

CHAMPAIGN COUNTY BOARD  
**COMMITTEE MINUTES**

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**JUSTICE & SOCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE**

Monday, April 7, 2008

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

7:00 p.m.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Anderson (Chair), Gladney, James, Nudo, Putman

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Ammons, Carter, Hunt, Sapp

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Kat Bork (Administrative Secretary), Andrew Buffenbarger (Nursing Home Administrator), Deb Busey (County Administrator of Finance & HR Management), Joseph Gordon (Court Services Director), Stephanie Joos (Animal Control Director), Kathleen Liffick (Head Start Director), Michael Moore (Jail Superintendent), Michael Richards (County Board Member), Peter Tracy (Mental Health Executive Director), Dan Walsh (Sheriff), C. Pius Weibel (County Board Chair)

**CALL TO ORDER**

Anderson called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

**ROLL CALL**

The Recording Secretary called the roll. Anderson, Gladney, James, Nudo, and Putman were present at the time of the roll call. Anderson noted that Hunt had informed her prior to the meeting 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; seconded by Gladney. **Motion carried.**

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**MOTION** by Putman to approve the Justice & Social Services Committee February 12, 2008 minutes; seconded by James. **Motion carried.**

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

Sheriff Walsh introduced Michael Moore as the new Jail Superintendent. This was Moore's first day on the job. Moore had a distinguished career in the Cook County Jail System and Sheriff Walsh stated he has hit the ground running. Moore stated that no matter the size of the jail facility, he sees essentially the same problems in every facility. He conversed with staff about the jail facility today and he looks forward to the opportunity of working with them. Anderson welcomed Moore. Putman asked about the spelling of Moore's name, his email, and his title. Moore spelled out his name and email address. The Sheriff confirmed his title is Jail Superintendent.

## MONTHLY REPORTS

**MOTION** by Putman to receive and place on file the Animal Control February 2008 report, Circuit Clerk January 2008 report, Court Services January 2008 and February 2008 reports; EMA February 2008 and March 2008 reports, and the Public Defender January 2008 and February 2008 reports; seconded by Gladney. **Motion carried.**

## COURT SERVICES

### Annual Plan 2008

Gordon presented the Court Services FY2008 Annual Plan that he is required to produce for the Administrative Office of the Illinois Courts. The plan will be kept on file in the Administrative Services Department. He offered to answer any questions at any time about the plan.

**MOTION** by James to receive and place on file the Court Services FY2008 Annual Plan; seconded by Gladney. **Motion carried.**

## ANIMAL CONTROL

### Annual Report 2007

Joos presented the Animal Control Annual Report for FY2007. She reported the number of animals impounded and the amount of revenue generated has stayed steady. The number of animals treated in the low cost spay/neuter program has increased tremendously. The program increased from spaying/neutering 178 cats and 36 dogs in 2006 to 468 cats and 55 dogs in 2007. This is a great accomplishment for Animal Control because it enables them to keep the number of animals coming into the facility down. In March, Animal Control collaborated with the Humane Society to spay/neuter 200 cats in one day. Weibel inquired how that was done. Joos stated 11 area vets donated their time and it went well. James noticed the City of Urbana's contract dropped from 2006 to 2007. Joos explained the price was based on what the city had paid the Humane Society. The price was changed to reflect Animal Control's actual costs to provide services. Urbana only contracts with the County for impound services, not animal control services. James asked about revenue for grants. Joos said no grant money was received in 2007. James asked about a chart of expenses. Joos explained that she excluded it from the annual report because the chart will be included in budget documents. Busey stated the Animal Control budget was over \$700 in the negative. A breakdown of expenditures is available if James wants them. James said he did not. Weibel asked what other animals are impounded besides cats and dogs. Joos said they have impounded goats, ferrets, hamsters, rabbits, and a 32-pound tortoise. Nudo congratulated Joos on the progress being made and asked about registrations. Joos answered that registrations are up. Registrations operate on a three-year tag cycle, so this revenue increases when those come due. They started tagging pets in 2002. Nudo asked what breed rescue was. Joos stated it is a rescue group that takes a specific type of dog, like German Shepherds. Putman said there have been comments at the ~~Urbana~~ Champaign City Council about dissatisfaction with Animal Control services and asked if this has gone anywhere. Joos and Busey met with the ~~Urbana~~ Champaign City Council at study session in February, they gave the council options for the amount of money spent by Urbana, but Joos has not heard back from the council since then. Putman offered to build a bridge if it is needed and wished Joos luck.

