

CHAMPAIGN COUNTY BOARD
COMMITTEE MINUTES

JUSTICE & SOCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE

Monday, August 4, 2008

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

7:00 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Carol Ammons, Jan Anderson (Chair), Lloyd Carter, Matthew Gladney, Kevin Hunt, Stan James, Alan Nudo

MEMBERS ABSENT: Jenny Putman, Larry Sapp

OTHERS PRESENT: Kat Bork (Administrative Secretary), Deb Busey (County Administrator of Finance & HR Management), Brandi Granse (Head Start), Kari May (Head Start), Julia Rietz (State's Attorney), Peter Tracy (Mental Health Executive Director), C. Pius Weibel (County Board Chair), Beverly Baker (United Way of Champaign County), Jonte Rollins (C-U Area Project), Michael Williams (Children's Advocacy Center Executive Director)

CALL TO ORDER

Anderson called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Bork called the roll. Ammons, Anderson, Carter, Gladney, Hunt, James, and Nudo were present at the time of roll call, establishing the presence of a quorum. Anderson stated Putman had previously indicated she would not attend the meeting because she would be in Hawaii.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA/ADDENDUM

MOTION by Ammons to approve the agenda; seconded by Gladney. **Motion carried.**

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION by Carter to approve the Justice & Social Services Committee May 5, 2008 minutes; seconded by James. **Motion carried.**

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There was no public participation.

MONTHLY REPORTS

MOTION by James to receive and place on file the Animal Control May 2008 and June 2008 reports; Court Services March 2008, April 2008, and May 2008 reports; EMA May 2008 and June 2008 reports; and the Public Defender April 2008, May 2008, and June 2008 reports; seconded by Carter. **Motion carried.**

CHILDREN'S ADVOCACY CENTER

Approval of Fees to Finance the Children's Advocacy Center

MOTION by Ammons to approve the adoption of a \$10 fee to finance the Children's Advocacy Center; seconded by James.

Michael Williams, the Executive Director of the Children's Advocacy Center (CAC), introduced himself and explained he was present to request the imposition of fee to support the CAC. The state legislature passed legislation allowing County Boards that have a Children's Advocacy Center in their jurisdictions to impose a fee of \$5-\$30 on defendants upon a judgment of guilty or a grant of court supervision for a felony, a Class A, B, or C misdemeanor, a petty offense, or a business offense. The legislation took effect on January 1, 2008. The CAC Board has considered this for months and requests the County Board impose a fee of \$10 to be paid by defendants upon a conviction or a grant of court supervision on felonies and Class A, B, or C criminal misdemeanors. It is not requested the fee be applied to business or petty offenses. It is conservatively estimated the fee could generate \$15,000 per year. Williams shared background on the CAC with the committee. The CAC began interviewing children in August 2000 and was a division of the State's Attorney Office housed in that office. In September 2001, the CAC was moved into the remodeled Youth Detention Center at 1601 East Main street. The CAC conducted 37 child interviews in its first year of operation, this number jumped to 199 in the first year in the new facility. On average, the CAC interviews and provides services to 225 children per year. The CAC is funded entirely on grants and donations; it does not receive any direct funding from the County Board, although the County Board covered costs for the CAC to move to its new facility at the Champaign-Urbana Public Health District facility on Kenyon Road last September. The CAC's funding primarily comes from the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS), the Attorney General's Office, the Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority, and the National Children's Alliance. A local, very generous funding source is the Champaign County Mental Health Board. Williams stated the CAC has not received an increase in funding since 2003, when it received accreditation by the National Children's Alliance. He explained the organization's costs have gone up significantly during this time period. The CAC is operated with a staff of two, Williams and a Case Manager. This staffing level has been maintained since September 2001, however, the salary costs have increased over 26% and the fringe benefit costs have increased by over 122%. With increased costs and no increase revenue, the CAC has reduced non-personnel spending to the point where all of its funding is being fully expended. Without an increase in revenue, the CAC will not be able to fund rising operating costs or future increases in salaries and fringe benefits. One of the areas affected by rising costs has been training. The CAC staff works with a multi-disciplinary team consisting of law enforcement, DCFS investigators, medical personnel, mental health, and professionals. As a part of this multi-disciplinary team, the CAC has expended over \$104,000 on training members of the team between 2002 and 2007. This amounts to about \$17,000 a year spent on training, in areas such as forensic interviewing, that will be cut to \$600 in FY2009. Williams proposed the County Board adopt a fee of \$10 to be paid by defendants of felonies and Class A, B, or C criminal misdemeanors. The money would be used to offset personnel costs, which would allow the CAC to use some its existing grants to fund training, other operational costs, and any other unanticipated expenditures. Williams offered to answer any questions and noted twenty-four counties in Illinois have approved the imposition of this fee.

