

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

MINUTES OF FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 4, 2011

Chairman Peschke called the Public Health and Human Services Committee meeting to order at 8:20 a.m. The following members were present: Virginia Peschke, Chairman; Mary Donner; Randy Donley; Kathleen Bergan Schmidt; Donna Kurtz and Anna May Miller. Sandra Salgado was absent. Also in attendance: Peter Austin, County Administrator; Pat McNulty, Fran Stanwood and Kristen Harrison, Health Department; John Labaj, Deputy County Administrator; Tom Annarella, Valley Hi; Sandy Lewis, Mental Health; Dennis Sandquist and Maryanne Wanaski, Planning and Development; Diane Evertsen and Ersel Schuster, County Board Members; Jamie Rein, State's Attorney; and Mike Iwanicki, VAC.

	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 October 21, 2011. Ms. Miller made a motion, seconded by Ms. Donner, to recommend approval of the minutes as submitted. Ms. Kurtz stated that on page 5, third paragraph, she would like the word "more" changed to additional. She also stated that the name "Chris" should be changed to "Kris". Ms. Kurtz requested that the word "effort" should be changed to capital as well. Ms. Miller and Ms. Donner agreed to the amendments. The minutes were approved, as amended, with a unanimous voice vote of all ayes.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

PRESENTATIONS

Breast and Cervical Cancer Program: Ms. Kristen Harrison, Epidemiologist in the Health Department and the Director of Nursing, Stan Franwood, joined committee members to provide a presentation on the Breast and Cervical Cancer program being provided by the Health Department. Committee members were informed that the presentation includes the most recent figures that have been provided by the Illinois State Cancer Survey. It was stated that a lot of lives will be saved with this program. Some women are hesitant to go to a doctor, and some have never been to a doctor or had a pap or mammogram before. These women are fearful of what could be wrong or feel there is nothing wrong with them. McHenry County ranks lower than the State for women getting mammograms. One of the reasons is the cost. It is hopeful that with this program, they won't continue to see this disparity in the future.

One in eight women born today will be diagnosed with breast cancer at some time during their lifetime. This is based on rates from 2005-2007. The National Cancer Institute states that as of January 1, 2008, there were approximately 2,632,005 women in the U.S. who have had or currently have breast cancer. The rates in McHenry County have decreased since 1994.

Previously the County did not have any type of services for low income individuals. The County has been very gracious by allowing the Health Department to run this program. The total funding for the program is \$630,910 which includes funding from the State of Illinois, CDC, and McHenry County. \$158,000 is provided by the County. Committee members questioned, based on the number of patients, where the rest of the costs are going. Committee members were informed that the costs go for treatment, screening and diagnostic services. Ms. Kurtz stated that she would like a breakdown of all costs associated with this program.

One of the goals of the program is that they did not want to lose a client that was funded by this program. They have case managers in order to refer clients for treatment by Medicaid. Costs would be much higher if screenings were being done later for some of these clients.

Ms. Schmidt stated that she keeps reminding people that the Health Department got this County into this program by their involvement with the IBCCP (Illinois Breast and Cervical Cancer Program). It was because of the persistence of a few individuals that they were able to get this program off the ground. Family Health Partnership was also instrumental in the process.

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Ms. Stanwood continued with the presentation by saying that McHenry County also has a higher incidence rate for Cervical Cancer as well. According to the National Cancer Institute, one in 147 women born today will be diagnosed with cervical cancer at some time during their lifetime. They have seen this rate decrease in the county since 1994 as well. The survival rate will depend on the stage the diagnosis was given. If the cancer is localized (confined to the primary site) there is a 90.9% five year survival rate. If the cancer has spread to regional lymph nodes the rate is 57% and if the cancer has metastasized there is an 18.7% 5 year survival rate. Ms. Stanwood stated that early detection of cancer results in successful treatment. It is imperative to get screenings done.

Ms Stanwood reviewed the General Breast and Cervical Cancer Flow Chart to show the committee members how the program works. Once an individual has an abnormal reading, they are referred to a physician. For a new client without symptoms, it takes approximately 3:40 hours of staff time to get them enrolled into the program. Annual case management of an established client, without symptoms, takes 2:20 hours of staff time. Clients that require more staff time, include symptomatic clients, clients under 35 years old, clients with a positive cancer diagnosis and referral to Treatment Act (RTTA) Clients. This allows treatment to be paid for.

