

CHAMPAIGN COUNTY BOARD
COMMITTEE MINUTES

JUSTICE & SOCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE

Monday, May 1, 2006

**Lyle Shields Meeting Room, Brookens Administrative Center
1776 E. Washington St., Urbana**

7:00 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Anderson, Carter, Greenwalt, Hogue, James, Putman, Sapp, Schroeder, Tapley

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

OTHERS PRESENT: Deb Busey (County Administrator of Finance & HR Management), Andrew Buffenbarger (Nursing Home Administrator), Joseph Gordon (Court Services/Probation Director), Stephanie Joos (Animal Control Director), Kathleen Liffick (Head Start Director), Nancy Richardson (Assistant Nursing Home Administrator), Peter Tracy (Director of Mental Health), Dan Walsh (Sheriff), Marilyn Garmon (C-U Area Project)

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Anderson called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.

ROLL CALL

The Recording Secretary called the roll. Anderson, Carter, Greenwalt, Hogue, James, Putman, Sapp, Schroeder, and Tapley were present at the time of the roll call. Anderson declared a quorum and proceeded with the meeting.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA/ADDENDUM

MOTION by Greenwalt to approve the agenda; seconded by James. Motion carried.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION by James to approve the Justice & Social Services Committee minutes of April 3, 2006; seconded by Carter. Motion carried.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There was one person for public participation. Bill Albin spoke in opposition to the \$10 registration fee for cats. He suggested citizens on a fixed income be exempt from the registration fees for two spayed/neutered animals just as senior citizens are exempt.

MONTHLY REPORTS

MOTION by Tapley to receive and place on file the Animal Control March 2006 report, Circuit Clerk March 2006 report, and Emergency Management Agency April 2006 report; seconded by Hogue. Motion carried.

JUVENILE DELINQUENCY GRANT MONTHLY REPORTS

MOTION by Tapley to receive and place on file the Best Interest of Children March 2006 report, CASA March 2006 report, Don Moyer Boys & Girls Club March 2006 report, Mental Health Center March 2006 report, Regional Planning Commission March 2006 report, and Restoration Urban Ministries October 2005, November 2005, December 2005, January 2006, February 2006, and March 2006 reports; seconded by James. Motion carried.

SHERIFF

Request Approval of Agreement Between the University of Illinois and the County of Champaign for the Provision of Security at Memorial Stadium During University of Illinois Football Games

MOTION by Schroeder to approve the Agreement Between the University of Illinois and the County of Champaign for the Provision of Security at Memorial Stadium During University of Illinois Football Games; seconded by Hogue.

Schroeder asked who would have jurisdiction over the deputies at the football games and what the deputies' duties would be. Sheriff Walsh explained the officers would serve on traffic detail before and after the games. They would also serve as security officers inside Memorial Stadium during the games. There is also at least one supervisor from the Sheriff's Office present who is in charge of the deputies. James asked if the deputies earn overtime for this work. The Sheriff stated these would be overtime deputies. The University of Illinois reimburses the Sheriff's Office for the overtime costs plus extra. The Sheriff's Office makes a profit from this agreement and the prices have increased over last year's prices.

Motion carried.

HEAD START **Monthly Report**

MOTION by Hogue to receive and place on file the Head Start April report; seconded by Carter.

Liffick announced she has the opportunity to apply for a one-time improvement grant for Head Start. The deadline for this grant application is May 26th. Liffick requested to have this grant application placed on the agenda for a short committee meeting held before the County Board meeting on May 18th. Liffick described that her application would request funding to purchase a new record keeping/recording database system in order to produce better reports, a software program to assist in maintaining records for the food service program, cell phones for the four home visitors, exercise mats for the Savoy gym, and replacement of the light fixtures in the Savoy classrooms.

James noted that Verizon Wireless offers an 18% discount to government entities and suggested Liffick consider them for the cell phones.

Motion carried.

NURSING HOME **Monthly Report**

MOTION by Tapley to receive and place on file the Nursing Home April report; seconded by James.

