

CHAMPAIGN COUNTY BOARD
COMMITTEE MINUTES

JUSTICE & SOCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE

Monday, September 5, 2007

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

5:30 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Anderson (Chair), Carter, Gladney, Hogue, James, Putman, Tapley

MEMBERS ABSENT: Hunt, Sapp

OTHERS PRESENT: Kat Bork (Recording Secretary), Deb Busey (County Administrator of Finance & HR Management), Andrew Buffenbarger (Nursing Home Administrator), Kathleen Liffick (Head Start Director), Susan McGrath (Senior Assistant State's Attorney), Peter Tracy (Director of Mental Health), C. Pius Weibel (County Board Chair), Jonte Rollins (C-U Area Project)

CALL TO ORDER

Anderson called the meeting to order at 5:33 p.m.

ROLL CALL

The Recording Secretary called the roll. Anderson, Carter, Gladney, Hogue, James, 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 James to approve the agenda; seconded by Tapley. **Motion carried.**

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION by James to approve the Justice & Social Services Committee regular session minutes of August 6, 2007; seconded by Gladney.

James requested that a change be made on Page 9 of the minutes. He stated that Hunt also voted against forwarding the Memorandum of Understanding with the Mental Health Board and adoption of the Drug Court fee to the Finance Committee.

Motion carried to approve minutes as amended.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There was no public participation.

MONTHLY REPORTS

MOTION by Carter to receive and place on file the Animal Control July 2007 report, Circuit Clerk July 2007 report, Court Services June 2007 and July 2007 reports, EMA August 2007 report, and the Public Defender July 2007 report; seconded by Tapley. **Motion carried.**

CHILDREN'S ADVOCACY CENTER

Renewal of Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority Grant

MOTION by Tapley to approve the renewal of the Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority Grant for the Children's Advocacy Center; seconded by James.

Busey said the grant has been increased by almost \$3,000, which will go into services.

Motion carried.

ANIMAL CONTROL

Intergovernmental Agreement for Animal Impoundment Services with the City of Champaign and Intergovernmental Agreement for Animal Control Services with the City of Champaign

A revised Intergovernmental Agreement for Animal Control Services was distributed with a corrected dollar figure.

MOTION by James to approve the Intergovernmental Agreement for Animal Impoundment Services with the City of Champaign and the revised Intergovernmental Agreement for Animal Control Services with the City of Champaign; seconded by Carter.

Busey noted the correct payment amount under Item #11. Anderson asked about the increased fees. Busey explained the Animal Control agreement increased by about 20% because it is based on actual costs and the first agreement underestimated Animal Control's expenses. The Animal Impoundment fees are less because the first agreement was based on the fees the Humane Society charged the City. Champaign County Animal Control is providing impoundment services at a lesser cost than the Humane Society did. The Impoundment agreement with the City of Champaign is the same agreement as the County has with the City of Urbana.

James inquired about the vehicle being provided. Busey confirmed the replacement cost of the vehicle is built into the agreement. James asked about animal adoption out of the Animal Control Facility. He had heard only two animals had been adopted from the facility. Busey reminded the committee that the adoption program was for holding animals when the Humane Society and rescue groups could not take them immediately. Animal Control may not have needed to adopt out many animals because the Humane Society and rescue groups have been able to take the adoptable animals.

Motion carried.

HEAD START

Monthly Report

MOTION by James to receive and place on file the Head Start August 2007 report; seconded by Tapley.

Liffick reported Head Start had 93% enrollment in classrooms as of yesterday. This is better than previous years. She has been compiling a program information report for the federal government and determined that last year was Head Start's lowest child turnover year ever.

Putman entered the meeting at 5:45 p.m.

Motion carried.

NURSING HOME
Monthly Report

MOTION by Tapley to receive and place on file the Nursing Home August 2007 report; seconded by James.