James inquired when the fee would commence. Williams suggested the fee should be implemented on December 1, 2008 with the start of the next fiscal year. James asked if this fee affected traffic fines. Rietz, the CAC Board Chair and State's Attorney, explained the misdemeanors affected by the fee would include DUIs, driving on a revoked license, and drug offenses, but it would not include petty offenses such as speeding tickets. James compared this fee to a hidden tax. He worried about the fee as a reliable revenue source, though he had no objection to the fee being charged to those who committed felonies and other criminal offenses. Rietz commented that the state legislature does use these fees as a method to fund programs instead of providing appropriate funding themselves. She understood James's concerns; however, this funding mechanism is available and is used to fund the Drug Court. The CAC was asking to be allowed to use the funding mechanism that is available to them and has been approved by the state legislature.

Ammons had looked at fees that could be assessed to people in courts system and the number totals eleven possible fees a person could be charged. She felt there are other agencies that could come before this body and ask for fees to be assessed to generate revenue for their operations, such as teen peer courts. Ammons asked if the County Board would be able to assess fees in other areas, such as juvenile prevention, based on requests from other agencies. Rietz stated the County Board could approve the assessment of other fees if allowed by a statute. Rietz expressed that the CAC's grant funding has not increased for years while expenses have increased. Ammons understands the dilemma, but she found it ironic based on the community's socioeconomics that this fee would not be assessed to business or petty offenses. She thought it would be selective about who was paying the fee because of the disparate impact on poor and minority communities who frequent the courts system. Ammons could not support a \$10 fee and warned it would open flood gates for other agencies like the one she works for.

Nudo asked why the money generated by fees would not be put directly towards a specific training allocation if the existing concern is about training. Nudo calculated that there has been 26% in salary increases over 5 years even with the budget cuts. He suggested the money go to specific training allocation instead of salary increases. Williams explained the money was not necessarily for salary increases, he was proposing putting the potential \$15,000 in fee revenue in the salary line item to cover increases and some of the existing salary and fringe benefit costs to enable the CAC to shift money currently used for those purposes into other line items like training. Williams was not certain how much money the fee generate. Nudo stated he would be more in favor of the fee if the money was allocated directly to training, where it is definitely needed. Williams was willing to allocate the fee revenue to the training line item instead of the personnel line item.

Carter asked if this went to the legislature. Williams confirmed it was approved by the Illinois legislature and signed by the governor in 2007. Carter said whoever legislated this should pay for it and objected to the County Board not being told about this program before. He wanted to be a part of the process and stated he could not support it because it appeared to be a job program instead of helping the people that need it, so it was a bad deal.

Gladney asked if the County Board could also repeal this fee at some future date if it was enacted. Busey nodded. Gladney expressed concern that the fee seemed to be a stop gap measure because the state is not providing funding the way it should be. He would feel better if the fee was a temporary measure and would be repealed if the state began funding the CAC in a better manner, but he did not see that happening. Williams clarified this fee was not a replacement for state funding because there is no state funding. This is a mechanism approved by the state to allow County Boards to help the Children's Advocacy Centers in their jurisdiction. The money the CAC receives from the state comes though DCFS and it not a direct legislative allocation to CAC. Gladney asked for elaboration on Williams's statement that all existing sources of revenue are fully allocated. Williams explained that all the CAC's granting agencies are funding them at same level in FY2009 as in FY2008. The largest grant is from the Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority and is used to contract for crisis intervention services for the children and their families who are referred to the CAC. Williams was notified this grant will be cut from 25%-30%. Gladney asked if Williams viewed this fee as long-term source of revenue. Williams answered yes.

Anderson commented that the Champaign County CAC is one of few CACs in Illinois that receives funding from a Mental Health Board. Williams confirmed the Mental Health Board grant was \$37,080. Tracy informed the committee that the Drug Court fee revenue was not coming at the rate that was predicted. There is only \$4,000 in the fund and it was anticipated that the Drug Court fee would generated around \$35,000-\$40,000 a year.

