

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

MINUTES OF FRIDAY, AUGUST 5, 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 Donna Kurtz. Sandra Salgado was absent. Also in attendance: Peter Austin, County Administrator; Ralph Sarbaugh, Associate County Administrator-Finance; John Labaj, Deputy County Administrator; Sandy Lewis and Bob Lesser, McHenry County Mental Health Board; Mike Iwanicki, Veteran’s Assistance Commission and Barb Murray, Regional Office of Education.

	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 15, 2011. Ms. Donner made a motion, seconded by Ms. Kurtz, to recommend approval of the minutes as submitted. Ms. Kurtz stated that she needed to change some information in the previous minutes under Reports to Committee as the next Workforce Network/WIB meeting will be held in September versus “next week”. It was noted that the minutes reflect what was said at a meeting and therefore this information cannot be changed. The minutes from today’s meeting will reflect that the next WIB meeting will be held in September. The minutes were approved with a unanimous voice vote of all eyes.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None.

PRESENTATIONS: None

NEW BUSINESS:

Interview for appointment to the McHenry County Housing Authority; Daniel A. Bell 8:15 a.m.: Mr. Daniel A. Bell joined the committee for an interview for consideration of appointment to the McHenry County Housing Authority. Committee members were reminded that there is one opening on this board. This will be a 5 year term which will replace outgoing member Gary Reece. Committee members were informed that this individual has applied for consideration of appointment to the Public Building Commission as well. Committee members questioned if these were “compatible” committees and requested this be checked out. Committee members stated that they feel that this individual brings good skill set to this group. Ms. Miller made a motion, seconded by Ms. Schmidt recommending the appointment of Mr. Daniel A. Bell to the McHenry County Housing Authority with a term to expire June 1, 2016. The motion carried with five eyes (Donner, Kurtz, Miller, Schmidt, Peschke) and one present (Donley)

Budget Reviews Senior Services Grant Commission: Mr. Sarbaugh informed committee members that the budget for Senior Services Grant Commission is a unique budget as it does not represent a department. This budget is the result of a tax levy that was approved by the citizens of the county. There are not employees paid from this budget though Mr. Labaj does run this program for the Grant Commission. These are flow through funds from the levy. Mr. Labaj has provided information on how these funds will be expended. The tax levy is the same as the previous year and it is hopeful that this remains the same. This committee will be informed if there are any changes to the levy funds. The expenditures must meet the revenues for this budget. There are no expenses taken from this account and all the revenues must be used for grants to agencies. Costs for the commission come from County Board/Administration. There is a small amount of funds that are held back in case of emergencies. This year \$850 was held back for this fund. There was also a couple thousand dollars held back from funds that were not expended by the grant recipients that are used in case of emergency as well. Approximately \$1,200 of the remaining funds from this year will be included in the grant funds for reallocation. Ms. Miller made a motion, seconded by Ms Donner to recommend the Senior Services Grant Commission Budget be forwarded on through the budget process. The motion carried with all members present voting aye on a roll call vote (Donley, Donner, Kurtz, Miller, Schmidt, Peschke)

Regional Office of Education: Ms. Murray, a long term employee of the Regional Office of Education (ROE), joined

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committee members to provide information on the Schools budget for the committee members. Mr. Sarbaugh informed the committee member that that Ms. Murray did a great job in putting the budget together. The information has remained the same since we don't know what is happening with this office. The County should have more information prior to the budget being adopted. There are negotiations ongoing with the Regional Office of Education Association and the Governor's office with them trying to find the money to fund these positions. The office has not received any payment from the State since the end of May. There is an expectation that while in the veto session, the legislators will override the governor's veto. They have a statutory department that requires payment. Committee members questioned what would happen to the employees of this department if the ROE goes away. Mr. Austin noted that is hard to guess though it is difficult to imagine that we would maintain these employees if the ROE goes away. These decisions will be reviewed after decisions have been made by the State. It has been suggested that the duties of the ROE's would fall to local school district and these employees could be hired by the districts as they are already trained to do the duties in the ROE office. If the Legislator's approve an unfunded mandate the districts would still be required to fulfill the duties of the ROE. The State has previously paid for the Superintendent and Assistant Superintendent. At this point the County is looking for a Superintendent, though no person will be hired unless the State reinstates funding for the position. Committee members stated that only two of the positions in this office is required and they questioned why the office has four persons. It was stated that the larger the ROE office, the more staff they have. They stated that some of the offices have as many as 45 employees. If a County has fewer than 43,000 residents they are able to consolidate the ROE offices. This number has changed, though as the law is written McHenry County cannot consolidate with another county at this time, absent assistance from the General Assembly. McHenry County was trying to formally consolidate with the offices in Lake County. The McHenry County ROE focuses on truanancies, which keep individuals out of the State's Attorney's office. The office tries to get students to attend school as school funding is based on attendance numbers. It was noted that the schools do not have the funding to address truancy issues. Committee members were reminded that this budget is a maintenance budget. If someone is hired and the funding put in place for an ROE, the information will be brought back to the committee for review. Ms. Schmidt made a motion, seconded by Ms. Kurtz to recommend the FY12 budget for the ROE be forwarded on through the budget process. The motion carried with all members present voting aye on a roll call vote (Donley, Donner, Kurtz, Miller, Schmidt, Peschke)