Buffenbarger stated the Nursing Home submitted a grant application to the Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity for construction funding to build a pavilion. He will bring the grant to the County Board if it is approved. James asked what the letters following Tracy Heiden's name meant in the report. Buffenbarger said Heiden is a Licensed Nursing Home Administrator and a Certified Therapeutic Recreation Specialist. Weibel asked if the RFP the Nursing Home is issuing for new software program was in accordance with the IT recommendations made by the Maximus report. Buffenbarger said this software is something separate. The Nursing Home borrowed money from the General Corporate Fund to replace its existing enterprise management software. The company that supported the software went bankrupt. The software has been reviewed by the County IT Division. James asked about the meetings scheduled for tomorrow at the Nursing Home. Buffenbarger said the meetings were scheduled for 10:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. Putman asked for a description of the meetings. Buffenbarger said it will be a discussion of the governance structure that was mentioned in the operational audit of the Nursing Home. Busey explained the DeKalb County Administrator will be present to explain how that county went through the change in governance process. It is an information opportunity only and no action will be taken.

Motion carried.

JUVENILE DELINQUENCY GRANTS
Status Report from Peter Tracy

The status report was distributed to the committee. Tracy said a quarterly administrative meeting will be held with members of the courts system and the State's Attorney. He was happy to answer any questions from the committee.

Resolution in Tribute to Marilyn Garmon-Starks

Putman distributed copies of a resolution she prepared in honor of Marilyn Garmon-Starks. Putman spoke about the resolution and how it was written. The resolution contained a few errors that would be corrected before the resolution goes before the full Board.

MOTION by Putman to approve the Resolution in Tribute to Marilyn Garmon-Starks; seconded by Carter.

Weibel said the resolution was very appropriate and suggested sending copies of the signed resolution to Garmon-Starks's parents and widower. Weibel asked for a volunteer to read the resolution aloud at the County Board meeting. Putman volunteered to do so and noted Peter Tracy was the true author of the resolution.

Motion carried.

CHAIR'S REPORT

Anderson reminded the committee of the meetings at the Nursing Home tomorrow and the joint meeting of the Justice & Social Services Committee and Policy, Personnel, & Appointments Committee next Tuesday, September 11th at 7:00 p.m. about the Nursing Home. James said he would be out of town on that day.

OTHER BUSINESS

Discussion Regarding Follow-up on Jury Selection Process Presentation at the August meeting

Anderson said Putman requested this item be included on this month's agenda. Putman and Hogue were on a radio show discussing the jury selection process. Putman rehashed the callers on the radio show, Higher Ground. A great deal of the talk was about the juror questionnaire. Putman said there is some concern in the minority community about questions that ask if you or a family member have been involved in an auto accident, been a party in a lawsuit, have ever been convicted of a felony, or been a victim of a crime. Putman is aware that these questions must be asked by the prosecution and defense attorneys to determine an individual's fitness to serve on a jury. Putman asked to see about removing these questions from the juror questionnaire if they are enough to make some people not want to fill out the questionnaire. She suggested using money from the Circuit Clerk's budget to produce a brochure about the jury process to be put on table at Champaign-Urbana Days or at fairs in Douglas Park. Hogue said she agrees with Putman and thinks the Questions 8 through 13 on the juror questionnaire will not be answered by majority of African-Americans.

James said the juror questionnaire asks pertinent questions. Because the questions regarding a potential juror's criminal background have to be asked, giving them to potential jurors in a written form allows the people to think about their answers and take time in responding. James felt anyone who would be intimidated by written questions answered in the privacy of one's home would be even more intimidated if the questions were asked by an attorney in a courthouse.

The committee continued to discuss the juror selection process. Putman recommended that Board members forward any suggestion for community outreach to Roger Holland at the Circuit Court.

Semi-Annual Review of Closed Session Minutes

McGrath was asked to look into opening certain closed session minutes because of their age. She cautioned the committee on opening any personnel reviews because a former County employee may be employed elsewhere and the County entered into an agreement about giving that individual a certain reference. Some personnel reviews concern employees who are dead and these must be reviewed for privacy reasons. McGrath recommend keeping all the closed session minutes closed until the next semi-annual review. She will continue to review the minutes to determine which can be opened.

James said he understands the reasons for confidentiality, but would like to eventually see these minutes opened after a number of years.

MOTION by James for all closed session minutes to remain closed; seconded by Tapley. **Motion carried.**

DESIGNATION OF ITEMS TO BE PLACED ON COUNTY BOARD CONSENT AGENDA

Anderson designated all agenda items except XI B for the consent agenda.

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 6:27 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kat Bork
Recording 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.