James commended the Nursing Home volunteers mentioned in the monthly report. Putman inquired about parking for the Nursing Home Open House on Saturday. Buffenbarger explained parking is available both in the Nursing Home and Brookens parking lots. There will be shuttles available. Busey stated there is

already a sign posted on Main Street directing cars where to turn on Art Bartell Road. Putman asked if a moving date had been set. Buffenbarger stated there was no moving date at the present time.

Motion carried.

Approval of Lease/Purchase of Laundry Equipment from Loomis Commercial, Inc. for the Champaign County Nursing Home

Anderson announced the paperwork for the lease is not ready, so this item will be moved to the May 18th Justice & Social Services Committee meeting. Anderson suggested the May 18th meeting be held at 6:30 p.m. The committee concurred.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Letter from Constituent Praising Animal Control Officer Kopmann

The letter from Lisa Linke commending Animal Control Officer Faith Kopmann for her work in rescuing Linke's dog was provided for information only.

ANIMAL CONTROL

Request Approval of Intergovernmental Agreements for Animal Impoundment Services and Intergovernmental Agreements for Animal Control Services with the Villages of Fisher, Foosland, Thomasboro, and Tolono

MOTION by James for an omnibus motion to approve the Intergovernmental Agreement for Animal Impoundment Services with the Village of Fisher, Intergovernmental Agreement for Animal Control Services with the Village of Fisher, Intergovernmental Agreement for Animal Impoundment Services with the Village of Foosland, Intergovernmental Agreement for Animal Control Services with the Village of Foosland, Intergovernmental Agreement for Animal Impoundment Services with the Village of Thomasboro, Intergovernmental Agreement for Animal Control Services with the Village of Thomasboro, Intergovernmental Agreement for Animal Impoundment Services with the Village of Tolono, and Intergovernmental Agreement for Animal Control Services with the Village of Tolono; seconded by Schroeder.

Greenwalt asked if the increased number of village agreements will result in an increased amount of work for the Animal Control Department, and thus require additional Animal Control staff. Joos stated no additional staff will be necessary due to the village agreements. The villages have always received animal control services from the previous Animal Control Officer, but the County was never reimbursed for its services. The County had agreements with four villages, but not with other fourteen villages that received services. Joos has worked to settle agreements with all the villages so it is fair to all. As of this meeting, there remain four villages who have not replied to Joos about the agreements. Joos will be checking on these villages next week. Putman asked if the villages were being charged a high enough rate to cover the high cost of gasoline. Joos and Busey worked together to develop the fee charged to villages and while gasoline prices have increased since then, the villages are only visited about once or twice a month so they will not have a huge impact on the gasoline budget. Schroeder asked which four villages have not replied. Joos said she is waiting to hear from Sidney, Bondville, and two others whose names she did not have with her. The agreements with Homer will be on the June Justice & Social Services agenda. She is in the process of renegotiating the agreements with Savoy. Joos sent letters to all the villages explaining that the each village must enter into the agreements in order to receive animal control and impoundment services.

Schroeder asked if there was sufficient space in the Animal Control Facility. Joos said there is enough space to honor the agreements because the numbers used to create the facility included animals impounded from the villages in past years. Joos said the Animal Control Department will likely be able to perform animal control services to the villages better than in previous years. This might mean a slight increase in the number of animals impounded. Joos stated the Animal Control Facility has had very few days at full capacity.

James recommended reviewing these agreements in the next fiscal year and incorporating a gasoline surcharge for villages that frequently call the Animal Control Department for services.

Tapley asked what would happen if a person living in a village that had not entered into the animal control and impoundment agreements called the Animal Control Department and requested those services. Joos explained such a person would be advised to contact his/her village. Joos has informed the villages they would be responsible for their own animal control services if they do not enter into a contract with the County. The Animal Control Department will not accept animals from an incorporated area of Champaign County that does not have an agreement with the County. Joos explained the rates for services. She has been working with rescue groups so unclaimed animals have a better chance to find a home.

Motion carried.

CORONER

Request Approval of Acceptance of State of Illinois Department of Public Health Grant to Coroner's Office

MOTION by James to approve the acceptance of the State of Illinois Department of Public Health Grant to Coroner's Office; seconded by Tapley. Motion carried.

