

CHAMPAIGN COUNTY BOARD
COMMITTEE MINUTES

JUSTICE & SOCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE

Monday, January 7, 2008

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

7:00 p.m.

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

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

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

CALL TO ORDER

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

ROLL CALL

The Recording Secretary called the roll. Anderson, Carter, Gladney, Hogue, Hunt, James, Nudo, and Sapp 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 Hogue. **Motion carried.**

Anderson welcomed the new committee member, Nudo.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION by Carter to approve the Justice & Social Services Committee December 3, 2007 minutes; seconded by Hunt. **Motion carried.**

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Samuel Smucker commented on the proposal to create an advisory board for the Champaign County Nursing Home. He hoped there would not be a long discussion about an operating board at tonight's meeting. Smucker stated his opinion, after hearing discussions about the Nursing Home's solvency, that a key element to the advisory board should be fundraising. He thought having a Nursing Home employee on

an advisory board would make a great deal of sense to give feedback and tie the workforce to the board, but this should be a volunteer, unpaid position. He added the position should not be a union employee. He asked the people take the big picture into account.

Putman entered the meeting at 7:04 p.m.

MONTHLY REPORTS

MOTION by James to receive and place on file the Animal Control November 2007 report, Court Services October 2007 report, EMA November/December 2007 report, and the Public Defender November 2007 report; seconded by Hogue. **Motion carried.**

ANIMAL CONTROL

MOTION by James to approve the revisions to the Animal Control Ordinance; seconded by Putman.

Anderson noted Stephanie Joos was not present to explain the revisions to the ordinance. James had a few questions. On Page 5, Section 4 he asked why it only concerned dogs running at large and not cats. Busey pointed out that cats running at large was addressed on Page 7, Section 15. Busey said the revisions were clarifications on fees collections and pet owners who violate the ordinance multiple times. James asked if the dog owner or the County would be the party reimbursing animal owners for animals destroyed or injured by dogs as referenced on Page 10, Section 26 of the ordinance. Busey said this is the current language, not a change, and matches the state allowances. The County pays if the animal that caused the damages is unknown. This does not happen very often. Putman wanted the language in Page 5, Section 4 to state that owners of spayed and neutered animals would not be charged for the spay/neuter surgery on their second offense. Anderson explained that if Animal Control did not perform a surgery, the department would not be charging the animal owner for a surgery. Putman wanted it specifically stated in the ordinance and wanted to ask legal counsel about it. Busey expressed that legal counsel has reviewed and approved the ordinance and she would bring Putman comments to counsel. James and Putman agreed to take Putman's language changes as a friendly amendment to the motion.

Motion carried as amended.

HEAD START **Monthly Report**

Liffick said there was no Head Start Policy Council meeting in December, so she did not prepare a monthly report. She directed the committee to the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services Administration for Children & Families website to learn more about Head Start. She distributed the Head Start Health & Disabilities Report and reauthorization information. Liffick gave an overview of the Head Start reauthorization and the changes it will mean for her staff and their reporting. Now every 5 years, they will have to reapply for funding.

Anderson asked if Liffick knew when the federal review will occur. Liffick had not been informed, but she is narrowing it down based on the documentation being requested. The review must occur on a day when the children are in attendance.

The Head Start Health & Disabilities Report was a document demonstrating the new database system for producing reliable reports. Head Start has to complete screens on new children within a certain amount of time. The report gives the counts on children new to Head Start this year. Liffick showed the committee where to locate the data on enrolled children with disabilities.

Nudo inquired what the Head Start reauthorization would do for enrollment. Liffick answered that Head Start can only increase enrollment when expansion funding is available. This will be a competitive national grant.

Carter asked what the poverty line is. Liffick said it is announced on July 1st of each year and last year the poverty level for a family of 4 was set at \$20,650. Anderson thanked Liffick for her summary.

JUVENILE DELINQUENCY GRANTS

Status Report from Peter Tracy

Tracy's report focused on the SAMHSA grant application. The focus of the application is primarily on African-American kids who are overrepresented in the juvenile justice system, children welfare system, and extrusion from schools. The intent is to set up a system that is more responsive to those kids and help them function better. He pointed out the Peer Ambassadors' trip to Federation of Families Conference in Washington D.C. He commended Rollins who, with another adult, chaperoned the 7 kids on the trip. Rollins added the Peer Ambassadors have been doing focus groups with the juveniles at the Juveniles Detention Center and presented this information to the conference. The Peer Ambassadors received recognition from the national evaluation team from SAMHSA. Anderson said she was impressed by the Peer Ambassadors' presentation to the Mental Health Board because they were very articulate.

