

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

MINUTES OF FRIDAY, JULY 15, 2011

Chairman Peschke called the Public Health and Human Services Committee meeting to order at 8:30 a.m. The following members were present: Virginia Peschke, Chairman; Mary Donner; Kathleen Bergan Schmidt; Randy Donley; Anna May Miller and Sandra Salgado. Donna Kurtz arrived at 9:06a.m. Also in attendance: Ken Koehler, County Board Chairman; John Labaj, Deputy County Administrator; Sandy Lewis and Jane Wacker, McHenry County Mental Health Board; Lori Nelson, Family Services; Sue Krause, Youth Service Bureau; Cindy Sullivan, Options and Advocacy and Tom Annarella, Valley Hi.

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

PUBLIC COMMENT: None.

PRESENTATIONS: *Presentation on Mental Health Board Budget and Planning Process; State impact on Mental Health and Substance Abuse Service Providers; Process for Developing the Mental Health Board Budget and Process by which the Mental Health Board reviews Funding Applications for FY12:* Committee members were provided a presentation on the State of the Social Service Agencies in the County. This presentation centered around how the State's Budget cuts have impacted the local area service agencies and how these cuts will align with the Mental Health Board's budget process and their response to these budget cuts. The State of Illinois has provided the services agencies a four (4) month contract instead of the usual 12 month contract. They are hopeful that the State will provide contracts for the remaining eight (8) months soon. The contracts are for FY2011. They are not sure what or how much will be cut in the FY2012 contracts. It very unlikely they will hear anything until September or October. Some long term grant programs will be eliminated. These are the grants that provide key services. These cuts will result in these individuals seeking services elsewhere which will cause additional services to be strained. The cuts will impact a sizable number of youth in our area. Committee members were asked how do they decide who gets these services and who doesn't. Not only are they dealing with a short term contract, they are also dealing with delays of payments for current contracts of seven (7) months or more. These delays are in the millions of dollars for McHenry County alone. Agencies have to wipe out their reserves or borrow money in order to provide services. These loans incur interest costs as well. The services have been delivered so the agencies expect to be paid. The Mental Health Board is doing what they can to address these needs but they can't fund all the programs that have lost its funding. There have been talks about reducing the fund balance of the Mental Health board, which they have done with small amounts. People do not want to see money sitting in an account when services are needed. If the reserves are reduced too much they won't have the funds to provide the core services until the State makes their payments. Chairman Peschke thanked the group for their professional presentation. Committee members stated that when the Family Care Grant was accepted, a large contingency of personnel were hired to provide services under the grant. They questioned what will happen with the personnel hired under the grant. They were informed if the position is tied to the grant their position will be eliminated. The Organization Chart will reflect these changes. The FY2012 should be okay with the expansion of the grant for one year. Committee members will see the changes reflected in FY2013. These positions are continually evaluated and are eliminated or changed to address the needs of the department or grant. Mr. Donley questioned how much of the services are related to the Latino population in the area. He was informed that three years ago the Latino population accounted for only 1% of the services used. That has increased to 11%. In the past there were barriers for the lack of services for individuals with cultural differences. There is currently a huge waiting list for Latinos requesting services, depending on the program. Committee members questioned if they verify residency. They were informed that they do check the residency of each applicant though this creates a stigma for them to request services. They mainly see children, who are more than likely documented. The undocumented individuals are very reluctant to apply for services, which they feel may lead to their removal from this country.

Ms. Kurtz arrived at 9:06a.m.

Approved 08 05 11

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### NEW BUSINESS:

*Resolution Authorizing the Reclassification of a Full-Time Cook's Position (#061-0017-99) to One Part-Time Cook and One Part-Time Food Service Assistant Positions in the Valley Hi Nursing Home Departmental Roster:* This item has been pulled and will be reviewed at a future meeting.

