA) for a joint Solid Waste Program: Committee members reviewed a Resolution approving a delegation agreement between McHenry County and the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA) for a joint solid waste inspection, investigation and enforcement program in McHenry County. This is an annual program that has taken place since 1987. This allows the department to enforce IEPA requirements in regards to solid waste issues in the County. Ms. Salgado made a motion, seconded by Mr. Donley to recommend approval of the above Resolution as presented. The motion carried with all members present voting aye on a voice vote.

Resolution Authorizing Acceptance of a \$50,202 Grant from the Illinois Department of Public Health for a Mosquito Vector Prevention Program, an Emergency Appropriation to the Health Department's FY2011 Budget and the Unfreezing of Two Part Time Intern Positions (#051-0919-99 and #051-0948-07): Committee members reviewed a Resolution Authorizing Acceptance of a \$50,202 Grant from the Illinois Department of Public Health for a Mosquito Vector Prevention Program, an Emergency Appropriation to the Health Department's FY2011 Budget and the Unfreezing of Two Part Time Intern Positions (#051-0919-99 and #051-0948-07). This program is from a surcharge that is placed on tire purchases which is a major source of breeding mosquitoes that are responsible for the west nils virus. This grant will allow the rehiring of two interns to monitor the traps and provide follow up education. 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, Salgado, Schmidt, Peschke).

Resolution Authorizing a Budget Line Item Transfer in the Health Department's Fiscal Year 2011 Budget and a Reclassification of House to Position #051-0963-11 (Public Health Nurse): Committee members reviewed a Resolution Authorizing a Budget Line Item Transfer in the Health Department's Fiscal Year 2011 Budget and a Reclassification of House to Position #051-0963-11 (Public Health Nurse). The County previously accepted a grant to improve the immunization rates in the County. When doing so, the resolution did not include the correct hours or IMRF benefit costs as required. This resolution corrects that mistake. This expense is included in the original budget for the grant and requires no general fund support. Ms. Salgado 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 (Donley, Donner, Salgado, Schmidt, Peschke)

OLD BUSINESS

None

REPORTS TO COMMITTEE, CON'T

Workforce Network/WIB: The Workforce Network has received word regarding their funding. They will receive \$280,000 less than previously funded. They stated that this is better than having the program completely eliminated.

They are in the process of scheduling the interviews for the new Workforce Investment Board Director in the next couple of weeks.

Housing Authority: None.

Board of Health: Mr. McNulty informed committee members that there will be an electronic waste collection event held on Saturday June 11th at MCC from 8:00 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. They have expanded what can be brought in for collection and they are excited to again bring this program to the County. This program was very well received in the past.

He reported they are looking to expand their pilot program for curb side pickup as well. They are also looking for alternatives for community collections. Information will be brought to a future committee meeting for discussion.

Mental Health Board: See above.

Senior Services Grant Commission: Applications for the new grant year are now available. The workshops have been scheduled for those interested in attending.

VAC: Mr. Iwanicki reported they are scheduled to pick up a new PACE bus on Monday. They are also reviewing the design for the conversion of the high-top van into an office. This resolution should be brought forward in the near future. The department has seen an increase in their client base. Some of these clients are individuals who have capped out their unemployment benefits. Outreach service requests have increased as well. Space is an issue so they are looking for alternative sites. There has been an increase seen in the demand for multiple locations. He stated that they are looking to move their "office van" around to various locations in the County. They have seen an increase in the amount of

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funds/services provided to the veterans in the County. This helps to alleviate requests to other agencies in the area. Mr. Iwanicki stated that with PACE's help they have been able to reduce their dependence on taxi service.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

None

OTHER BUSINESS

None

ADJOURNMENT:

Noting no further business, Ms. Salgado made a motion, seconded by Mr. Donley to adjourn the meeting at 11:05 a.m. The motion carried with a unanimous voice vote.

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RECOMMENDED FOR BOARD/COMMITTEE ACTION:

Resolution Approving a Delegation Agreement with the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA) for a Joint Solid Waste Program

Resolution Authorizing Acceptance of a \$50,202 Grant from the Illinois Department of Public Health for a Mosquito Vector Prevention Program, an Emergency Appropriation to the Health Department's FY2011 Budget and the Unfreezing of Two Part Time Intern Positions (#051-0919-99 and #051-0948-07)

Resolution Authorizing a Budget Line Transfer in the Health Department's Fiscal Year 2011 Budget and a Reclassification of Hours to Position #051-0963-11 (Public Health Nurse)

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