COURT SERVICES/PROBATION

Juvenile Supervision Line Staff Officer Position

This item was provided for information only. James asked how long the resigning employee was employed by the County. Gordon said the employee previously worked at the juvenile detention center and was with the County for about eight years.

Request Approval of Extension of Agreement for the Provision of Health Services to the Champaign County Juvenile Detention Center

MOTION by Carter to approve the Extension of Agreement for the Provision of Health Services to the Champaign County Juvenile Detention Center; seconded by Tapley.

Greenwalt asked if the extension was for one month. Busey explained a one-month extension was being requested because the agreement expired on Sunday. The original agreement allows for an automatic annual renewal. The Sheriff has a similar contract with Health Professionals, LTD for the adult detention centers. The renewal for one-year is planned with no increase in rate and the ability for an additional year of renewal. The renewal is being worked on by the County's legal counsel. Greenwalt asked if the JDC has been happy with the services provided by Health Professional, LTD. Gordon said they have been pleased with the services. Busey said the Sheriff has been pleased with the services as well. The final version of the extension will be reviewed at the short committee meeting on May 18th at the request of legal counsel.

Putman asked if the dental needs of the detainees at the Juvenile Detention Center could be met by Dental Access Program through the County Board of Health. Gordon said he has spoken with Dental Access to provide some services at the JDC. Sometimes the dental care needed cannot be provided by Dental Access, but the program is utilized.

Motion carried.

MENTAL HEALTH BOARD

Request Approval of Memorandum of Understanding Between the Champaign County Mental Health Board and the Champaign County Board Regarding the Sharing Costs for the Provision of Mental Health and Suicide Prevention Services in Champaign County Correctional Facilities

MOTION by Carter to approve the Memorandum of Understanding Between the Champaign County Mental Health Board and the Champaign County Board Regarding the Sharing Costs for the Provision of Mental Health and Suicide Prevention Services in Champaign County Correctional Facilities; seconded by Tapley.

Anderson said the Mental Health Board has already approved the memorandum. The Mental Health Board volunteered to provide \$70,000 to the County to assist with the increased expense in providing mental health and suicide prevention services to inmates of the correctional facilities. Tracy stated the Memorandum of Understanding was in recognition of the change in provider and increased mental health services at the correctional centers. The Mental Health Board felt a responsibility to help the County with the increased costs associated with those changes in the first year. Putman thanked Tracy and the Mental Health Board for their generous contribution. The committee concurred.

Motion carried.

Champaign County Mental Health Board Decision Memorandum for Juvenile Justice Delinquency Prevention Grant Awards for FY2006

The Mental Health staff recommendations were included in the memorandum. Tracy said the major criterion in judging the applicants was whether they worked with the target population. The target is intervention with juveniles within the system to prevent recidivism. Law enforcement personnel and Court Services/Probation staff were consulted. The agencies that were not recommended for funding are excellent agencies, but their applications did not meet the grant criteria. Mental Health was bound by the criteria set by the County Board in the memorandum of understanding between the two entities.

Greenwalt asked if the Don Moyer Boys & Girls Club application, which would require significant contract negotiation and program plan revision, is realistic. Tracy said the original application from the Don Moyer Boys & Girls Club was for \$200,000, which the grant program could not afford, could be reduced. The Don Moyer Boys & Girls Club informed Tracy they would be willing to do components of the original proposal for less money. Tracy intends to negotiate the contract with the Don Moyer Boys & Girls Club and involve Gordon, Constance Kaiser (from the JDC), and Marilyn Garmon (the grant monitor from CU Area Project) in the negotiation. If a program that will meet the needs of adjudicated delinquents cannot be negotiated, then the Don Moyer Boys & Girls Club will not receive any grant funding.

The Mental Health Board will vote on the grant awards at its meeting tomorrow night. James stated the Mental Health staff has done a very good job in managing the Juvenile Delinquency Grants. Tracy added that the Mental Health Board had added \$95,000 of its money to the Quarter Cent for Public Safety Sales Tax money to fund the Juvenile Delinquency Grants, specifically for the Mental Health Center's program. The Mental Health Center's program will be fully funded by the Mental Health Board's money. The County Board has actually gotten more money for the grants by engaging the services of the Mental Health Board.

