

CHAMPAIGN COUNTY BOARD
COMMITTEE MINUTES

JUSTICE & SOCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE

Monday, November 5, 2007

Brookens Administrative Center, Lyle Shields Meeting Room

1776 E. Washington St., Urbana

7:00 p.m.

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

MEMBERS ABSENT: Hunt

OTHERS PRESENT: Kat Bork (Recording Secretary), Andrew Buffenbarger (Nursing Home Administrator), Deb Busey (County Administrator of Finance & HR Management), Lorraine Cowart (County Board member), Joseph Gordon (Court Services Director), Brandi Granse (Head Start), Stephanie Joos (Animal Control Director), Kari May (Head Start), Carrie Melin (County Board member), Peter Tracy (Director of Mental Health), Jonte Rollins (C-U Area Project), C. Pius Weibel (County Board Chair), Barbara Wysocki (County Board member)

CALL TO ORDER

Anderson called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m.

ROLL CALL

The Recording Secretary called the roll. Anderson, Gladney, Hogue, James, Putman, Sapp, and Tapley were present at the time of the roll call. Hunt had informed Anderson that he would be out of town. Anderson declared a quorum and proceeded with the meeting.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA/ADDENDUM

MOTION by James to approve the agenda and addendum; seconded by Gladney. **Motion carried.**

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION by Putman to approve the Justice & Social Services regular session minutes of September 5, 2007; seconded by James. **Motion carried.**

Carter entered the meeting at 7:05 p.m.

MOTION by Putman to approve the Justice & Social Services regular session minutes of October 1, 2007; seconded by James. **Motion carried.**

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Wayne Williams spoke in opposition to any change to the Nursing Home and the proposed bylaws of an operating board. Williams did not think the County Board will ask about possible conflicts of interest before appointment operating board members.

MONTHLY REPORTS

MOTION by Tapley to receive and place on file the Circuit Clerk September 2007 report, Court Services August 2007 report, EMA October 2007 report, and the Public Defender September 2007 report; seconded by Putman. **Motion carried.**

CHILDREN'S ADVOCACY CENTER

Renewal of the National Children's Alliance Program Support Grant

MOTION by James to approve the renewal, and if approved the acceptance, of the National Children's Alliance Program Support Grant; seconded by Putman.

Putman supported the submission of the grant and noticed the deadline had passed. She thought it should have been on last month's agenda. Busey reminded her that the County's grant process resolution allows for grants to be submitted prior to approval by the County Board because of deadlines falling between meetings. The Justice & Social Services Committee frequently approves grant applications after they have been submitted to the grant agency because of the timing of the monthly meetings. The Board can always refuse to accept the grant money if it is approved.

Motion carried.

Application for National Children's Alliance Member Training Grant

MOTION by Tapley to approve the application for, and if approved the acceptance of, the National Children's Alliance Program Support Grant; seconded by Putman.

Weibel informed the committee there would be an open house held at the new Children's Advocacy Center facility on Thursday from 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Motion carried.

ANIMAL CONTROL

Approval of Voyager Fleet Credit Card Application

MOTION by Tapley to approve Animal Control's application for the Voyager Fleet credit card; seconded by Gladney.

Joos explained that Animal Control has a credit card with Exxon Mobile to purchase gasoline. Exxon Mobile was bought out by Citibank and since then Joos has experienced difficulties with card's customer service department for 2 months. Therefore, she is recommending that Animal Control change to the Voyager Fleet credit card. The Voyager card is used by the University of Illinois and the United States Postal Service. It will allow Animal Control employees to purchase gasoline at any station that accepts Voyager, thereby enabling them to purchase gas at competitive prices.

James inquired if Joos considered getting a Visa credit card. Joos explained the Voyager card only allows for the purchase of gasoline, whereas a Visa would allow any type of purchase. James asked about

the fees. Joos explained the Voyager card requires a one-time fee of \$45. There is also a fee of \$2 per month for each card. Joos will be asking for 4 cards at the cost of \$8 per month.

Motion carried.

HEAD START

Monthly Report

Kathleen Liffick was out of town, so Brandi Granse introduced herself, Kari May (Family Services Manager), and Kelly Russell (Child Development Services Manager), who attended in Liffick's stead.

MOTION by James to receive and place on file the Head Start October 2007 report; seconded by Tapley. **Motion carried.**

Approval of Head Start and Early Head Start Grant Application

MOTION by Tapley to approve the Head Start and Early Head Start Grant application; seconded by Hogue.

Granse confirmed Head Start submits its grant application every year for the amount the federal government tells them to ask for.

Motion carried.

Anderson stated that Liffick was asking for input on how Champaign County Head Start prepares for the federal review. The review can take place anytime after January and takes a week. Granse explained that the review occurs every 3 years. Head Start does not know when the reviewers are arriving; they usually give 30 days notice. Anderson said Liffick would like as many Justice & Social Services Committee members to be involved as possible in a study session or at a regular meeting. Anderson suggested doing it at the next Justice & Social Services Committee meeting. James was in favor of that idea. Granse stated how important it was to have the governing body participate in the training activities, namely this committee. It is a requirement of the Head Start performance standards that Liffick provide the committee with something regarding the performance standards and the questions for the review. At least several volunteers are needed. Anderson volunteered. James volunteered and asked about the timeframe. Weibel volunteered as the Board Chair and to keep an eye on James. The committee agreed to not cancel its December meeting in order to have a presentation by Liffick on the Head Start review.