Carter asked if there has ever been any funding for mental health disabilities. Tracy requested Carter specify what question he is asking. Carter wanted to know if there had been any funding because they had always had mental health disabilities. Tracy explained the SAMHSA grant application is a federal application with the intent to establish a system of care for children and adolescents. One of the problems in the child mental health system is that children have so many different systems they have to deal with: the juvenile justice system, education system, and child welfare system. The intent of a system of care is to pull all of these pieces together and integrate care within these different systems. The Mental Health Board has worked to integrate the Juvenile Delinquency Grants into the system of care. The federal money would help to support this. The federal government refers to this as a cooperative agreement, a partnership with communities for a period of 6 years. Carter asked why we are so late in bringing something like this. Tracy said he could not answer that question. He explained that most of the mental health services for kids are funded through the State of Illinois, which has not done a particularly good job with the mental health system in general or children in the state. The County is lucky to have local money involved through the Mental Health Board.

Putman asked if there had been any fallout from extending the current year's grants instead of accepting new applications. Tracy and Rollins have not heard any negative response. Tracy put an announcement in the newspaper stating no applications would be accepted this year because of this particular situation.

Carter asked about the possibility of getting federal funds. Tracy said Mental Health has positioned itself well by going to every conference and the site visit in McHenry County. The feds know who we are and Mental Health is doing what it can to make its application stand out. The staff has been struggling and working hard on this application. Anderson complimented the Mental Health staff for their hours of work on this application. If the grant is not received, the staff has learned things by working on the application and this will cause some change. Weibel asked when Tracy will learn the results. Tracy said it would be whenever the feds say so, most likely by late summer.

NURSING HOME

Monthly Report

MOTION by James to receive and place on file the monthly report; seconded by Putman.

James asked about the initiative on Page 22 of rewarding employees nearly \$60,000 because the Nursing Home met the threshold of losing \$200,000 or less in FY2007. James asked if the \$60,000 added to the Nursing Home's losses or if it was already in the budget. Buffenbarger said the \$60,000 adds to the Nursing Home's losses. James asked what the largest amount that was possibly given to a single employee. Buffenbarger said the top would have been about \$800.

Gladney liked the cooperation between the County and the university in being a host site for a University of Illinois Kinesiology and Community Health Department class in Spring 2008. He asked about the new pharmacy provider, Health One. Buffenbarger said it is going pretty well. Health One provided new medication and treatment carts when the old ones were returned to the previous provider. Essentially the Nursing Home has the same kind of pharmacy service with new carts. Gladney was glad to see the new screening process implemented for hiring new employees. He inquired about the reason for the turnover rate in some job classes, was it a result of the employees being unhappy with the Nursing Home or the Nursing Home being unhappy with the employees. Buffenbarger said 99% was the Nursing Home being unhappy with the employees. The Nursing Home has a new attendance policy that raised the bar and some employees did not work very well with it. The new hiring process is to guarantee the residents that the folks who care for them will be drug free and physically able to take care of them. It has been a long time in the making and has been working for 6 months. It reduces the pool of applicants down to the people the County actually wants to hire.

Putman was pleased with the incentive checks being paid to employees. She was put out with the State of Illinois about cutting the public aid reimbursement rate by \$16/day for the Nursing Home. She asked what Medicaid A/R meant. Buffenbarger said it stood for accounts receivable. Buffenbarger said they are going to DuPage County Nursing Home later this month to band together with other county nursing homes to draw attention to their plight. Weibel asked how the Medicaid cut was different for other nursing homes. Buffenbarger said each home has a rate that is calculated each quarter and county nursing homes are different from private homes. County nursing homes receive a slightly higher Medicaid rate than private homes based on the number of impoverished people within the community. Somehow the folks who finance Medicaid were able to calculate all of the county homes' Medicaid rates in a way that made it drop for all. This is odd for a standard calculation. The rate calculation is extraordinarily complicated.

Nudo commended Buffenbarger on renegotiating the pharmacy contract based on the operational audit that was performed last year. Buffenbarger said it worked out well.

