

CHAMPAIGN COUNTY BOARD  
**COMMITTEE MINUTES**

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**JUSTICE & SOCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE**

Monday, March 2, 2009

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

7:00 p.m.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Anderson, Carter, Gladney (Chair), James,  
Nudo, Rosales, Sapp, Smucker

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Hunt

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Deb Busey, Stephanie Joos, Pius Weibel, Peter Tracy

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Gladney called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m.

**ROLL CALL**

Anderson, Carter, Gladney, James, Nudo, Rosales, Sapp, and Smucker were present at the time of roll call, establishing the presence of a quorum.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA/ADDENDUM**

**MOTION** by Carter to approve the agenda and addendum as presented; seconded by Rosales. Motion carried.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**MOTION** by James to approve the minutes of February 2, 2009 as presented; seconded by Carter. **Motion carried**

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

There was no public participation.

**MONTHLY REPORTS**

**MOTION** by Smucker to receive and place on file the Animal Control January 2009 report; seconded by James. **Motion carried.**

## **CHILDREN'S ADVOCACY CENTER**

### **Renewal of the Violent Crime Victims Assistance Grant for the Illinois Attorney General**

**MOTION** by Sapp to recommend County Board approval of the Renewal of the Violent Crime Victims Assistance Grant for the Illinois Attorney General; seconded by Anderson.

Smucker asked for an explanation of what the Children's Advocacy Center is and what it does.

Ms. Anderson stated an explanation is included in the grant information. She explained it is housed at the Champaign-Urbana Public Health building in Champaign and it consists of only two staff members, both who have special training in interviewing children that have been involved in abuse and neglect situations. Ms. Busey explained it is coordinated on behalf of most of the law enforcement and child welfare agencies in the county and provides the opportunity for a child to be interviewed only once. It is grant funded and although it could be funded through a property tax under the statute, when it was originally created it was done with out a property tax therefore these grants are critical to its continuation.

**Motion carried.**

## **ANIMAL CONTROL**

### **Intergovernmental Agreement for Animal Impound Services for the Village of Rantoul**

**MOTION** by James to recommend County Board approval of the Intergovernmental Agreement for Animal Impound Services for the Village of Rantoul; seconded by Anderson. **Motion carried.**

Ms. Joos stated this is the same contract they have with 19 other villages and the cities. Rantoul has their own officer; the County will just be impounding their animals.

Mr. James asked about space limitations at the current facility.

Ms. Joos stated they have only been at capacity one time for dogs but they are always at capacity with cats but she doesn't see this contract increasing the number of animals or creating a problem with housing them. Mr. James stated Rantoul has a lot of buildings open and needing occupancy so that location could serve as a satellite office down the road.

When asked why there are so many cats at the facility, Ms. Joos explained that any village that has an ordinance that prohibits cats from running at large gives them the authority to pick them up. The majority of the cats that come in are brought in by citizens and the main problem with cats is the 5% reclaim rate where there is 51% reclaim rate with dogs so the dogs are moving through while the cats have to remain there for 7 days.

When asked what happens to the cats after seven days and if they are all neutered, Ms. Joos referred to the previous year where they brought in 871 cats, of which 422 were euthanized and 377 were adopted out or sent to rescue groups. All cats neutered which is done by the rescue groups.

**Motion carried.**

## **HEAD START** **Monthly Report**

**MOTION** by Anderson to receive and place on file the Head Start February 2009 monthly report; seconded by Smucker. **Motion carried.**

## **JUVENILE DELINQUENCY GRANTS** **Quarter Cent for Public Safety Post-Detention Programs History & Current Direction**

Mr. Gladney thanked Mr. Tracy for the historical and directional document included with the agenda.

Mr. Tracy stated it became clear at the last meeting that, especially for the new members, this background information was needed to understand what has been happening.

When asked about the News-Gazette article and different grants he explained there is a requirement for organization of parent and family groups, if they get the grant 51% of the governing body has to be families of kids involved in the system so they need to do some preliminary work and they have an application that relates to that at this point. The other part of the requirement is having a youth voice and they also have a social marketing component and a cultural competence component. These are other areas they would look at for using some of the quarter cent money. He asked the committee to understand this isn't just quarter cent money; they invest about 1.2 million dollars into youth services and are trying to pull all those things together so it is an effective system. He is very pleased having the quarter cent opportunity and two different funding streams together as opposed to everyone doing their own thing, hopefully it will make for a more effective program.

Mr. Tracy explained their focus is on people with disabilities of any age. Most of their money goes to adult services attempting to focus in areas where the state funding has fallen short. Over the years state money has gone down in those disability areas so what they have done to cope is narrow their eligibility requirements and reduced the categories of services they will fund which leaves a lot of gaps in the community. As a local funder they have attempted not to duplicate what the state has taken responsibility for but focus on the areas they are missing.

## **Status Report**

**MOTION** by James to receive and place on file the Juvenile Delinquency Status Report; seconded by Anderson. **Motion carried.**

## **NURSING HOME BOARD OF DIRECTORS LIASION UPDATE**

Mr. Gladney explained he communicated with Mr. Nudo about this item and given the action the board took last month it sounds like this report will be given at full board. He stated it will be taken off the agenda from here on out with the understanding that if there is any new information that comes up right before Justice, an update could still be provided.

Ms. Anderson stated because the meeting date of the Board of Directors has been changed next month the information will be even fresher for County Board. She did get an email regarding census and wanted to report that it is down a bit to 190 as of today but that is the nature of this business because we have been up as high as 206.