CHAIR'S REPORT

Discussion Regarding Waiver of Registration Fees required by Animal Control Ordinance for Individuals on Permanent Disability

Tapley asked if the Animal Control Ordinance Section 27 could be amended to include waiving the registration fees for up to two dogs or cats that are spayed or neutered for citizens on Medicaid. Tapley said the

County could use the same criteria the Champaign-Urbana Mass Transit District uses to provide free service to those on disability. James asked where the County should draw the line concerning who would be exempt. James was sympathetic to Albin, who spoke during public participation, but Albin also told James that he spends a significant amount of money to care and groom his cat. James suggested lowering the exemption age in the ordinance from 65 to 55 years of age. James did think allowing an exemption for two animals was too far, one is enough. James would like the animals registered even if the fee is waived in order to know the number of cats and dogs owned in the County. He is not in favor of allowing the fee to be waived for anyone on disability because those receiving Social Security benefits include a broad range of ages and circumstances. The \$10 fee is not excessive. Tapley requested the ordinance be amended to state that someone over 65 would be exempt for the fees for two cats as well as dogs. Joos said that has been the policy.

The committee discussed the possible fee exemption. Sapp asked how much revenue is received from registration fees. Joos said the County receives approximately \$200,000 annually. Sapp asked how much impact would waiving fees for individuals on disability would have on the revenue and if Joos had a recommendation on this issue. Joos stated part of the reasoning behind rewriting the Animal Control Ordinance as it pertains to senior citizens was because people were abusing the free tags for seniors. Senior citizens would register the pets belonging to their children and grandchildren so they could avoid paying the minimal fee. Some seniors were registering up to twenty animals that they themselves did not own. Joos said by waiving the registration fees for individuals on permanent disability, the County could open itself up to increased fraud and misuse of the program, similar to what happened before with seniors. It would be difficult for the County to control this because the majority of the tags are sold at veterinarians' offices. The veterinarians are already burdened with requiring proof that a person is over 65 and providing it to the Animal Control Department. Joos felt the veterinarians would balk at doing the same for those on disability. Some individuals on permanent disability could also be offended by being asked if they are on disability by a veterinarian's office. Joos suggested a possible discount on the registration fee for those on permanent disability. She would prefer to review the matter further. Sapp stated this could have a significant impact on the budget and he could not support any changes.

Carter asked if many people requested waivers of the registration fees. Joos said no, this was the first request to waive the fees that she is aware of since she has been employed by the County. She noted the department has been offering lower cost spaying and neutering for pets of lower income citizens. Even those who take advantage of the lower cost spaying and neutering pay the \$10 fee for the registration tags.

Sapp asked if there were programs available to provide discounted pet food for lower income pet owners, since Albin mentioned during public participation that the \$10 registration fee could buy ten cans of cat food. Joos would recommend contacting the Humane Society for information on discount pet food. The committee continued to discuss the idea of fee registration exemptions. The committee was not in favor of lowering the exemption age. Sapp suggested collecting pet food donations for those needy pet owners. Joos stated the Animal Control Department has received donations of food and supplies from owners whose pets have died. The department has given these donations to pet owners who say they are having hardships.

OTHER BUSINESS

Hogue told the committee about the Champaign County Healthcare Consumers dinner where Jan Anderson received the Government Leadership Award.

DESIGNATION OF ITEMS TO BE PLACED ON COUNTY BOARD CONSENT AGENDA

Putman requested the Memorandum of Understanding Between the Champaign County Mental Health Board and the Champaign County Board Regarding the Sharing Costs for the Provision of Mental Health and Suicide Prevention Services in Champaign County Correctional Facilities be placed on the regular agenda so the

public will be informed of the Mental Health Board's generosity. Anderson designated agenda items VII A, XII A-H, XIII A, and XIV B for the consent agenda.

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 8:16 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kat Bork
Administrative Secretary

Secy's note: The minutes reflect the order of the agenda and may not necessarily reflect the order of business conducted at the meeting.