Motion carried.

Establishment of the Champaign County Nursing Home Board of Directors with Bylaws and Policy Book

MOTION by Sapp to approve the establishment of the Champaign County Nursing Home Board of Directors with Bylaws and Policy Book; seconded by Gladney.

Nudo distributed a list of his recommendations for changes to the Bylaws and Policy Book. He had wanted to raise his questions before the entire Board so when it was referred back to the committee there would be some guidelines or insight as to what they should be looking at. He was told to talk about it at the committee meeting. He said the documents were well-written documents and he believed they will satisfy what the County Board is trying to achieve if implemented correctly. He stated the Nursing Home is a business and should be run like one because it is competing against for-profit home as stated in its mission statement. He believes Buffenbarger is running the Nursing Home like a business. He stressed the Nursing Home should break even or turn a profit. A Board of Directors could help both the County Board and Buffenbarger get the necessary work done to run the Home. Nudo suggested requiring a quarterly report of dashboard indicators instead of an annual report. He was concerned that Article II, Section 3 is written in a way that does not give Buffenbarger the expertise he needs on a Board of Directors. Nudo recommended it

not be so nebulous, to select board members with experience in healthcare, banking, marketing/sales. For example, the person walking a family through the Home needs guidance on marketing to close the deal. Nudo raised several points concerning the Bylaws and suggested revisions and clarifications based on his experience in business.

Weibel said it was purely his idea to call this entity a Board of Directors so there does not have to be a name change if the board's powers change. He thought putting the areas from which board members come from is a bullseye; they may not get such individuals. He thought the County Board could look for individuals with expertise in these areas. Weibel questioned what would constitute a major decision and thought that would be developed by the board. Nudo suggested it could be a dollar amount or set by Buffenbarger. Nudo believed the Board of Directors should have an annual budget the County Board can set by working with Buffenbarger. He wanted the board members to be compensated for their time so the board has value, in an amount not to exceed \$5,000. Weibel did not object to compensating the Board of Directors, though he said any budget for the board should come from the Nursing Home budget. He agreed with Nudo's suggestion of quarterly report if Buffenbarger was willing. Buffenbarger said the documents are a terrific marriage of advisory and operating board ideas. If the changes requested are not substantive enough to alter the ideas that flow through the documents, then he was happy to go along with whatever the board is interested in.

Gladney agreed with the idea of setting the types of areas where board members will be pulled from, to be flexible but aim high first. He would also prefer the board receive a quarterly report instead of an annual report, per Nudo's suggestion. He asked if the appointments would be staggered. Buffenbarger pointed out that it is spelled out on Page 6 how the terms will be staggered. Gladney asked if, regarding Section 6 on removal, the board would be subject to closed session. Busey said she would imagine that the board would be allowed to go into closed session. Gladney liked the idea of 1 board member being a Nursing Home employee. Weibel explained this was researched by legal counsel. To put a bargaining unit employee on the board would be very complicated so it was not being included in the Bylaws or Policy Book because it is subject to negotiation of the bargaining unit contract. Anderson noted the original idea at the Democratic Caucus was to have a union employee without a vote on the board and have some provision to have the employee come from work. It was suggested a non-voting member could observe the board to ease skepticism and rumors from the employees. Weibel stated the County Board would have to negotiate paying a union employee to attend the board meetings and be paid to do so. In short, he said it could possibly be done, just not tonight. Gladney asked when the organizational meeting would be held and the ending of terms. Busey explained the terms of the board would end in November and start in December to match the County Board's terms. This language will be corrected. The organizational meeting will typically be held in December.

Putman wanted to start at the beginning of the Bylaws and go through them section by section in order to have everyone comment on the things they want changed.

Carter claimed the people who gave the County the money to build the Nursing Home do not want this form of government. He would not support this type of operation.

Gladney exited the meeting at 8:14 p.m.

James said different people in the County have different perspectives on the Nursing Home and some of his constituents want the County sell the Nursing Home. He noted the County Board members are elected to do a job and sometimes it is tough. He was in favor of going through the document from the start.

Anderson said the committee would start over on the first page of the Bylaws. Weibel drew the committee's attention to the fact that the powers of the Board of Directors are set and restricted by County Board. The committee had no changes to Page 1.

Gladney re-entered the meeting at 8:22 p.m.