Mr. Nudo stated if things do come up in between he will report that.

Mr. James suggested the committee meet at the new nursing home now that the weather is warming up.

### **CHAIR'S REPORT**

There was no Chair's Report.

### **OTHER BUSINESS**

#### **Semi-annual review of closed session minutes**

The semi-annual review of closed session minutes was deferred.

#### **Resignation of Deloris Henry from the Citizens Advisory Committee on Jury Selection**

Mr. Weibel stated the resignation was for personal reasons and they have posted for this and he hopes by the next Justice meeting he will have someone to appoint.

**MOTION** by James to receive and place on file the resignation of Deloris Henry from the Citizen's Advisory Committee on Jury Selection; seconded by Anderson. **Motion carried.**

### **ADDENDUM**

#### **Memorandum of Understanding for Champaign County Drug Court Program**

**MOTION** by Sapp to recommend County Board approval of the Memorandum of Understanding for Champaign County Drug Court; seconded by Rosales. **Motion carried.**

Ms. Busey stated this is the Memorandum of Understanding with the Mental Health Board for the administration of Champaign County Drug Court. It is the exact same MOU the board has approved in the past, with one change. Previously, there was an end date, but looking at paragraph six on the second page, you can see there is no end date which means it will keep going on until either one or both parties decide they want to dissolve the relationship, this way we don't have to renew it every year. That is the only change

When asked what funds are going into this, Ms. Busey explained there was originally a \$30,000 grant we received but she doesn't expect we will be receiving the grant at the same level this year. Drug court is encouraging contributions from anyone in the community who would like to put resources toward this. There is also a fee that is assessed that gets deposited into this fund although it is much less than anticipated probably generating \$8,000 to \$10,000 a year.

Ms. Anderson stated last year Judge Ford came to the Mental Health Board and gave an update on the program and the numbers being served has gone up and they would like to serve more. The Mental Health Board had put a small amount of money into it also.

Mr. Smucker asked if the county has ever funded the drug court. Ms. Busey explained that indirectly we do because drug court is administered through Champaign County offices; this is just additional funds made available to the participants in drug court to help out with rent assistance and things like that. The fee collected is something the County Board authorized and is county funds deposited directly into this fund for this purpose. The staff is not entirely Champaign County.

Ms. Anderson stated they get invitations to the graduations and it is interesting to go to.

**Motion carried.**

**APPROVAL OF CLOSED SESSION MINUTES**  
**October 6, 2008**

**MOTION** by James to approve the minutes of October 6, 2009; seconded by Anderson.  
**Motion carried.**

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

Items 7A, 8A and 13C will be included on the County Board consent agenda.

Mr. Rosales asked if there is a section on the agenda left open for committee members to address items or concerns that are not on the agenda. Mr. Gladney stated that could come under other business. Mr. Rosales stated he received a memo from Mr. Beckett regarding the dissolving of this committee and he wanted this committee to have an opportunity to discuss it prior to the County Board meeting.

Mr. Gladney explained he debated putting it on the agenda, trying to weigh the efficiency of time as far as discussing the item without having the ability to render any decision on it. He stated this will be discussed at Policy in great length where there will be a vote and any committee members that want to discuss it can call him or email him. He decided not to bring it up because it wasn't anything that could be voted on.

Mr. Rosales stated one of the issues he has, being a new member, is the media also attending committee meetings and running with whatever decisions are made while there are 18 other board members that don't have the information this committee has dealt with so it leaves 2/3 of the board blind sided. He explained that when he was on the City Council the entire group would make decisions but now when committees vote on issues, other than reading the material on the information being discussed, other board members are not privy to what happens and when the media gets a hold of it before the other members do and it creates problems. He feels that board meetings are so long because at that time there is discussion and discoveries by members that are not on a certain committee.

Mr. James stated they all can go to any committee meeting they want to and many chose not to. If something is put on the consent agenda any board member can look at it, pull it off and debate it. Most of the time that stuff goes through, that's why they are in the positions they are in, he understands about the media but he chooses not to worry about them. He suggested going to the committee meetings and voicing opinions but let each committee do their work. Mr. Rosales stated he doesn't have a vote at any other committee he would attend; he has no power to voice his concern about what goes on the agenda.

Mr. Gladney stated this is the way the county board is currently set up but he could go to the Strategic Planning Subcommittee that handles topics such as this and voice his concern.

Mr. Smucker stated there is a time for study sessions if there are issues people want to get a broader sense of, his understanding is that they are not used that often. He has asked very similar questions about why he reads about the news in the newspaper but it is kind of the nature of the way it works. The county and County Board is big and if you are not involved you will read about it in the paper first. He has asked that when important issues come up and there are documents, to have them emailed to members as soon as possible.

Mr. Rosales asked how they get an item on the Justice agenda. Mr. Gladney stated just to contact him with enough time to get it on. Ms. Busey stated they send all agenda materials to all County Board members to make sure they have all the information. When there are handouts at the committee meeting the agendas posted are updated, sometimes it is cumbersome but Administrative Services exists to serve the County Board so everyone is encouraged to contact them with any questions. She explained they make sure they are getting all information to members as fast as they can and if anyone has any ideas to get information out there, let her know.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

Chair Gladney declared the meeting adjourned at 7:52 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Tiffany Talbott  
Administrative Secretary