The Breast and Cervical Cancer program served 1063 clients in 2011. 38.8% of these individuals were new clients. 13 clients were diagnosed with cancer. 9 of the clients had invasive breast cancer, 2 were diagnosed with in situ breast cancer and there were 2 diagnosed with cervical cancer. They provided 1020 clinical breast exams, 815 mammography exams and 689 pap tests.

Committee members thanked Ms. Stanwood and Ms. Harrison for the presentation.

NEW BUSINESS

Veteran's Assistance Commission – Office Space: Mr. Mike Iwanicki, Director of the Veteran's Assistance Commission (VAC) joined committee members to discuss the need for additional office space. Since December of 2010, the office has had over 10,655 contacts with individuals. They have served 1,000 more individuals than they did the previous year. Compensation Claims and prosecuting claims for veterans take a minimum of two to four hours of staff time for each claim. Some of these will require additional appointments in order to service their needs. Demand for services has increased significantly and with the call for reductions in all branches of the military, this need will increase more. It is hopeful that some of those coming out of active duty will go into the education system. Even with the increase to those going into the education system, they will see an increase in service requests.

Mr. Iwanicki stated that in 2010, he met one of his long term goals. He wanted his office to be one of the ten top agencies in the state that sees clients. With reaching this goal, the office is allowed to receive a couple of Veteran Service Officers to help their office with claims. They are unable accept this because of the lack of space within his office. The VA (Veterans Administration) would pay for these officers.

The office provides active outreach as well. There are issues where companies try to take advantage of Veterans and their spouses and charge them for assistance that is provided for free by the VAC. He just heard about a company that went into an assisted living facility and told the residents (veterans) that they had to go through their company to access these services. They were told that the VAC won't go into their facility in order to assist with claims. These companies are not accredited to put through these claims but are charging for this service.

Mr. Iwanicki stated that he is looking for more space to help serve more clients. He stated that he does reserve room 210 when needed. He stated that there may be additional space in the ROE (Regional Office of Education) area in the future. It is unknown if this space will be available until we know what the State plans to do with the ROE's. They have also had some discussion regarding the creation of a "Veteran's Court" and there may be space created in the proposed branch court for this office, though that is only a discussion at this time.

The conference room next to the ROE will be used for elections, but after that time, that space could be used as well. That will help in the short term. Mr. Iwanicki stated that computer access is needed in each of these rooms to service their needs as well.

Committee members asked if the drop in facility could be used as an alternate site. They were informed that this would only be a temporary solution. Computer connectivity to the County would be an issue at that facility. Committee members stated that it may be worthwhile to investigate the costs to get this connectivity to the County. He questioned what he would do if the grant ends and he needs to leave this facility.

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Mr. Iwanicki stated that they would like about 1,000 square feet of space though this can be determined by Administration. He stated that the main issue is that he needs more staff to help with the calls and requests for services. He stated they would like to have at least three offices and a conference room to fit their needs. He stated that he would prefer a location here as this facility is centrally located within the county.

Mr. Austin agreed that room 210 and the ROE conference room is a short term solution. He stated we will know more when we hear what is going to happen with the ROE. He stated there are no quick solutions to this issue.

Ms. Donner stated that she had suggested the ROE offices since she knows that some of the Veterans that come in for services are disabled and she did not want them to have to go up and down stairs to access room 210. She also agreed that these offices should be located here in the County as most Vets that come in for service know where the Veterans Assistance Commission is located.

Committee members questioned how many vets are located in the County. They stated that there are approximately 20,002 veterans with 7% of these obtaining services from the VA. Committee members questioned how many active duty personnel are in the service from the County. They were told that this information is not available because of terrorism issues. This information becomes available after someone leaves the military.

Committee members questioned why they are coming before this committee with this request as facility issues go before the Management Services Committee. Mr. Iwanicki stated that the VAC reports to the Public Health and Human Services Committee and he needs this committee to refer him to the next committee in order to facilitate this request. Ms. Kurtz questioned why the VA reports to this committee. She was informed that they report here because the VAC is a Human Service department. Mr. Iwanicki works to obtain healthcare services for veterans so they are part of the Human Services program. Chairman Peschke stated that she needs the consensus of the committee in order to move this forward.