*Discussion on Senior Services Grant Commission:* Committee members were informed that there were some questions that were brought forward regarding the membership of the Senior Services Grant Commission. This issue came up during membership discussions at the CDBG (Community Development Block Grant Commission). There have been questions raised regarding possible conflicts of interests since so much of the makeup of the group is tied to service agencies that may receive grant funding from the Senior Services Grant Commission. It was stated that the Chairman of the Planning and Development Committee, Ms. Hill, questioned if the Senior Services Grant Commission would have the same issues they are currently dealing with for the CDBG since most of the CDBG is made up of recipient organizations. Ms. Schmidt noted that the voting members of the CDBG would be the County Board Members on that Commission. It was stated that the same could apply to the Senior Services Grant Commission. Committee members were reminded that the CDBG involves HUD funds and the Senior Services Grant funds are derived from our local taxpayers. When the Senior Services tax levy was approved, a decision was made on how this commission would be made up. It was decided they wanted people involved in the commission that has an understanding of senior issues. Mr. Labaj stated that the makeup of CDBG and Senior Services Grant Commission are set up differently. All seven of the Public Health and Human Services Committee members are part of the Senior Services Grant Commission which also includes representatives from various area senior groups. There are a large number of individuals on this commission without a conflict. There is also transparency involved in the grant process. If a commission member feels there may be any type of conflict, they recuse themselves from a vote on that specific grant request. That is why each grant is approved separately. The Issue with the CDBG is that HUD requires a vote by the County Board members only. This issue will be determined as they move forward. The Senior Services Grant Commission had a State's Attorney's Opinion that if a person perceives there may be a conflict on an issue that member should not even speak while reviewing that grant request. It seems the Senior Services Grant Commission has been working well and the commission is made up from representatives from the community so they don't feel it is necessary to change the process that has been put in place. It was stated that they don't feel anyone on the commission has used their appointed position in order to receive any grant funding. It was stated that all of the County Board members should be made aware of these issues as related to the CDBG and Senior Services Grant Commission so they understand the difference between the two groups.

### OLD BUSINESS

*Regional Superintendent of Schools:* Chairman Koehler joined the committee members to provide an update on the issues with the Regional Superintendent of Schools. The County currently is the only county in Illinois without a Regional Superintendent of Schools. McHenry County had ten (10) candidates apply for this position. The county has taken a step back in the hiring process as the Governor has not signed any funding for this position. Lake County is currently helping to handle the paperwork needed in this area. Teaching Credentials are being completed and signed as needed. There are about 45 ROE's (Regional Office of Education) offices in the state. Some Counties pay their ROE's more than was provided by the State. These Counties are obligated to continue with this program while our County will continue to take advantage of the help provided from Lake County. There have been talks with Lake, Kane and McHenry County about a joint ROE. The ROE addresses health and safety issues in the schools, though these could be handled by others. It has been suggested that this office is just another layer of government that could be eliminated. The County currently has an unfilled elected position that is being reviewed by the States Attorney's office. The County may be required to employ someone, without pay. Out of the 10 candidates that applied for the position, only 4 were had the necessary qualifications for the position. This position must be filled by a Republican as well. Two of the four applicants fit this requirement. One of the important requirements for the position is credentialing of the teachers and the GED process. The State needs to provide a way for the teachers to be credentialed. They also provide fingerprints for these individuals, bus drivers and other school staff as well. The County pays for the staff of the ROE. The ROE from Madison County is the President of the ROE Association. He is trying to get partial funding, through September to complete this school year. Committee members stated that they had heard in the past that the ROE's hold title to the schools in the County and it was suggested this issue be reviewed. Chairman Koehler stated that the signatures for any of the bank accounts are being changed in order to get the bills paid by the ROE in our County. It was stated that the County could elect to fund this position, but, historically has elected to not do this. Chairman Koehler stated that he feels that the duties of this office could be handled elsewhere and there may be better ways to service the requirements of this office. We have an opportunity to do some consolidation of services by joining with Lake/Kane and McHenry Counties.

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It was stated that formation of this group may set the example for the State. Committee members requested updates as information is obtained.

Chairman Koehler provided the committee members an update on the recent storm that took place in the County. He stated that Valley Hi incurred a power outage. The facility had a large generator that brought the power back on, but the generator was not big enough to handle the heating/cooling issues at the facility. As the facility heated up, it was determined that a large generator would need to be leased to address the heat issues within the facility. At 1:30p.m., a generator was leased, at a cost of \$6,400 that did not get installed until 6:15p.m. At that time temperatures within the facility were increasing. Mr. Annarella did a fantastic job addressing issues in the facility with fans and lighting. A lot was learned from this storm. Two recommendations have been brought forward to address concerns. One, an additional generator will be needed to address heating/cooling issues at the facility. This could be addressed by purchasing an additional generator, or purchasing a larger generator to address the needs of the facility. The second issue is the computers. Computers run the HVAC system which failed because of the power failure. They will need to find a way to have a battery backup for this computer system. The cost for this backup power is estimated at \$50,000 to \$60,000.

Chairman Koehler commended the maintenance personnel for getting the necessary systems set up at the facility. He stated that one of the other issues that were encountered was that the County received a loan of a generator from Ogle County. This was an electric generator that required special hookup in order to get it running. The electrician did a commendable job in getting this hooked up, but, the County may want to get Natural Gas Generators or get these hookups in place so this issue is not encountered in the future. Committee members agreed that a 100% switchover is needed for these critical systems. It was stated that Facilities Management needs to review these issues and make some recommendations to address these concerns.

With all of the power outages, the County has some mutual aid agreements in place to address concerns in cases of emergency. These agreements were enacted and some of the Administration Building was used as a cooling center for these groups. Because of the storm it has allowed the county to find the weaknesses in the systems put in place.