On Page 2, Putman suggested amending the language to incorporate Nudo's suggestion that the Board of Directors be composed of those with specific expertise in different areas. James requested adding language to include people who work full-time in Champaign County and might not live within Champaign County as potential board members. For example, an administrator of a local hospital who lives outside Champaign County would bring useful expertise to the board.

MOTION by Putman to amend Section 2 to read that the board will consist of people who are either County residents or maintain full-time employment in the County, and incorporate Nudo's language changes to remove the sentence "Specific expertise in the health care field, generally, and in long-term care, specifically, is a desirable, but not an exclusive, criterion for qualification as a Board member" and add the sentence "The Board of Directors shall have at least one (1) member who has expertise in each of the following areas: healthcare, finance/banking, accounting, social services, personnel, and marketing/sales."

Langenheim asked how to judge the expertise of the candidates. Putman said it will be determined by the Nominating Board and by the County Board member who vote on the appointments. Langenheim did not want to list any suggested areas of expertise, he wanted to leave it wide open. Gladney said leaving the candidates so wide open defeats the purpose of a Board of Directors and James concurred. Nudo supported diversity, but he felt direction needed to be given for the County Board members in the future making appointments who were not here to listen to this discussion to understand what the committee intended. The committee continued to discuss the language changes to Section 2.

Motion seconded by Nudo. **Motion carried with one no vote by Carter.**

Busey read the revised language to Section 3 based on the committee's requests that would result in the words "of each year, commencing in the year" being removed and the words "and thereafter in November of each year for terms ending in November of that year," added after 2008.

MOTION by Putman to amend Section 2 with the language as read by Busey; seconded by James. **Motion carried with one no vote by Carter.**

Anderson and Nudo raised an inconsistency between the Policy Book and Section 4 of the Bylaws about the period of time a board member must be off the board after 3 consecutive terms. It was agreed the Bylaws were correct and the Policy Book would be corrected accordingly.

In Section 5, Gladney inquired about the event of a board member term's expiring and no one candidate being immediately appointed to fill the position. Weibel answered that the previous appointee's term holds over and the appointee continues to serve until a suitable replacement can be found. This is typical with appointments.

In Section 6, Putman wanted to delete the language directing that a board member could be removed "with or without cause." Weibel said that specific language would enable a board member to be removed without stating the cause for removal, even though there would be a cause. He thought this language was present at the advice of legal counsel. Gladney asked where the County's legal counsel was tonight as they were not present at the meeting to answer questions. Anderson had wondered where counsel was as well. Busey had no information on the location of legal counsel.

MOTION by Putman to remove the "with or without cause" and change the word "meeting" to "at the meeting" from Section 6.

Putman was willing to allow the phrase to remain in if legal counsel explains it is necessary. Busey explained it was not necessary to change the meeting reference because the County Board rules do not allow anyone to vote who is not present at a meeting.

Motion seconded by James only if the change were incorporated pending legal review. Putman agreed to as a friendly amendment. **Motion carried.**

In Section 7, James asked for clarification because this section states the vacancies will be filled by County Board Chair with the advice and consent of County Board. But on Page 6 the Nominating Committee who will keep a roster of qualified persons is mentioned. He wanted the Nominating Committee to have at least some input into nominations for vacancies. Anderson described the Mental Health Board's process that staff makes recommendations on nominations because they know qualified people, but the nominations must actually be approved by the County Board. Nudo referred to Article VI Section 2 which clarifies the process of the Nominating Committee.

There were no changes to Article IV Sections 1 through 7 or Article V Sections 1 through 2. In Article V Section 3, Putman again requested the "with or without cause" be removed. Weibel said he phoned Susan McGrath out in the hallway and she informed him that this language is used to give the County Board the greatest flexibility. McGrath recommends keeping this language. Putman said removing someone without cause was for petty reasons. Busey explained the officers are elected by the Board of Directors themselves. The thought is that is a majority of the board does not have confidence in an officer, and then since the board elects its own officers, they should have the ability to remove that person. Similarly if 14 members of the County Board no longer have confidence in an individual serving in the capacity of a member of the Board of Directors, then that individual should not be serving on this board. James reminded Putman that at-will employees can also be terminated without cause. Putman said she would stop commenting on this and will talk to legal counsel to understand the phrase. Wysocki said this section only concerns the removal of an officer from an office such as President or Secretary, the person remains on the Board of Directors. Putman said she did not see much point in discussing the matter when the County's attorney is not here. The committee agreed Sections 4 through 6 will remain unchanged. In Section 6, Anderson asked who would help the elected Secretary to produce the minutes. Buffenbarger said the Nursing Home employs an Executive Secretary who can provide assistance. Weibel reported that he contacted McGrath and she would be here in about 10 minutes.