Ms. Kurtz stated she did not think that is best. She stated this issue needs more analysis by Mr. Austin and Mr. Iwanicki in order to understand all the options for the request. She stated she would need to know the pros and cons of this request and the associated costs. She stated that there needs to be some kind of accountability. Chairman Peschke stated that this is what the Management Services Committee would do. She stated that Mr. Iwanicki came before us to review his needs and then it is the duty of this committee to decide if an issue should move forward.

Mr. Donley noted that the VAC serves approximately 1,400 people per year. Mr. Iwanicki informed committee members that he alone reviews 3 claims per day. Each of these claims takes at least two hours each to complete. They have provided service to over 10,600 clients so far this year plus taken over 5,100 calls. They have helped with 1,231 compensation claims which have increased from the 795 served last year. Mr. Iwanicki noted that the office is primarily used for claims. They also need more personnel, which the U.S. Department of Veteran Affairs will pay for, but, they have no space available to do this. They are also in need of someone to answer the phones as well.

Committee members questioned if Mr. Iwanicki had a three to five year plan for the office. He stated that he does and he also has a ten year plan. He stated that the problem is that you don't know what the Federal Government is going to do. It is hard to forecast when you don't know what they plan to do with the budget. He stated who knew that a stimulus package would pass, they would push money into the economy and then it was gone again. Nor did they know that they would give extensions for unemployment claims. These issues affect this office as these events resulted in less claims, until these funds ran out. Chairman Peschke stated it would be helpful if the committee members would review the first couple of the pages of the budgets for each of the departments so they would know the requirements of the services provided. Ms. Kurtz stated she did not feel there was enough information provided in order to move this issue forward. She asked if the committee knows what the impact of this request would do to the budget. She stated she does not feel these questions have been answered. Chairman Peschke stated that is the job of the Management Services Committee. The consensus of the committee was to forward this issue to the Management Services Committee for consideration. Mr. Iwanicki stated if they have any more questions to please let him know.

Mr. Donley stated that Mr. Iwanicki brought up information about a study of space that was completed. He questioned when this occurred. He was informed that the study took place in 2008. Every department was reviewed to determine future space needs for all of the departments.

Senior Services Grant Commission: Mr. Labaj joined committee members to discuss the open positions currently on the Senior Services Grant Commission. He stated there are currently 5 vacancies on the commission. Two of the

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appointments are made by other agencies. One open position is for the Housing Authority and the other is for the position for the Township Supervisors. This committee will need to hold interviews for the remaining three positions. Two open positions are for vacancies for representation of the not-for-profit groups and the other remaining position will be for a citizen at large. The citizen at large has reapplied for consideration to be reappointed to this position. Mr. Labaj stated that he would like the commission to be in place by January so there will be a complete commission involved in the planning session. An additional advertisement will be placed notifying the public of these open positions.

Committee members reviewed the bylaws of the Senior Services Grant Commission. Ms. Miller noted that in the section concerning possible conflicts, they did a nice job in identification of any possible conflicts. She stated that she is very comfortable in how the commission is set up. Ms. Kurtz stated that she feels there should be a representative from a unit of local government as opposed to a township supervisor as she feels that some communities are not being represented. She stated that an example of this would be Lake in the Hills. Mr. Labaj reminded committee members that when the commission was being formed, they thought the representation by the municipalities would be done by having a representative from McCOG (McHenry County Council of Governments) serve on the commission. It was stated that a different representative could be requested from this group after each term expires. It would be up to this committee to make sure they review the background of each applicant to make sure they are putting in place the representative they want to represent a specific area of the County. Committee members were reminded they could solicit applicants for this commission if they would like as well. Committee members requested that when Mr. Labaj speaks to McCOG to let them know the commission would like a different representative to serve on the commission.

