

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

MINUTES OF FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 16, 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; Kathleen Bergan Schmidt; Sandra Salgado; Randy Donley and Donna Kurtz. Anna May Miller was absent. Also in attendance: Peter Austin, County Administrator; Ken Koehler, County Board Chairman; Pat McNulty, Health Department; Mike Iwanicki, Veteran's Assistance Commission; John Labaj, Deputy County Administrator; and 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 September 2, 2011. Ms. Donner made a motion, seconded by Ms. Salgado, to recommend approval of the minutes as submitted. The minutes were approved with a unanimous voice vote of all ayes.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Dave Brandt joined committee members to voice concerns regarding the admissions policy at Valley Hi Nursing Home. He stated that he is basing these statements on his own experience over the past 12 months. He and his family do not believe that Valley Hi's admission policy is fair or equitable but has more to do with preferential treatment. He informed committee members that his 88 year old mother was placed on the waiting list on February 4, 2009. At that time she was 75th on the list. When they checked again in August of that same year, she was still 75th on the list. When they contacted Valley Hi in October 2010, they were informed she was still 75th on the list. There was no offer of a reason why she had never moved forward on this list. Mr. Brandt stated that he requested an interview with the Administrator regarding this issue. This still has not occurred, even after repeated requests. In January of 2011, they filed a FOIA request that asked for the number of female beds available, the number of female residents that applied for entrance to the facility, the date of the application of these residents that were entered into the facility and the current number of female residents. They were informed that 34 females applied for admission after Mr. Brandt's mother applied and 34 females were admitted. His mother still remained at 75, after these admissions. 11 of these beds were given to individuals from outside McHenry County and 2 beds were given to residents from outside the State. During this time, his mother never moved up on this list. Mr. Brandt stated that he wrote a letter to the Operating Board in April requesting his concerns be addressed and he still has not heard from them. At the May 25th meeting the Operating Board asked legal counsel if it was okay for Valley Hi to accept residents from outside the County or State. They were informed that yes they are allowed to accept these individuals. They had directed Mr. Annarella to contact Mr. Brandt and his family regarding admissions, bed availability, residency and needs. No one has contacted the family yet. Mr. Brandt stated that while speaking to his pharmacist on this issue this individual stated that Valley Hi is known for giving preferential treatment for admissions. They stated this has always been the case. His mother has been moved up to 34th on this list, and has remained there for the last two months. He questioned what the admissions and application policy is for the facility. Mr. Donley stated he has heard that Valley Hi is for people who work at the Courthouse and if you don't work here, you won't get in. Mr. Austin noted that this has been a topic at multiple Operating Board meetings and there is not a sequential list for admissions. He stated that it is rather complex process in how admissions are determined. If the facility accepts public funds, the facility has to accept admission for everyone, regardless of where they are from. It is believed that the residents that are from out of county or state have relatives that live in the County. Committee members were informed that they are seeing issues where individuals exhaust private pay admissions elsewhere and then request immediate admission to Valley Hi. Committee members stated that they have heard that a lot of the residents at Valley Hi are family of a County employee. There are only 128 beds at the facility so it doesn't take too many for this issue to look suspicious. Committee members stated that the way the system previously worked is there was a connection with the facility. This history has a nugget of truth, though they were unsure whether this continues to be true. They stated that they need to analyze this issue to find out the reality of the admissions policy. Chairman Peschke stated that she would schedule a meeting immediately with Mr. Annarella and Mr. Brandt in order to get these questions answered. Mr. Brandt thanked the committee for their time.

PRESENTATIONS: None

Approved: 10-21-11

PUBLIC HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE

September 16, 2011

Page 2

NEW BUSINESS

Resolution Authorizing the Adoption of Senior Services Grand Fund Funding Allocations for Program Year 2012: Ms. Kurtz made a motion, seconded by Mr. Donley to recommend approval of the above Resolution as presented. Ms. Donner and Ms. Salgado stated they would abstain from voting since some of the allocations may be perceived as a direct benefit to their employers. The motion carried with a majority of the member's present voting aye on a roll call vote (Donley, Kurtz, Schmidt, Peschke) abstain (Donner, Salgado)