**MOTION** by Putman to receive and place on file the Animal Control Annual Report 2007; seconded by James. **Motion carried.**

## **HEAD START**

### **Monthly Report**

**MOTION** by James to receive and place on file the Head Start monthly report; seconded by Gladney.

Liffick reported a very successful federal review. She thanked those Board members who attended the review sessions. Anderson said the reviewers made nice comments about the work Head Start did in preparation for the review. Liffick said the reviewers found four areas of possible non-compliance. All federal review reports go to national level; therefore it will be 45-60 days until they receive the final report. The areas of possible non-compliance included two areas where documentation was not in personnel files. Liffick claimed this was due to a misinterpretation of the Head Start standards. The staff in question now meets the standards, which were for background checks, etc. One of the Head Start collaborators is in an old school where a reviewer thought the toilets were too big for a three-year-old. Liffick is talking to the principle about getting the toilets taken out and preschool toilets installed. Nudo stated he might know where to get some toilets donated; he would talk to Liffick later. Liffick said she receive two toilets from Buffenbarger. Another area was that six enrollments had been open for thirty days. Liffick was not able to fix this. It was primarily because of the close of the Community Day Care Center.

Putman asked about the outcome of insurance premium change. Liffick stated the union did not sign necessary memorandum of understanding, so she will be talking with a civil attorney about the contract. Head start gave union members the opportunity to ignore the contract language, but now they must follow the contract language. Putman asked about the CIDES funding application that was rejected by the United Way and the United Way staff who offered to help CIDES find other funding. James said the County Board of Health provided CIDES with a grant of \$10,000 for the equipment purchase CIDES was asking the United Way for.

**Motion carried.**

## **JUVENILE DELINQUENCY GRANTS**

### **Status Report from Peter Tracy**

Tracy reported the SAMHSA grant application was received by the federal government and it passed through the state government, much to his relief. The Juvenile Justice Conference in St. Louis was very good, particularly the presentation by Parenting with Love and Limits. There has been a problem with getting families of youth at the Juvenile Detention Center engaged, so the PLL approach could be useful. They have continued weekly meeting at the JDC to assign cases. Tracy reported there are currently more girls in the JDC than boys; therefore they may want to focus on girls. Tracy has not received any complaints about extending the current grants for another year.

Gladney asked about PLL. Tracy said the field is moving towards evidence based practice to have evidence to verify that progress has been achieved. It is important in funding programs to have something to show that they work.

**MOTION** by James to receive and place on file the status report; seconded by Gladney. **Motion carried.**

## **NURSING HOME**

### **Monthly Report**

Gladney inquired about the bargaining on the Nursing Home's employee attendance policy. Buffenbarger said the Nursing Home changed its attendance policy to a patterns-based policy. This policy is rather complex and they are now looking at an accounting system that is easier to understand. AFSCME