Resolution Authorizing the Purchase of Television/Satellite Equipment and a Budget Line Item Transfer in the Valley Hi Nursing Home FY2011 Budget (not in packet): Mr. Annarella joined the committee to discuss the above Resolution. He apologized for not getting this Resolution to the committee members sooner for consideration. He informed committee members that in order to get this project completed, he needs to take this item out of order and take it to the Finance and Audit Committee for consideration next week. The resident's in Valley Hi Nursing Home has requested that options be researched to expand their current television service to allow for additional programming. After this research, a review was done by the Residents Council. It was decided that they go with NationSat to offer ala carte programming options to meet resident/patient needs. NationSat works with Direct TV, the current provider at Valley Hi, to purchase the additional equipment at a cost not to exceed \$28,000 to provide two customizable channels for facility notification a movie programming. Mr. Annarella informed committee members that Valley Hi has the funds in their budget for this expansion. The consensus of the committee was to forward this request on to the Finance and Audit Committee for consideration.

OLD BUSINESS

None.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

None.

REPORTS TO COMMITTEE

Workforce Network/WIB: None

Housing Authority: Ms. Kurtz stated that she was unable to attend a meeting that was held on Tuesday evening. She stated that she was informed that they held a discussion about the possibility of partnering with another agency in the management of properties. They are in discussions with the Lake County Development Corporation. There is currently a piece of property, located in Fox River Grove that this group would like to manage, since it is closer to them. Committee members questioned if this would be allowed under statute. They were informed that additional information on this issue should follow in the near future.

Ms. Kurtz provided committee members with a follow-up on the Banner Properties request that she spoke about at the previous committee meeting. She stated that this is property that backs up to Prairie Trail near Routes 31 and 62. Ms. Kurtz informed committee members that this group first tried to go through Crystal Lake with their request.

Mr. Sandquist and Ms. Wanaski joined committee to provide information on what is going on with this property. Ms. Wanaski informed committee members that the Community Development Office was contacted to see if they knew of any 501c3's in McHenry County that they could contact in order to enter into a development partnership for low cost housing. Ms. Wanaski read an email that staff received from Mr. Suminski. Mr. Tom Suminski, from Banner Apartments, contacted staff in the Community Development office, to ask "Does your department have the ability to enter into development partnerships? Do you have an entity that is a 501c3?"

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Mr. Suminski had stated that "For IHDA 9% applications I need to include a non-profit partner. We have a 501c3 that the owners of Banner created as a philanthropic venture, but it is looking like they won't be able to enter into any partnerships with my group this year. It is still possible that they will, but I need to find other groups in case they can't."

"If you can do it, give me a call and we can discuss how it would work. Or if you know of area groups that I can contact." Ms. Wanaski stated that this email highlights the partnership Mr. Suminski is looking for and the needs of the program. Ms. Wanaski provided copies of the email and correspondence from the McHenry County Housing Authority, regarding the discussion that took place during their meeting. This group was meeting with the Housing Authority seeking an allocation of project-based vouchers to subsidize some of their housing units. Ms. Wanaski stated that these are very complicated projects that involve millions of dollar. She voiced concern and stated that technically, discussions on this issue, is none of our business. She stated that this is a discussion between the Housing Authority and Banner Properties to help developers with low income housing.

Committee members were reminded that Banner Properties is a for profit developer. They can hire anyone they want. They work under a different set of rules. If this had been a McHenry County project, an RFQ would have been required. This is not Federal Financing and does not involve HOME funding and Ms. Wanaski wanted to again state that this is a discussion that was held with the Housing Authority and Banner Properties and did not involve the County in any way. She stated that when these businesses apply for Federal Tax Credits, it is very competitive. Each applicant wants to get a higher "score". This is done by working with a not-for-profit group as a partner. It needs to be clear that there is absolutely no involvement with the County on this issue.

Ms. Kurtz stated that she related her experience she had from a meeting she where she is a representative of this committee. She stated that she asked a question, "what do they do?" and they did not have an answer. She was told they could not give any specifics of the project and this committee was surprised. She had asked what Kris Koehler was being paid for. Ms. Wanaski stated that even if this was paid from "capital", that is the role of the non-profit. That is the role as an employee to employer to ask as they do specific work for them. Mr. Koehler does not work for them so he could not provide information on his role with this group. Banner Properties needed to show a partnership with a 501c3 and since this group is the only game in town that is why his name was provided. Ms. Kurtz stated it doesn't look right.

Ms. Wanaski stated that Banner is a private business and we can't tell them how to run their business.

