

CHAMPAIGN COUNTY BOARD
COMMITTEE MINUTES

JUSTICE & SOCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE

Monday, May 5, 2008

**Champaign County Nursing Home, In-Service Classroom
500 S. Art Bartell Road, Urbana**

7:00 p.m.

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

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

OTHERS PRESENT: Andrew Buffenbarger (Nursing Home Administrator), Deb Busey (County Administrator of Finance & HR Management), Kathleen Liffick (Head Start Director), C. Pius Weibel (County Board Chair), Jonte Rollins (C-U Area Project)

CALL TO ORDER

Anderson called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Anderson called the roll. Anderson stated all of the committee members were present.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA/ADDENDUM

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION by Ammons to approve the Justice & Social Services Committee April 7, 2008 minutes; seconded by Gladney.

Putman requested lines 91 and 92 be amended to read "Champaign City Council" instead of "Urbana City Council" because she misspoke at the meeting.

Motion carried as amended.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There was no public participation.

MONTHLY REPORTS

MOTION by Carter to receive and place on file the Animal Control March 2008 report, EMA April 2008 report, and the Public Defender March 2008 report; seconded by Putman. **Motion carried.**

SHERIFF

Renewal of Intergovernmental Agreement Between the Illinois Department of Healthcare and Family Services and the Sheriff's Office

MOTION by James to approve the renewal of the Intergovernmental Agreement Between the Illinois Department of Healthcare and Family Services and the Sheriff's Office; seconded by Gladney.

Anderson stated this intergovernmental agreement has been renewed for many years. Ammons asked for some background on the agreement. Busey explained it concerns state reimbursement to the County for eligible inmates' medical expenses. It generates anywhere from \$11,000 to \$20,000 a year. Anderson added that the County was not receiving this reimbursement when she first came on the County Board, but it has been instituted within the last few years. Putman asked if the Illinois Department of Healthcare and Family Services is the same agency that sets the County's reimbursement rate at the Nursing Home. Putman found it interesting that the County is so unhappy with Department of Healthcare and Family Services on some account and pleased with the department on another. Busey stated the County would like to receive a higher reimbursement for the inmates' medical expenses. The Sheriff tries to negotiate a better rate every year and the Department of Healthcare and Family Services refuses. Anderson said the County once received nothing from the State for inmates' medical care, so at least they are receiving something now.

Motion carried.

HEAD START

Monthly Report

Liffick distributed her April monthly report to the committee. Liffick stated it felt like a quiet month following the federal review in March. She reported on the reorganization of Head Start staff and that she miscalculated the enrollment number. She was not certain of the current enrollment number. The committee working through United Way after the closing of Community Day Care is in the first stages of determining what can be done about it. Families served by Community Day Care were families with fluctuating work schedules, so the center served a very particular niche. It offered evening care and weekend care. There has been discussion on how to put together a program that gives consistency to the children and recognizes the subsidy program is limited to paying only for hours that the parent needs childcare in order to work. Liffick stated her statistical reports are the required attendance and meal counts reports. Head Start now has a good database program for producing statistical reports.

James asked if the Savoy classroom cracks were serious. Liffick indicated nothing has been identified with the roof. Their thinking is that with this year's rain there may have been some additional settling of the building. James inquired about the two children who were taken to Decatur for oral surgery. Liffick said no local oral surgeon would accept the Medicaid card or KidCare, so Head Start had to transport the kids and their families out of town.

Putman asked if Head Start hosts one recognition event for all the sites. Liffick explained the one event was for all of the sites during the last in-service day. They went to Hawthorne Suites for lunch. Putman asked about the situation with the union employees and health insurance. Liffick said the situation has been resolved. She also stated she asked CIDES for another copy of the CIDES newsletter to distribute at Putman's request, but CIDES asked Liffick to not distribute their newsletter.

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

JUVENILE DELINQUENCY GRANTS

Status Report from Peter Tracy

Peter Tracy was unable to attend the meeting. Rollins distributed the report to the committee. She stated the Quarter Cent Administrative Team met this morning. They are still waiting to here about the SAMHSA grant application. Rollins' third quarter report was included, lacking the recidivism information which Rollins will provide next month. Ammons asked if the committee could receive the report before the meeting so they can read it. Rollins answered affirmatively. James asked if Rollins knew the truancy rate in Champaign County. Rollins did not know it offhand. She knew the reason the review board was established was because they are finding the schools' truancy officers are not reporting truant issues to the Regional Office of Education as they are supposed to. The youth seen by the review board have missed over 160 days of schools and the review board did not get those reports until the last quarter. There not a lot they can do to address the issue when the school year is almost over. The review board exists to give the juveniles' families links to services and give truant a second chance prior to going before the State's Attorney. One of the State's Attorney's issues is that they are sending the juveniles up at the last minute for being truant and nothing else has been offered. The Regional Office of Education felt it needed to step in and address the truancy issue with all the schools in the County.