NURSING HOME

Monthly Report

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

Putman asked about the immediate jeopardy citations. Buffenbarger explained Champaign County has not been cited, other nursing homes have, so he will attend an in-service meeting sponsored by the Illinois Department of Public Health to learn more.

Motion carried.

ADDENDUM

Approval of Recommendation Regarding Nursing Home Governance Structure

MOTION by Tapley to approve the proposed bylaws of the Champaign County Nursing Home Operating Board for discussion purposes only; seconded by James.

James said he felt advisory boards are set up when an operation is struggling. He said the County Board is aware of the Nursing Home's problems and had the operational audit done, which included in its recommendations a change in governance structure. James said the operating board could move along and the bylaws could always be changed if necessary. He felt an operating board has more teeth and more say so. An advisory board would have no authority and would be a waste of time. James was in favor of moving forward with the safeguards that are in place.

Carter said he could not understand why the County Board does not get somebody who knows what is causing the problems at the Nursing Home. He wants someone to audit the Nursing Home to locate the problems so the Board can be done with it.

In response to the issue raised during public participation, Weibel indicated anyone applying to be an operating board member would fill out a special form to learn about their background and any potential conflicts of interest.

Tapley thought County Board determined the problems at the Nursing Home with the operational audit that was performed. He is worried about the County Board's pattern of periods of inertia, followed by crisis, only then followed by action by the County Board. He thought the model suggested with a separate governing board is a good one. He argued that businesses do better at running a business than units of government. He is not interested in trying an advisory board first when an operating board would get more investment from board members because their decisions would matter and not just be opinions. He would like to try the operating board and felt the County Board could deal with potential conflicts of interest from applicants.

The committee discussed their views on an operating board. Buffenbarger stated the original idea was to bring in an operating board and a management firm in together because they would work in concert. The County Board would want to have an operating board invested in the Nursing Home and responsible for its outcomes. Buffenbarger said he would rather have no change to the governance structure than have an advisory board put in place. He requested the County Board proceed with implementing an operating board for the Nursing Home. The idea is that the Nursing Home would have an offsite management team responsive to market changes and an operating board deciding what to do. For example, if Champaign County had an increased number of congestive heart cases, then the management firm would be aware of this statistic and be able to inform the operating board. The Nursing Home could adjust to meet the increased need and gain revenue from niche marketing. The operating board would be a group of local health care professionals to keep Buffenbarger's feet to the fire. Buffenbarger stated they could pull out the idea of him working for the County through the management firm because County Board members objected to it. Instead, Buffenbarger will remain solely a County employee. Buffenbarger distributed a management firm cost report to the committee. The report shows how much other facilities pay for management services at a per bed cost, including not-for-profit homes. Buffenbarger wanted to make it clear that this style of administration is not new; it is just new to county nursing homes. This administration approach has been working in the nursing home industry for decades. The approach presented by Buffenbarger would cost Champaign County a third of what other homes pay for the same services. He stated his opinion that it is the right plan for one-third the cost.

Gladney exited the meeting at 8:16 p.m.

The committee continued to discuss management options at the Nursing Home.

Gladney re-entered the meeting at 8:18 p.m.

Various committee members gave their opinions about an operating Board for the Nursing Home. Wysocki said she had a lot of questions that were not being answered, so she telephoned Kathy Anderson, the DeKalb County Nursing Home Administrator. Kathy Anderson told Wysocki that the only way she can do her day-to-day job as the Administrator is to have an operating board to relate to. At DeKalb County, the operating board and management firm were brought on in close succession 10 years ago. The operating board helps the administration with healthcare decisions that affect residents. The management firm of Management Performance Associates deals with the finances of the DeKalb County Nursing Home. Kathy Anderson speaks with MPA at least once a day and they save her a lot of time that she would spend working on a spreadsheet. She noted that the DeKalb County Nursing Home is unionized and DeKalb County does the contract negotiations. Kathy Anderson is a DeKalb County employee. Wysocki also spoke with Patricia Anderson (no relation to Kathy Anderson), who is the finance officer at the DeKalb County Nursing Home. Patricia Anderson said she does not have a lot of contact with the Nursing Home Administrator; instead she relies on MPA to get financial answers. Patricia Anderson said that although MPA is a consulting firm they are not distant. MPA can be reached by telephone or email. DeKalb County enters into a one-year contract with MPA every year. MPA receives in the neighborhood of \$80,000 for the services it provides DeKalb County. One point that Wysocki found very interesting is when she learned the townships make financial contributions to the DeKalb County Nursing Home. The townships in the county are asked to make voluntary contributions based on the number of township residents in the nursing home. Wysocki did ask if DeKalb County was able to eliminate the use of contract nursing. The answer was that they were not; they have the same seasonal issues that Champaign County does. Weibel said he spoke to members of the DeKalb County Board, Nursing Home Operating Board, and a township supervisor in DeKalb County. He was told that townships pay a certain amount per resident at the nursing home and there is a \$100,000 cap on how much any township will contribute to the nursing home in a year. He did not know the total amount that the townships contribute to the DeKalb County Nursing Home. When he asked the DeKalb County Administrator why these township payments were not noted as being subsidies, he was told they are considered grants, not subsidies. Weibel was hesitant about hiring a consulting firm. He was willing to support the creation of either an advisory board or an operating board. He did feel the County Board could keep Buffenbarger's feet to the fire because neither an operating board nor an advisory would have the power to punish Buffenbarger if he did not follow their orders. Buffenbarger stated that Kathy Anderson reported to him that the townships in DeKalb County are asked to give the nursing home a voluntary contribution of \$5 per patient per day. The townships are not required to contribute this money. The annual township contribution amount is between \$190,000 and \$200,000. This year's net gain for the DeKalb County Nursing Home is just over \$300,000, so the nursing home operates at a profit regardless of the contributions.