should ratify this on Wednesday. Gladney asked if Representative Jakobsson had anything to say about the Nursing Home's lowered Medicaid rate in the meeting about the state budget. Buffenbarger said he was just making her aware of the state reducing the funding and asking for guidance. Jakobsson was sympathetic, but had no suggestions. Weibel said the state budget is hard to predict because it is a mess. The Department of Healthcare and Family Services continue to stonewall Buffenbarger regarding the reasons the Medicaid rate was cut. Anderson was also at the meeting where Jakobsson spoke. Jakobsson was sympathetic but Anderson did not come away with the feeling that a change would be made. Putman asked about the software used in Medicaid billing. Buffenbarger said the formula is long and complex, but relatively straightforward. Management Performance Associates was hired to write the software through DeKalb County that checks the state figures at the county level to make sure the counties are being treated fairly. Putman suggested the state legislators put a bill together to stop the reimbursement level on this basis from being determined by a state department. Buffenbarger said the state does not take into account certain factors, such as the capital expense for a new building. Putman asked about Veterans Administration. Buffenbarger said it would be new admittances for eligible veterans.

James asked if there had been any interest in serving on the Board of Directors. Buffenbarger said about five people had applied. Nudo asked for a synopsis of the staff meetings to recruit more nurses at the County Board study session. Buff said the staff meetings were good. Nudo reminded the committee that the study session about the Nursing Home on April 15<sup>th</sup> is to move towards problem solving and looking at ideas to cut costs and increase revenue. He encouraged the Board to focus on other issues instead of the past blame at the study session. Putman requested Buffenbarger include the amount spent on contract nursing in his monthly report. He agreed to do so.

**MOTION** by James to receive and place on file the Nursing Home monthly report; seconded by Putman. **Motion carried.**

### **CHAIR'S REPORT**

Anderson made her comments in other areas of the meeting.

### **OTHER BUSINESS**

#### **Evaluation of Sangamon County Criminal Justice System**

Weibel commented the County Board would be receiving information on the School Facility Tax and it will be discussed at May Policy, Personnel, Appointments Committee meeting. Weibel said Sangamon County did a study on whether or not to expand its jail and this was the executive summary. Weibel wanted the committee to see this because Sangamon County and Champaign County are similar in size, population, and ethnicity. Weibel sees this as free advice Champaign County could use because jail expansion has been a past topic of concern for County Board. James said he is looking forward to Michael Moore's input in the future as Jail Superintendent. Busey stated Champaign County has some operational differences from Sangamon County. The Champaign County officials in the criminal justice system have worked together to implement solutions on jail overcrowding. Weibel agreed and hoped this summary would offer more ideas. Putman thanked the Sheriff that Champaign County did not have the problems that Sangamon Jail did. Sheriff Walsh noted that every couple of months he gets a call from another county asking how our county manages to have the various branches of the criminal justice system work together.

#### **Voter Registration and Voting at the Jail**

Anderson said Carol Ammons had asked to have voting at the County Jail put on agenda, but she was not present. Anderson had no idea why Ammons was not here. Sheriff Walsh said he met with Ammons. He was not at all opposed to circulating information about voting and absentee ballots to the inmates. He asked the County Clerk about sending an employee over to jail to register inmates to vote.

Mark Sheldon rejected this idea and suggested a volunteer be sent instead. Putman said Ammons is a new Board member and might be unaware of the meeting schedule. Anderson said she spoke to Ammons recently about presenting this issue tonight.

Putman asked James to report on the Board of Health. James spoke about the Illinois Department of Public Health grant money that was awarded to Fire Chiefs Association for portable defibrillators and CO detectors, CIDES for portable equipment, Champaign-Urbana Public Health District for comprehensive sexual education materials for the schools, and CUPHD for car seats. The Board of Health is looking at what they could do with its van. The Board of Health is having a good relationship with CUPHD. Anderson added a subcommittee from the Mental Health Board is looking to collaborate with the Board of Health in mental health areas in the County.

Anderson requested the committee members let her know if they are unable to attend a meeting. The next meeting will be at the Nursing Home.

### **DESIGNATION OF ITEMS TO BE PLACED ON COUNTY BOARD CONSENT AGENDA**

Anderson designated no agenda items for the consent agenda.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

Meeting adjourned at 8:09 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.*

*The minutes were amended on 5/5/2008*