Sapp asked what communications Rollins had with the Mahomet Area Youth Club's Second Chance Program about none of their targets being met. Rollins said she communicates with all of the agencies whether they are meeting their targets or not. She explained Mahomet went through a huge staff turnover where information was not passed to the new staff from the old staff. Mahomet has been revising its entire club program and process from August or September. This is why the Mahomet Area Youth Club is not meeting its targets. Rollins said Mahomet will probably not meet its targets this year, but she is monitoring it and thought the club would have met its targets under normal conditions. Rollins explained the director left and then the director's assistant left shortly after. The Mahomet Area Youth Club did not do record-keeping as it should have, so there was not a lot of information to use when the new director came in. Anderson said the new director introduced herself at a Mental Health Board meeting shortly after arriving and seemed very energetic. James suggested emphasizing if the club does not turn around, then the funding will be placed elsewhere.

Rollins said the Illinois Mental Health Children's Partnership asked them to postpone the Mental Health Screening Conference that was supposed to take place on June 5th. The Illinois Mental Health Children's Partnership is trying to do this regionally across the state and Champaign County is the only region that is ready to go. So they are waiting on the rest of the state to get their things together.

Ammons asked how services are being coordinated with all the agencies. Rollins explained they have weekly meetings at the Juvenile Detention Center. All the agencies come to the meetings and the initial coordination assignments are done there. They are using a wraparound philosophy, so there are child and family team meetings and continuous conversations between agencies serving the juveniles. Rollins offered to give Ammons a more in-depth explanation and encouraged her to visit the office. She was welcome to attend the meetings on Tuesday mornings at 10:30 at the JDC.

Carter said he was still going to have his visit with Rollins at some time in the future. Rollins said she would be waiting.

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

NURSING HOME

Monthly Report

Buffenbarger distributed his report to the committee.

MOTION by James to receive and place on file the Nursing Home monthly report; seconded by Sapp.

Sapp asked if there has been any follow-up to Representative Jakobson and Senator Frerichs contacting the Illinois Department of Healthcare & Family Services on the Nursing Home's behalf. Weibel said Jakobson had tried to contact the department to get someone to explain to her why the Nursing Home's Medicaid rate was cut. Anderson said Jakobson was not able to find out any information and was not very hopeful. Frerichs was trying to get someone to come to a County Board meeting to explain the Medicaid rate cut, but was not getting any response.

James saw the letter to the editor soliciting contributions to the Nursing Home and asked if there has been any response. Buffenbarger said no. Anderson said it is a way of letting the community know.

Carter asked if anyone knew how the State gets the revenue to fund nursing homes. Buffenbarger said it is a combination of taxes and fines. Carter said he was trying to figure out where the money is. Sapp said the money came from taxes and fines levied against any nursing homes. Carter said there should be a state fund instead of fining nursing homes then turning around and giving the money back to the homes. Sapp said there are other ways the Nursing Home obtains revenue. Carter said he would ask his state representatives because the Nursing Home needs its money.

Putman thanked Nudo for connecting the Nursing Home with Parkland Foundation in an effort to set up scholarships for Nursing Home employees who want to pursue a nursing degree. Nudo said they have a long way to go in marketing it. He thought they should target family members of present and past Nursing Home residents, the union, and businesses for an endowment for a scholarship fund. Buffenbarger said a variety of job classes at the Home are asking some questions.

Ammons asked if the billing system that was non-functional for several years would generate some additional revenue when it is being used again in June. Buffenbarger said that was correct. Ammons inquired about the suggestions made at another meeting to change the single rooms to double rooms and increase the number of residents because she has not seen anything about this. She wondered what efforts were being made on a daily basis to address the immediate financial crisis at the Nursing Home. Buffenbarger said several things are happening right now. They created an electronic analysis that separates the payer sources and room sizes so they can daily monitor how many private payers are in private rooms and how many Medicaid payers are in semi-private rooms. This allows them to change the blend each day to see what yields the best revenue. The Nursing Home is not at a good payer balance right now, they need to convert a few more rooms to private. Layoffs began today and he issued 17 notices. He will issue 9 more notices tomorrow. He has started to talk to employees about what they would like to do with hours, such as working part-time instead of full-time. Ammons asked if terminating employees would require more use of contract nursing. Buffenbarger explained no nurses are being laid off. All the layoffs are in the ancillary departments. Ammons asked what departments were affected. Buffenbarger did not want to say because he is still talking to each individual being laid off before publically announcing the departments being affected. They are departments other than nursing. Anderson asked if the layoffs were based on looking at populations in other nursing homes and their staff ratios because Champaign County was at the high end of the number of staff per resident. Buffenbarger said they do census-based staffing and normally allow attrition to balance the staffing to the resident population. When attrition does not get there because positions do not turn over, eventually the Home has to either accelerate it by eliminating staff or let it ride and continue to spend too much money. The layoffs are Buffenbarger's way of accelerating it to properly size the organization with staff to resident population. James asked if Buffenbarger was telling the laid off employees there was a chance of recall. Buffenbarger said he was not telling them that. James asked how long a laid off employee could collect unemployment. Buffenbarger thought it was 26 weeks.