Resolution Authorizing an Emergency Appropriation of \$40,000 from the General Fund Reserves to Restore Funding to the Breast and Cervical Cancer Program (IBCCP) for FY2011: Mr. McNulty joined committee members to present the above Resolution. Ms. Salgado made a motion, seconded by Ms. Kurtz to recommend approval of the above Resolution as presented. Mr. McNulty stated that this Resolution restores the funding that was removed from this budget during the last budget cycle. The County portion of the budget is only utilized after the State funding portion has been exhausted. There are more individuals requesting services and the need is growing. The motion carried with all members present voting aye on a roll call vote (Donley, Donner, Kurtz, Salgado, Schmidt, Peschke)

It was stated that the department can bring an update presentation to the committee on the breast and cervical cancer program if they should desire.

Resolution Authorizing Acceptance of an Illinois Breast and Cervical Cancer Program (IBCCP) Funding in the Amount of \$402,960 and Committing County Financial Support for FY2012: Mr. Donley made a motion, seconded by Ms. Donner recommending approval of the above Resolution as presented. Committee members were informed that this is the annual request to approve the grant for the Illinois Breast and Cervical Cancer Program. A commitment for county financial support is requested for the above program. State grant funding increased from \$170,670 to \$403,000. The County Board annually considers the general fund contribution to this program. The Health Department is requesting \$158,000 from the County's General Fund and will only utilize these funds after State funding has been exhausted. The motion carried with all members present voting aye on a roll call vote (Donley, Donner, Kurtz, Salgado, Schmidt, Peschke)

OLD BUSINESS

Chairman Koehler joined committee members to provide an update on the ROE (Regional Office of Education) issue. He stated that all of the schools opened on time. McHenry County continues to work with the Lake County Regional Office of Education. We are still unsure what will happen with this office. Staff in McHenry County has been working with the Lake County officials in order to get required signatures. We will continue to foster a relationship with Lake County in order to meet the needs of the County. The County is still looking to merge the Lake and McHenry County offices. The Schools Code would have to be amended in order for this to occur. One additional concern is the requirement for the life safety code inspections. Lake County hires outside help, which are retired superintendents, in order to fulfill these requirements. Lake County has agreed to help McHenry County with these inspections. We may have to provide some funding to help with the cost of the inspections. These inspections must be completed by qualified inspectors. The only issue the County may have is with the truancy program. Mr. Williams previously handled truanancies, though staff in the office is trained in this area. Committee members questioned who owns the school buildings as they believe the Regional Office of Education holds the title to all school properties in the County. Chairman Koehler stated he would research this issue. It was stated that if the positions are funded during the Veto Session, it could help with the costs of the inspections. Because of the special requirements for the ROE position, the County has been unable to hire someone. He stated that it is amazing that so many individuals were willing to work without being paid in anticipation of the possible future position. Committee members thanked Chairman Koehler for this update.

REPORTS TO COMMITTEE

Workforce Network/WIB: Ms. Kurtz stated that the next WIB meeting is scheduled for the 21st. This is the first meeting after the summer break. She will provide a more detailed update at the next committee meeting.

Housing Authority: The next board meeting is Monday. The Housing Authority continues to operate in the red. They currently have a small deficit of about \$20,000. The staff has taken some hits to their benefits with higher health insurance deductibles and higher costs. They have not received any increases the past couple of years as well. They are moving ahead with the projects. They are working on a landscaping project with community involvement. Committee members questioned why they are spending money on landscaping. It was stated that people will more likely to want to live in an area where they can take pride in how it looks. A modest amount of money is being spent in this area.

Committee members questioned if the disabled are given preferential treatment for housing requests. Ms. Kurtz stated Approved: 10-21-11

PUBLIC HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

September 16, 2011

Page 3

she is unsure, but would check on this for the committee. There are still over 1,000 persons on the section 8 waiting list. This equates to a two year wait. They are concerned there will more funding cuts for the coming year.

Board of Health: Mr. McNulty informed committee members that in the past the department has worked closely with the Mental Health Board on how they deliver services. They have an in home program that assists with making sure individuals are taking their medications etc. They realized that these services are better provided by Family Services. The department is currently transitioning to shift these services completely to Family Services. This shift will result in the laying off of some staff. This will affect 3 RN's, 1 half time CNA and 1 half time clerical worker. They are unsure whether they will retain a portion of this program. If all of the services are transferred it could result in an additional RN being laid off and an additional half time CNA and Clerical staff member. The Department is no longer providing much home health services and may transition these services to others. The staff being laid off will be able to interview for positions at Family Services. The Mental Health Board is also helping to facilitate this move.