James worried about continually going back to the people in the County for funding when grants are cut. James was tired of the numerous fees and felt it would eventually reach a point when people could not afford it. He understood it hurts services, but suggested the committee look at the fact that the state put us in this mess and

they could run people out of the County. He would support the fee if Gladney would make a proposal to sunset this fee because the fees scare him.

Ammons was opposed to leaving petty and business offenses out of paying the fee, claiming that it was selective implementation to leave those out. Weibel asked for a description of a business offense and petty offense. Reitz frankly could not recall the last time the State's Attorney's Office filed a business offense. Petty offenses are traffic tickets, such as speeding over 25 mph over the posted limit or accidents involving personal injury. This would not include traffic tickets that did not require the defendant to appear in court. Rietz understood the concerns about the fees and suggested another avenue for the CAC would be to apply for direct funding by the County Board. The CAC is a vital County agency and an incredible asset in prosecuting child sexual abuse cases. The Sheriff's Office, the State's Attorney's Office, and the entire County benefits from the CAC. Rietz stated many agencies are undergoing cuts, but there are certain things we cannot walk away from and close down without a travesty. Weibel asked Williams and Rietz to return with figures including projected revenue generated by including all possible offenses listed in the bill and revenue generated only by petty and business offenses. Nudo suggested more information be provided on how much revenue could be generated by a lesser fee amount with all the criminal classes involved. Nudo also wanted to see specific allocations to training and areas that would assist the State's Attorney's Office.

Carter said he thought the courts system fees were recently upgraded. Busey stated that was done five years ago to insure the people paying those fees were covering the costs of providing those services. She was certain the fees revenue is no longer covering the costs of providing those services. Carter asked why this has to be part of the courts system and said they should take care of their own fees. He asked why the state legislature would legislate something without first coming to the County Board and asking if it would fit in. Carter objected to what he saw as the state's lack of courtesy.

Ammons asked if the CAC currently received any funding from the Quarter Cent for Public Safety Sales Tax. Williams stated they did not because the services they provide are not exactly juvenile delinquency prevention. Ammons asked if there a way to get money from those who benefit from CAC, such as the agency where she is employed and other County agencies. Rietz said they are exploring the avenue of having entities like the city police departments chip in. How successful this approach will be is unknown.

MOTION by James to defer; seconded by Ammons. **Motion carried.**

COUNTY-WIDE PRESCRIPTION DRUG SAVINGS CARD

Beverly Baker of the United Way of Champaign County distributed packets on the United Way's FamilyWize prescription drug discount card to the committee. Weibel had procured some information about the National Association of Counties (NACO) prescription drug discount card that was also distributed. Baker described the history of the FamilyWize Program at the United Way. Baker spoke with local pharmacies about honoring the card. Volunteers are conducting follow-up to see if there are any problems. The United Way will be issuing a press release to alert the entire community to the availability of these cards. The FamilyWize card has no application fee and no personal information will be collected; the United Way simply hands out the preprinted cards. The cards have numbers so the United Way can track their use, a website is available, and the cards are printed in English and Spanish. There seems to be a savings on the most commonly prescribed drugs with the FamilyWize cards.

Weibel had spoken with NACO about its prescription drug discount card. NACO claimed its card saves a person between 20-25% per prescription and can be used for pets. Baker stated the FamilyWize card is very similar. She noted the NACO card is a subsidiary of CVS and some local pharmacies might be more willing to promote the FamilyWize card, which is not associated with a competitor.

Carter said he was surprised so much misinformation is given out about the health care provider programs. He learned at the NACO Conference that Medicare Part D was not worth the paper it is written on. Anderson explained the discount card that is being discussed cannot be used by people who have insurance or if Medicare covers a prescription. The pharmacies will not give double discounts on prescriptions. Carter asked why he could not get one provider to provide all of his needs and why supplementary problems were needed. Carter said he needs one of the cards for himself and asked Baker to help him with this.

Ammons asked if the FamilyWize card financially benefits the United Way in any way. Baker said it enables the United Way to help people save money on healthcare. There is no money coming back to the United Way when people use the discount card. James thought the United Way would be a better agency than the County to distribute a prescription drug card and get the word out to the community. Baker said the United Way's ultimate goal was to help the community and if any prescription card saved people money then it was a good thing. By having a County-wide card through the United Way, they can coordinate efforts to help get the message out so people can start saving money faster. Discussion continued over the prescription drug card options.