In Section 7, Putman wanted to replace "shall have general overall supervision" with "shall exercise general overall supervision." James stated that in his experience most attorneys put legal language like this in a document for clarity and to avoid problems in they end up in court for any purpose. Putman asked if, in the last sentence in the Administrator section, Operating Officer was a synonym for Administrator. Buffenbarger explained the design creates a successorship structure if the Administrator is ever not there. This ensures someone will be there to pick up in his absence, such as an Assistant Administrator. James said he preferred the Operating Officer be a staff person other than the Administrator, because something could happen to Buffenbarger. Putman understood Buffenbarger's explanation of the successorship. She wished to move the last sentence to after the Operating Officer is defined.

MOTION by Putman to move the last sentence under the Administrator in Section 7 to under the Operating Officer in the Section 8.

Hogue exited the meeting at 8:55 p.m.

In Article VI, there were no changes to Section 1.

MOTION by James moved that "at least" be deleted and read "The Nominating Committee shall consist of no more than three (3) persons"; seconded by Nudo.

James noted sometimes a Nominating Committee can consist of only 2 people or 1 person because of circumstances. Langenheim claimed the committee was creating a self-perpetuating board of tame cats who will keep nominating each other in rotation and who will never act unless there is catastrophe. Anderson asked if this was just to submit names for the board or to submit names for officers. Busey said the Nominating Committee was just for new names to the board. The names would be submitted to the County Board Chair and go through the Policy, Personnel, & Appointments Committee as do all other appointments. The committee discussed the Nominating Committee.

Motion carried with one no vote from Carter.

There were no changes to Article VI, Sections 3 through 5. Weibel stated that Nudo's budget suggestions could be incorporated without any language changes. Nudo noted that no where in this charge was a direction for the board to review profitability, budgets, etc.

MOTION by Nudo to add language in the first sentence of Article VII Section 2 to read "efficiency of resident care provided in The Home on a breakeven or profitable basis" and add a Point E stating: Periodic review of budget versus actual revenue and expenditures and economic viability of all of the above activities on a periodic basis." Motion was seconded by James.

Anderson questioned if the language was needed since keeping within the budget is always in the black. Nudo said it should be stated on paper for this board and future boards for due diligence. Putman did not object to the Point E being added and it is fitting to be included.

Motion carried with one no vote from Carter.

There were no changes to Article VII Section 3 or Article VIII. In Article IX, Putman asked if the County's self insurance covers this indemnification. Busey said it did. McGrath, who had entered the meeting, confirmed this was reviewed with the County's Insurance Specialist.

Carter exited the meeting at 9:20 p.m.

In Article X Section 1, Nudo requested the term "Administrator" be substituted for "officer or officers" and "agent or agents" just to clean up the language. James shared a situation he experienced at the Housing Authority where such language would be useful if the Administrator was ever removed. He recommended not limiting the language to Administrator. Nudo understood James's point, but in leases or anything else that he writes, Nudo always uses the specific title and its agents at the beginning of the document, but one has to start with the proper descriptive term and it has to be consistent throughout the legal document. Nudo said the current language was inconsistent. McGrath explained the language is present because, by statute, contracts such as this require signatures by the Nursing Home Administrator and the Chair of the Board of Directors or whoever so designated by the board. The language must be present for the execution of the contracts to be properly performed. Nudo again asked for the word "Administrator" be added the section. McGrath said they could do some work with the language to reflect the dual signatures. Anderson said Tom Betz asked her about the contract section concerning possible outsourcing. McGrath explained the language has been changed to address Betz's concerns. She stated all financial function stays with the County Board.

In Article X Section 2, Weibel suggested Buffenbarger and Busey develop the language for compensating board members. James suggested having the Board of Directs make suggestions regarding their compensation.

Carter re-entered the meeting at 9:29 p.m.