Committee members stated for there to be only one in the County appears odd. Ms. Wanaski stated that we have no control over that. There is also only one HUD approved credit counseling agency in the County as well which has a County Board member connection.

It was stated that since this group is run by the son of the County Board Chairman, it looks bad. Again committee members were reminded that the County has no control over this private deal. It was stated that the County funds many agencies every year where there are affiliations with some of the County Board Members and it was stated there should be more concerns with these projects than there should be with this issue since this involves a private company.

Mr. Donley stated that he was shocked when he heard about this issue. He stated that his concerns go all the way back to a meeting that he had with Staff regarding CHAMCO. He stated that he was told that it would take a 501c3 three years to get funded, but, if they had a sponsor, they could start a project immediately. Committee members were told this was to allowed help to get 501c3's on their feet and running.

Ms. Wanaski stated that the bottom line is that Banner Properties asked a question. Staff informed them that the County does not have any 501c3's and that there is only one currently located in the County. Whatever happened after that is their business.

Committee members stated that the big surprise came when they found out that Kris Koehler's organization was the one being used. Committee members were reminded that they are their own 501c3. Habitat for Humanity will only help with review of the documents. This group will serve for one year under this sponsorship. Without sponsorship, it would take three years to get up and running.

Ms. Donner stated that any 501c3 that wanted to provide a sponsorship could do so as well.

Ms. Kurtz stated that when the department was contacted they should have provided a list of non-profit organizations as
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there are other organizations that have spent years on these programs and to recommend just this one doesn't look right.

Ms. Miller thanked Ms. Wanaski for attending today's committee meeting and stated that she appreciates the concerns as brought up by Mr. Donley and Ms. Kurtz. She stated that there is an appearance that Mr. Kris Koehler, one non-profit agency, offers this service. She stated that this appears to be a personal issue for Ms. Kurtz and from the perspective to this committee and its members she felt it important enough to discuss this issue with the committee members. She stated now they need to civilly agree to disagree. She stated that this is a wonderful project that seems to be good for the residents of the County and she requested, with all due respect to move forward and terminate this discussion.

It was stated that it is hopeful that the County gets more of these agencies involved in this type of work in order to address the needs of the community.

Ms. Kurtz stated that she wants to go on the record and state that they need to bring up the policy and procedure on how they should answer questions regarding vendor relationships. She stated that it is critical that we don't favor a particular vendor over another as long as we stay neutral and fair to everyone. She stated that all of the bylaws of all funding commissions should be reviewed so there is no appearance of conflicts.

Ms. Schuster stated that when they raised questions about Kris Koehler's group, it was said that in order to form a partnership the group needed to be a 501c3 for either three years or they needed to work under a current sponsor for one year. It was stated that this is a requirement for a CHDO. Committee members were informed that in order to work under a sponsor their "time" begins when a project is started. They cannot work under a sponsor if there isn't a project to work on.

Mr. Donley stated that Ms. Wanaski stated she had a copy of the transcript from the previous meeting and requested a copy of this. She stated he could receive a copy.

Board of Health: Committee members were reminded that there was a suggestion that the committee members meet with the Board of Health while they are reviewing their strategic plan in order to see if some of their plan could be included in the County's strategic plan. It was stated that their meeting will be held after the County Board's strategic planning session has been held. Committee members stated they could meet at a later date. Their meeting has been scheduled for the fourth Monday of the month. This committee is scheduled to meet with the Mental Health Board this month.

Ms. Kurtz stated she would like to see this meeting scheduled for a different date as she has a conflict with this meeting date. She asked that the date be reviewed so the majority of the committee would be able to attend.

Mental Health Board: Committee members were informed that they have now moved into the expanded building. Life safety repairs are now being completed in the old building. An open house is being planned for the third Monday in December. The Mental Health Board is reviewing the cuts being made to Mental Health Services in the State. They will be reviewing their funding applications to get ready for the December contract year. Meeting dates will be sent out for those interested in attending.

Senior Services Grant Commission: None

VAC: None

OTHER BUSINESS

None.

ADJOURNMENT:

Noting no further business, Ms. Miller made a motion, seconded by Ms. Donner to adjourn the meeting at 10:35 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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