There have been a lot of calls from the rural areas on how to get rid of the debris from the storm. The burning ordinance has been extended this weekend to address these issues. They will continue to review the needs after this weekend. Committee members commented that it was nice to see the consolidated effort that was provided by all of the communities and townships in the County as well as the effort to go "green" with the removal of the storm debris by mulching.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: None.

REPORTS TO COMMITTEE:

*Workforce Network/WIB:* The meeting is next week for those interested in attending.

*Housing Authority:* The next meeting is Monday.

*Board of Health:* Mr. McNulty stated that with the power outage they have had an interesting week. Annex A was without power as that facility runs on a different power system than the rest of the government center. They pushed staff to other buildings in order to maintain services of the department. The biggest issue was to the food service industry. Some of the restaurants tried to continue to work without power. Some of these facilities are still without power.

Those areas where they set up the contracts for curbside pickup have a good alternative in place to get rid of their yard waste.

Mr. McNulty stated with the State's reduction in grants they have seen a reduction for some of their services. The Teen Pregnancy program has been suspended. One person has been let go from this program. They lost a vaccination grant and Emergency Response has had a substantial reduction which resulted in cutting the staff in half. They are waiting to see what type of funding will be reduced with the Department of Human Services receiving a 4 month budget.

Committee members were informed that the department is currently working with the Courts on evictions from rental properties. One property currently has over 100 dogs located on and in the property. Once this home is officially abandoned, if they leave the animals the department will be required to take ownership of these dogs. They are reviewing how to address this large influx of animals by working with National groups to find cages and food for these dogs. They will review which dogs will be fit to adopt out, though they need to go through the court process first.

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He informed committee members that the department has had to deal with these types of issues in the past. They are hopeful that the renters will take these animals with them. They are keeping a close eye on the property to address the needs as they arise. If the renters pack up and leave the property without the animals, these animals are then considered abandoned. The department is then required to remove the animals from the property.

Mr. Donley left committee at 10:05a.m.

Committee members questioned if the Health Department has reviewed the programs offered by the department to see if program funds should be redirected to address needed services. Committee members were informed that if the funding goes away for a program, the program is suspended and staff is reduced. A lot of these programs were created because funding was offered for them. Some of these programs may be recreated locally though the costs to run some of the programs can be quite high. Ms. Kurtz questioned if the department works with area groups in order to continue some of these services. She suggested that the department get involved with the school counselors to address these needs. She stated that if the department thought the program was good enough to accept funding, and the need is still there for the program, maybe they should review where current funding is being spent. Mr. McNulty informed committee members that just because a grant is offered does not mean it is automatically accepted by the department. Each grant is reviewed prior to being accepted by the Board of Health. It was noted that the County's ability to absorb the funding for some of these programs are limited.

Committee members stated that it is very important to let our Legislators know their priorities for funding. They stated that the Regional Office of Education is not a priority so they feel these funds should be shifted to needed programs. Costs for some of these programs will increase down the line so it is important to take care of these programs now. Mr. McNulty stated they do talk about the services offered by the Health Department and they try to collaborate services amount the service agencies. Unfortunately, it is hard to absorb the type of cuts to the budgets they are seeing at this time. The ROE includes approximately \$20 million dollars in funding that could be shifted for needed programs.

*Mental Health Board:* See presentation above.

*Senior Services Grant Commission:* None.

VAC: Ms. Donner informed committee members that one of the members of the VA Governing Board is a former Viet Nam Vet and Sears Executive. This individual provides tours of the Viet Nam Veterans Memorial, "The Wall" in Washington DC. This person provided a very moving presentation to the Woodstock Rotary and Ms. Donner asked if the Committee would like to have this presentation given to the County Board. Committee members stated they would like to hear this presentation and requested Ms. Donner speak to Chairman Koehler regarding this presentation for consideration at a future meeting.

The Amvets held their 24<sup>th</sup> annual picnic for hospitalized veterans. Over 500 Veterans attended this event.

With cuts to the area service agencies the VAC is receiving more requests for services. Ms. Donner suggested that as the ROE Office becomes used less, the VAC could be moved into this area. She stated she would like to promote this offices use by the VAC. Committee members stated that she may want to speak to Ms. Schuster as Management Services would address this issue and they stated this seems to be a very logical request.

*Human Service Advocates:* None.

OTHER BUSINESS:

None.

ADJOURNMENT:

Noting no further business, Ms. Miller made a motion, seconded by Ms. Salgado to adjourn the meeting at 10:20 a.m. The motion carried with a unanimous voice vote of all members present.

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**RECOMMENDED FOR BOARD/COMMITTEE ACTION:**

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