Anderson noted that the County appoints boards that serve without compensation and people are willing to serve on those boards because they care. Langenheim said compensation is a delicate topic and he would be unhappy to see any subordinate board member receiving a higher rate of compensation than a County Board member. He would serve without compensation as a public service. However, he agreed that compensation does establish our position of respect and identity within the community. He said the Board of Directors should be compensated at a rate not to exceed what he receives as a County Board member. Busey recommended incorporating language that the Board of Directors shall receive compensation consistent with the compensation County Board members receive, including mileage and per diem.

MOTION by Hunt to incorporate the compensation language recommended by Busey to Article X Section 2; seconded by James. **Motion carried with one no vote from Carter.**

In Article X Section 3, Langenheim wanted the electronic tapes providing the verbatim account of the meetings to be preserved. McGrath stated the Freedom of Information Act requires that an electronic and a paper record of the meetings be kept. McGrath recommended the language remain as it is to match the FOIA. The County Board will then be saved from having to amend the Bylaws every time the FOIA changes.

MOTION by James to change the language in Article X Section 4 to state quarterly, not annual, reports will be sent to the County Board no later than 90 days after the closed of each fiscal quarter; second by Nudo.

Nudo asked for the 4th quarter report to be a final, compilation report for the fiscal year. Busey indicated 90 days was sufficient time to prepare the quarterly reports.

Motion carried with one no vote from Carter.

There were no changes to Article XI, Article XII, and Article XIII. Putman returned to the issues for legal counsel, particularly the removal of officers or members with or without cause. McGrath explained this language indicates the County Board has the authority to remove the Board of Directors at their discretion. It allows for flexibility. For example, the County Board might wish to remove a member whose is not attending the Board of Directors meetings. McGrath stated if Putman only wants the language removed then the County Board has to be prepared to publicly state the reason for removal. She noted that appointed members serve on a board at the pleasure of the County Board. This is standard language for boards. If the County Board only wants to remove members for cause, then they need to prepare a list of the reasons that constitute cause in the Bylaws. The County Board may be in the situation where they wish to remove a board member for cause, but they did not want to state the cause publicly. James agreed with McGrath that the County Board should have this ability. He gave the example of a board member with a declining mental condition who could then be removed from the board without the County Board having to publicly state why and hurt anyone's feelings. The committee agreed to keep the language as it was.

The committee moved onto the Policy Book. Nudo recommended adding language to the mission statement that the Nursing Home would operate in a profitable manner to make it clear that the Nursing should sustain itself. James suggested removing profitable but adding wording referring to the Nursing Home operating in a competitive manner with for-profit homes, including a breakeven situation. Gladney proposed using "self-sustaining." Nudo agreed to "self-sustaining." Sapp advocated for voting on the Bylaws tonight to forward them on to the full Board and saving the Policy Book discussion for the next meeting.

Gladney exited the meeting at 9:50 p.m.

MOTION by James to approve the Bylaws of the Board of Directors, Champaign County Nursing Home, as amended and to table the Policy Book discussion to the February meeting; seconded by Sapp.

Putman inquired about the union employee position. Weibel said it has to be negotiated. Putman insisted that this body could signal a position on this matter. McGrath advised the committee that doing so would constitute an unfair labor practice. Putman asked about having a Nursing Home resident or family member of a resident as a non-voting member of the Board of Directors. Buffenbarger wondered if a resident or resident's family member would be able to stay if the board had to enter into a closed session. McGrath noted that sometimes a resident or family member could be directly affect and it would be wise to have that discussion occur at the first Board of Directors meeting. There are a lot of ways to give voice without serving on the board. McGrath pointed out there is a conflict of interest section for the potential board members to consider.

Gladney re-entered the meeting at 9:56 p.m.

Motion carried with one no vote from Carter.

Nudo stated that, in the future, he hoped the County Board would give some specifics on why an item is remanded back to a committee and provide some direction when such an item is remanded to a committee. Anderson said the Democratic Caucus thought the Justice & Social Services Committee should refine the Bylaws and Policy Book instead of 27 County Board members trying to do so at a meeting.

CHAIR'S REPORT

Anderson invited those present to the Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration on January 18, 2008.

OTHER BUSINESS

Mental Health Center's Independent Audit Report for Year Ended June 30, 2007

Provided for information only.

DESIGNATION OF ITEMS TO BE PLACED ON COUNTY BOARD CONSENT AGENDA

Anderson designated agenda item VII A for the consent agenda.

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 10:02

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.