MOTION by Gladney to approve the United Way's FamilyWize Card as the County Board endorsed county-wide prescription drug savings card; seconded by James.

Carter said there needs to be somebody to explain programs to seniors like him so they know which one to choose. Baker said the United Way can work with the Senior Services in the Regional Planning Commission if the County Board collaboratively supports a discount card to help educate people to use the cards in order to save money. Weibel asked if Vic Christensen in Senior Services had looked at the FamilyWize card. Anderson said Christensen has looked at the website and the informational packet, but had a few questions. Weibel will ask Christensen for her opinion on the FamilyWize card between this meeting and the full Board meeting. He asked if any pharmacies have refused this to honor the FamilyWize discounts. Baker said no pharmacies had refused the card as far as she knows. She offered to send the committee a list of participating pharmacies.

Ammons asked if the County Board would be acknowledged on the FamilyWize card. Baker explained cards are preprinted so they can be directly distributed to the public. She offered to include the County Board in the United Way's promotional materials that are mailed to people with the card if the Board puts its support behind it. The County Board can be a part of the press release. Baker pointed out the NACO card offers a mail-order prescription service that the FamilyWize program does not offer. In her research, Baker learned the mail-order process does not work smoothly and often has shipping and handling fees charged to the recipient. Weibel concurred that NACO said the savings are less with its mail-order service and they recommend a card holder buy prescriptions locally to save the most money.

Motion carried.

Gladney exited the meeting at 8:15 p.m.

HEAD START **Monthly Reports**

MOTION by Ammons to receive and place on file the Head Start May, June, and July monthly reports; seconded by James.

Granse and May were present to represent Head Start. Granse stated that summer is their busy time of year. Heart Start was informed on Friday that the results of the federal review were positive. Weibel pointed out the compliance letter was distributed to the committee at the beginning of the meeting. The federal reviewers only found one problem with the toilets and that was only negative thing the reviewers found in the five days they were performing the inspection. In Weibel's opinion it was an amazing review. Granse reported

Head Start will be purchasing child-sized toilets for the Washington School. James asked about the mention of Central Illinois Dental Education and Services (CIDES) in the report because he was under the impression that Head Start already had a partnership with CIDES. Granse explained they do already have a relationship with CIDES. CIDES received a donation of child-sized dental chair for restorative work to be placed at the Savoy Head Start Center for children to receive free services and that was noticed in the report.

Motion carried.

JUVENILE DELINQUENCY GRANTS

Quarter Cent for Public Safety Post-Detention Programs Status Report

Tracy distributed a second report to accompany the report in the agenda packets. He has received no word yet on the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) grant application and hopes to hear something in September. Tracey reported Mental Health is looking into using evidence-based practice as part of the post-detention program for the Juvenile Detention Center and the juveniles served through the Quarter Cent grant programs. The program they are looking into is the Parenting With Love and Limits program out of Georgia. With the number of providers doing different things that do not fit together well, therefore, it is very difficult to determine if the County is achieving good outcomes and its money's worth for these grants. The idea of evidence based practice is that the practioners are trained in a particular model based on cognitive behavior therapy. It would be a structured, eight-week program that all the juveniles and their parents would participate in. Tracy reported they had conference call with the Parenting With Love and Limits program representatives. At this point, the Mental Health Board is looking at the redirection of some of the existing grants and contracts. Tracy has identified at training someone in Mental Health Center and the Regional Planning Commission's Court Diversion program using money in the contracts and lapse money from last year. He will report more at next month's meeting. Rollins attended the System of Care Conference in Nashville. She learned a lot about systems of care and brought back some exciting things she will be looking into.

Carter asked for an explanation of the public safety part. Tracy explained they are working with the juveniles in the Juvenile Detention Center (JDC) to prevent them from returning. Carter argued that is what the County gives money to other entities for. Tracy stated the idea is to get all the programs on the same track by using the same approach. Carter wished he could get something out of the courts that they already have instead of adding anything else. He does not like money for the detention center being moved away to other entities. Carter said he would personally go to the detention center and see what progress is being made with the other entities. He wanted to get information on the amount of money the County has paid out since these programs started. Busey was willing to gather that information. Rietz offered the explanation that the Parenting with Love and Limits program is a counseling program the County would provide to juveniles in the JDC and their parents to help them break the cycle and keep the juveniles out of the JDC in the future. This program would be an effort to prevent further juvenile delinquency and provide services to the families in a different way than has not been done before. Carter stated when he was growing up nobody went to jail because his parents had the right to spank him. He told Rietz to let the parents raise their families and quit locking them up every time somebody got a little scratch on them. Rietz assured Carter that she would not incarcerate parents for appropriately disciplining their children. She explained this is a program to help teach parents, who need the help, better ways of how to raise their children.