Carter said he wanted the committee to go ahead and vote because he had another meeting to attend. Anderson asked if Carter was calling the question. James requested a roll call vote.

Motion failed with a vote of 3 to 5. James, Sapp, and Tapley voted in favor of the motion. Anderson, Carter, Gladney, Hogue, and Putman voted against the motion.

Carter exited the meeting at 8:59 p.m.

Consideration of a Management Consulting Firm Contract for the Champaign County Nursing Home

Sapp asked if Buffenbarger would like to be able to consider additional services from a consulting firm if a motion is made. Buffenbarger said he would.

MOTION by Sapp for consideration of management consulting firm contract for Champaign County Nursing Home; seconded by James.

The committee discussed the possibility of hiring a consulting firm to perform services in FY2008 and whether to change the FY2008 budget to include funding for such services. Sapp said that his intention with the motion was to allow Buffenbarger and Busey to be able to research firms and develop a contract if consulting services were needed. The committee expressed their support of funding additional consulting services in FY2008 if Busey and Buffenbarger made such a recommendation.

Tapley exited the meeting at 9:04 p.m.

The committee discussed the cost effectiveness of fixed fess management agreement versus hourly billing agreements.

Sapp withdrew his motion because Busey and Buffenbarger could bring the committee a recommendation at a later date if they so desired. He thanked the committee for the discussion.

JUVENILE DELINQUENCY GRANTS

Status Report from Peter Tracy

MOTION by Tapley to receive and place on file Tracy's report; seconded by James.

Tracy reported that one of the issues is a need for more front end services for juveniles entering the juvenile criminal justice system. In the first quarter of the current contract year some of the agencies are meeting and exceeding there targets. Other agencies are not meeting the Project ACCESS requirements; this is being sorted out with the individual agencies. Recidivism information was pointed out in the process of working with RPC on their tracking of recidivism. Tapley asked if there was any state recidivism statistics to use in benchmarking the progress. Rollins said there was none because the definition of recidivism varies from one program to another. Mental Health is using last year's numbers for a comparison. Tracy included a copy of the decision memorandum from the Mental Health Board for the next funding cycle criteria. There will be no change to the criteria unless the County Board directs him differently.

Tracy distributed a document about the expansion of scope and post detention programs. The Mental Health Board has added thousands of dollars to the Juvenile Delinquency Grants because the board felt this was an area of importance. Tracy spoke about the system of care and the scope of the Juvenile Delinquency Grants as set by the County Board. The Mental Health Board feels there is a need to increase the scope and improve the front end of the system. This would also serve to improve the Mental Health Board's SAMHSA grant application. No one involved with the juvenile and criminal justice systems disagrees that this is needed; the question is how it will be broken down. Tapley said he would like to see funding spent on programs aimed at keeping kids out of the Juvenile Detention Center, instead of just focusing on post-detention kids. James spoke about station adjustments and showing kids other ways than the JDC. He supported a change in scope. Carter asked about the engagement of the parents of the juveniles at the JDC. Tracy said they are talking about strategies to improve parental involvement. Joseph Gordon is working on getting service agencies at the court proceedings to engage the families then. There is a long history of difficulty in engaging these families. One of the issues is that the parents lack trust. A committee has been formed to address those issues. The Justice & Social Services Committee concurred with including front end programming in the scope of the grants. Tracy introduced Stewart Broaz, a primary grant writer. Anderson spoke about the importance of not losing sight of the juveniles already in the criminal justice system. Gordon said they are looking at other counties and their programs to research what methods are most effective. Parental involvement in juvenile cases is a difficult, frustrating issue that is being worked on. Tapley talked about his experience with the Talks Mentoring program and the big difference that is made by the addition of an advocate for the juvenile.

Motion carried.

CHAIR'S REPORT

There was no Chair's Report.

OTHER BUSINESS

Consideration of Canceling the December Committee Meeting

The committee agreed to hold a December meeting.

DESIGNATION OF ITEMS TO BE PLACED ON COUNTY BOARD CONSENT AGENDA

Anderson designated agenda items VII A & B, VIII A, and IX B for the consent agenda.

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 9:12 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.