At the October meeting of the Board of Health they will have a presentation on the Greater Elgin Healthcare Center that is opening in McHenry. The Department is working with this facility and will be offering WIC and Family Services at this location. They have moved out of the Algonquin Township offices. They will now be able to run these services more efficiently.

Mr. McNulty reminded committee members that it is flu season and time to get their flu shots. He stated that it is early in the flu season so he recommended they get their shots scheduled while vaccines are available. Ms. Schmidt recommended they schedule the shingles vaccine at the same time. Even though it is costly, it is a good price. She stated that this could save a lot of pain and misery.

Ms. Kurtz questioned how the services are running out of the new health clinic. The Family Health Partnership Clinic deals with those clients that have no alternatives for services. Mr. McNulty provided committee members a "history of the clinic" and how it has progressed over the years. He stated that they now have some great places in the County to obtain services. It took four years to get the offices opened. McHenry County has over 50,000 persons that are uninsured in the County. This is approximately 16% of our population. It is expected that this number will grow.

Mental Health Board: Committee members were informed that the new facility is almost complete. Work is expected to be finished by September 30th with move in expected the second week in October. SASS has moved into the Family Services building.

Senior Services Grant Commission: Mr. Labaj reported that the Senior Services Grant Commission has four positions that are up for reappointment. One is for a representative from the Housing Authority, one for representation from the Township Supervisors, one from a not for profit group and one for a citizen at large. He stated he would notify the members and publish the openings in the newspaper. Some of the members have indicated they would like to reapply for the position.

VAC: Mr. Iwanicki joined committee members and informed them that claims are up 45%. They are getting decisions back from the VA in a timely manner. They have seen an "upswing" in these decisions. McHenry County received \$660,000 in new claims. They have received \$2.3 million for FY2011 for McHenry County Veterans. He is hopeful to increase this amount next year. He stated that the more claims that are approved through the VA, less claims will be applied for at other McHenry County agencies. They currently have 130 claims still open. If a veteran is a "war time" vet and are low income, they could qualify for a pension under the "welfare" act. He stated that the office works on outreach education through nursing homes, fairs and other functions as there is a lot of miss-information out in the community.

Transportation requests are down for the VAC. He believes this is because the services are now run more efficiently both through the transportation center and with how they are scheduling the appointments.

The office is still looking for additional space. They will be going before the Management Services Committee in October to address this issue.

Valley Hi: Chairman Peschke stated that she would work with Mr. Annarella in order to schedule a meeting with him and Mr. Brandt regarding the admissions policy of Valley Hi.

PUBLIC HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE

September 16, 2011

Page 4

Committee members were informed that the Valley Hi picnic was very nice. They had music and a petting zoo, which all of the residents seemed to enjoy.

Ms. Donner left committee at 9:37a.m.

Ms. Kurtz voiced concern regarding the rumor that Valley Hi provides preferential treatment to County Employees. She stated that we need to dispel this rumor on how admissions are done. She stated that she feels strongly that this issue needs to be addressed by the Operating Board. It was stated that it is all about education. It is important that the Operating Board educates the public on this issue.

OTHER BUSINESS

None

ADJOURNMENT:

Noting no further business, Mr. Donley made a motion, seconded by Ms. Salgado to adjourn the meeting at 9:40 a.m. The motion carried with a unanimous voice vote of all members present.

* * * * *

RECOMMENDED FOR BOARD/COMMITTEE ACTION:

Resolution Authorizing the Adoption of Senior Services Grant Fund Funding Allocations for Program Year 2012

Resolution Authorizing an Emergency Appropriation of \$40,000 from the General Fund Reserves to Restore Funding to the Breast and Cervical Cancer Program (IBCCP) for FY2011

Resolution Authorizing Acceptance of an Illinois Breast and Cervical Cancer Program (IBCCP) Funding in the Amount of \$402,960 and Committing County Financial Support for FY2012

:ksf