Ammons asked about training other agencies who are a part of this process. Tracy said they are looking at doing things differently because what they are using now is not working to engage the juveniles and their families. Carter said the ministers need to get together with the parents in their congregations to start teaching them. Carter asked how much this would cost. Tracy said the Parenting With Love and Limits program is being funded through the Mental Health Board as a part of the planning for the large federal grant. More than just the Quarter Cent grant money is being invested Mental Health Board money is also being invested in this process and if the Mental Health Board receives the federal grant, it will also be invested. The Quarter Cent money is

being stretched and expanded by virtues of the Mental Health Board's other programs. Tracy thought this was a good deal for the County, though it is expensive to do any evidence-based practice. Each trained therapist costs \$1,500 per juvenile served and one therapist can work with thirty juveniles and their families each year. If over 100 juveniles are served, the price drops to \$1,000 per juvenile served. Tracy said this is inexpensive compared to most evidenced-based practices. The people who do the training have weekly telephone meetings with the therapists, perform site visits, and other monitoring activities. They will also do the research and produce a report for the Mental Health Board on how project is working. Ammons asked for a presentation on this program. Tracy offered to include the committee in the presentation that will be made when the program's representatives come from Georgia.

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

CHAIR'S REPORT

Anderson spoke about the most recent last Nursing Home Board of Directors meeting. The meeting included a presentation made by the Nursing Home Volunteer Coordinator about the over 200 active volunteers at the Nursing Home. Mark Holley made a presentation about Parkland College nursing scholarships and nurse recruitment. Mike Scavatto of Management Performance Associates (MPA) reported to the Directors about the census, public image, and rehab therapy at the Champaign County Nursing Home (CCNH). Scavatto's attempts to renegotiate with current therapy provider have been unsuccessful and RFPs have been issued to look for other therapy companies. Charles Lansford, the Chair, appointed a nursing policies subcommittee and a public relations subcommittee. Nudo drew the committee's attention to the fact that the census was up to 161 and Anderson had heard it was up 164 as of today. There are more private pay and Medicare residents and CCNH has hired three more nurses. It looks like MPA has worked out a 3.5% increase in Medicare payments for CCNH. Nudo noted the depreciation costs of CCNH have never been included in the costs submitted to Medicare and including this can increase the revenue received from the state. Nudo was pleased with how Scavatto acted quickly on Rachel Schwartz's report about the rehab therapy.

Ammons asked where to get the minutes of the Nursing Home Board of Directors meetings. Busey stated the minutes follow the same procedure for all County Board committee minutes by being posted on the County's website once the minutes are approved. Busey explained the Board of Directors' regular meeting date will be moved to the Thursday following the second Monday of the month at 6:00 p.m. Ammons asked if the discrepancy in therapy bills charged to CCNH that was noted in Schwartz's report was being addressed. She asked if CCNH could recoup some of the money it has paid in therapy costs that were not legitimate. Nudo did not believe so because the therapy company was within the rights of its contract, a point confirmed by Busey. Since the therapy company was unwilling to change the terms of the contract, Scavatto is looking into other vendors. It is a month-to-month contract with a thirty days notice clause.

OTHER BUSINESS

Weibel announced Project ACCESS would have an open house on Tuesday, October 12th at the Champaign-Urbana Public Health District facility. The Prairie Center was inviting people to write letters to the Governor and state leaders to restore the funding that was cut.

Busey reminded the committee that the next meeting will be held on Wednesday, September 3rd at 5:30 p.m. due to the observance of Labor Day.

Carter wanted to bring before the committee what he observed at the NACO Conference about the sex slave trade problem. Weibel asked if this was a problem in Champaign County. Rietz stated that she was not aware of this being a problem in Champaign County. Weibel suggested Carter share any brochures or information he picked up at NACO with Rietz.

DESIGNATION OF ITEMS TO BE PLACED ON COUNTY BOARD CONSENT AGENDA

With the request from Weibel to have the prescription drug card recommendation on the regular agenda, no agenda items were designated for the consent agenda.

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 8:49 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.