Veterans Assistance Commission: Mr. Mike Iwanicki joined committee members for the presentation of the Veteran's Assistance Commission's budget. Mr. Sarbaugh noted that the program description has remained the same. The forms will be changed to be more streamlined as requested by GFOA, though the information is the same. This department works to files claims for various programs, resulting in less claims requests from other service agencies in the County. Committee members questioned Mr. Iwanicki about the employer tax credits for veterans. He responded that this program already exists, though there are a lot of issues with this program. He noted that until this program is attractive to employers, it will not be an affective program. Committee members were informed that the Veteran's Assistance Commission has directed Mr. Iwanicki to include a 2% increase for the employees into their budget. Mr. Iwanicki noted that the commission would have to defend this increase request since the County is concerned about its levy and the fact that county employees have not received an increase in three or four years. There is one position in the Department that included an increase in grade if the person in this position passed the training for this position. They did not want to hire someone that was not qualified as a Veteran's Service Officer and when this individual met the milestones for the position, they were promised an increased based on these new qualifications. A Resolution was provided by the Veterans Assistance Commission requesting the 2% increase as well. Committee members were reminded that in FY08, the VAC went to per diem drivers resulting in a savings of transportation costs. These are the funds from the budget that will be used for this increase. Mr. Austin informed committee members that the VAC staff will receive what the other employees in the County receive for raises. The Veteran's Assistance Commission has program oversight, though the County has financial oversight of this department. Mr. Iwanicki noted that he gets oversight from both the Commission and the County. He stated that if he is directed by the Commission to include this request in the budget, then he has to do so. Committee members stated they do not feel comfortable approving this request since no one else in the County received any raises. They stated that this issue needs consistency across the board. They stated that they appreciate this request, but, the current climate does not support this request. Mr. Sarbaugh informed committee members that all of the budgets are started with funds built in for merit increases as it is easier to remove these funds than to build in funds at the end, though the merit funds are held in a separate pool. These funds are built into the budget so they know what the costs will be for Social Security, IMRF and benefit costs as these items are the biggest cost to the County. It was noted that no increases have been approved or signed off on. Committee members requested that staff check to see what the legal requirements would be for this department if none of the other employees should receive a raise. Mr. Iwanicki noted that the VAC budget committee creates a model for the budget and he must work to make this budget fit the County's model. This year he was directed to find funds for raises, which he has done based on what was included in the

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maintenance budget. Mr. Sarbaugh stated that there are several per diem positions in the County that do not make what the VAC per diem drivers make and if they raise the per diems for the VAC drivers this may create an issue with the other per diem drivers employed with the County. It was noted that we have a "maintenance" budget that is neutral and this needs to be moved forward through the budget process. Staff is aware of this issue and will keep an eye on this as these budgets are moved through the budget process. It was noted that the VAC has always received the same raises as the other employees of the County in the past. Ms. Donner made a motion, seconded by Ms. Schmidt to recommend the budget for the VAC moved forward through the budget process. Committee members requested this motion be amended to "motion to approve to move the VAC budget forward through the budget process with the understanding that the funding request for the 2% raises will be reviewed". The amendment passed with a voice vote of all ayes. The motion passed with five ayes (Donner, Kurtz, Miller, Schmidt, Peschke) and one nay (Donley) Mr. Iwanicki noted that all of the members of the commission shared support of the resolution.

OLD BUSINESS

None

EXECUTIVE SESSION

None

REPORTS TO COMMITTEE:

Workforce Network/WIB: The next meeting is scheduled in September for those interested in attending.

Housing Authority: Committee members were informed that the meeting in July was interesting. Because of the economy they had some deficit funding and had to dip into their reserves. They are managing their funds well. There are 968 families that are supported through the Section 8 program. This budget and the budgets for LiHeap and the weatherization program funding may be cut. So far they have not seen any staff cuts, though the staff is looking at an increase of 12% for their health insurance. Some of the spouses are being removed from the insurance program because of the increases in this area as well. The employees have also taken a drastic cut in pay as well.

Board of Health: Chairman Peschke informed committee members that there was a very interesting presentation at the previous meeting on what the role of the department will be in a nuclear disaster. She stated that if any committee members should want a presentation on a specific issue to please let her know.

Mental Health Board: Ms. Lewis stated that the Mental Health Board budget will be reviewed at the September 2nd meeting. They do build in a merit increase, though they keep this separate. Statutorily they are allowed separate personnel policies and practices though they do try to keep these the same as the County's.

Ms. Lewis informed committee members that they did not receive the teen reach grant this year. They are appealing this decision and have requested emergency funding for this program.

On September 2nd there will be an update on the Veterans and Family project for those interested.

The walls have been put up on their new facility. They expect the roof to be up within the next two weeks.

Senior Services Grant Commission: Committee members were reminded that because of the lengthy Senior Services Grant Commission meeting that has been scheduled the next Public Health Committee meeting starts at 8:00a.m. Committee members were informed that they have received 21 applications this year, much more than in the past. There are over \$2 million dollars in grant requests for this year. The application packets will be available next week for review.

VAC: Mr. Iwanicki noted that he received word from the Kane County VAC that the Department of Labor has created a testing program to test individuals for their work skills. There are costs associated with this test and the McHenry County Community Foundation has requested the McHenry County VAC apply for a grant through them to allow Veteran's to take these tests.

The next commission meeting will be held at 7:00p.m. the third Wednesday of month, with the next meeting next meeting being on the 17th at Veterans And Family Services, 5330 W. Elm Street, McHenry IL 60050 for those interested in attending.

Committee members questioned if he has heard any news regarding individuals that were affected by the closing of Walter Reed Hospital. He feels will see more requests for services from those released from Walter Reed, especially those with significant disabilities, please refer to VAC and Family Services. These requests for services will be subject to review by the medical review board, he feels a lot of these needs will be taken over by Social Security and the VA. He

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stated that he was contacted by a veteran who is convalescing here in the County after he was released by Walter Reed to recover. He is still attached to the Army but will likely be released.

Valley Hi: Committee members were informed that Valley Hi has received three generators from IEMA (Illinois Emergency Management Agency) to have on site in case of emergency. They are not sure these generators will power all of Valley Hi though it is nice to have this equipment on site. The Valley Hi picnic has been scheduled for September. Price comparisons have been completed for other nursing homes in the area. It was suggested that Valley Hi raise their rates, which would still make Valley Hi a "good deal". They are seeing an increased need as some of the nursing homes are not accepting Medicaid patients. Lake County is removing themselves from the nursing home industry. New applicants won't be covered by Medicaid with can become an issue when they no longer provide Medicaid services. Currently Valley Hi has a healthy reserve though they are questioning if they should continue to maintain the Medicaid population or increase the census of private pay to address this issue. The Nursing Home industry is "up in flux".

Human Service Advocates: None.

Ms. Kurtz informed committee members that she has a video of the recent Children's Health Fair for those interested in seeing this. She stated that they had over 2,000 individuals attend this event.

OTHER BUSINESS:

None.

ADJOURNMENT:

Noting no further business, Ms. Miller made a motion, seconded by Ms. Donner to adjourn the meeting at 10:15 a.m. The motion carried with a unanimous voice vote of all members present.

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RECOMMENDED FOR BOARD/COMMITTEE ACTION:

Recommend the appointment of Mr. Daniel A. Bell to the McHenry County Housing Authority

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