Putman said she had 100% respect for Buffenbarger informing the individual employees of the layoffs first. However, Board members at the study session asked why the Nursing Home staff was not being reduced when the census was down. She read the headline in Saturday's newspaper that the Nursing Home would lay

off 27 employees. She said it would have been appropriate for Buffenbarger to have sent an email message to the County Board letting them know what was coming up. Buffenbarger apologized for not doing so. He said the *News-Gazette* story was from an anonymous tip and he did not intend for it to reach the Board that way. Putman asked how much notice Buffenbarger was giving the laid off employees. Buffenbarger said everyone would get a little more than 30 days notice and the layoffs will go into effect on June 7th. The final paychecks will be received on June 20th with all the payouts for accrued time. He has also provided the laid off employees with information about other jobs in Champaign County and some part-time positions at the Nursing Home. Putman asked if Buffenbarger would inform the County Board what positions were cut when he is finished informing the employees. Buffenbarger said he would send an email on Wednesday.

Carter asked how many residents were in the Nursing Home now. Buffenbarger answered 170. Carter asked if that was half of the Nursing Home's capacity. Buffenbarger stated it is about 70 fewer than capacity because the Nursing Home's capacity is 243. Carter said it is a beautiful facility and they went way out on a limb to get the facility. He said it is embarrassing. Carter was told they had a \$20 million facility, but could not get a RN who could run an IV machine. He said they could not find out what caused the problem or had seen anything they could fix. Carter did not see why they could not come up with an audit of the facility and find out what was wrong with it instead of continuing to put more money into it. He asked why it was going so bad. Buffenbarger said an audit was starting tomorrow by Management Performance Associates out of St. Louis. MPA will be interviewing people and will provide the County Board with a response. Carter wanted to go on record as saying he was not satisfied until they find out what is wrong with the facility. Carter asked why his colleagues on the County Board were against having an audit. James said he did not think anyone was against having an audit. He noted an annual audit is done on the finances and state inspectors come though the Nursing Home. A year ago, MPA performed an operational audit on the Nursing Home and provided its report to the County Board outlaying numerous recommendations. James said everyone was in that room and heard the same information that he did. He pointed out there has been an audit of the Nursing Home. Carter said he was against that audit and James should know better. Carter said you could not come up with a maintenance audit and tell him what is wrong with the operations audit. He claimed they never came up with a financial audit of the facility. Carter said he was getting very embarrassed about the Nursing Home. Anderson said she knew Carter had been ill, but she wished he had been at the County Board study session on the Nursing Home to hear the financial review from the Treasurer. Carter reiterated that he was against the audit and voted against it because it did not show you one thing that proved that was the operations. James said he was the only person at the committee level who voted against hiring MPA to perform the operational audit last year, with the exception of Hunt who was absent from the meeting in question. He pointed out that Carter and everyone else on the committee voted for it.

Gladney asked for the total cost savings of the layoffs. Buffenbarger said it was about \$70,000 a month. Ammons asked how far the \$840,000 would take the Nursing Home. Buffenbarger asked if Ammons meant the additional \$460,000 the Nursing Home was asking for from the County Board in June. Ammons asked what it would do. Buffenbarger said he hoped those reductions and another \$460,000 from the County in June would carry the Nursing Home through the end of the year. He would have to see about the next year's budget and what Medicaid does to get a clear picture. Ammons thought the Medicaid reduction was one part of the problem, but not the total problem. Buffenbarger said that was right. Ammons said she had been unable to get a handle on the other aspects of the problem that are exclusive from Medicaid. She asked if another part of this problem was the Nursing Home being overstaffed. The layoffs tell her that the resident populations is too low for the number of staff the Home had. She asked if that was part of the problem. Buffenbarger confirmed it was. The Nursing Home was able to reorganize departments in a way to get the same work done and provide the same services at the same quality level with fewer people. Ammons asked if it was true that they were not looking at outsourcing services at this time, just reducing staff. Buffenbarger said that was right. Ammons asked what other area is being looked at as part of the problem. Buffenbarger said Medicaid is half of the issue, contract nursing is another third of the issue, the food costs were off by quite a bit, and they had a software system that was miscoding the Medicaid billing which resulted in lower revenue. These things take up the bulk of the problem.

James noted all of these questions were discussed openly and honestly at the County Board study session and suggested the committee vote on the motion regarding whether to receive Buffenbarger's monthly report. He recommended the Board members with more questions contact Buffenbarger or wait for a full Board meeting. Ammons said the problem she has is that Buffenbarger's report is not a report, it is a summary. It is difficult for her as a Board member to make a knowledgeable decision based on the report, which is not a report. She stated what the committee receives from Head Start is a report, not the Nursing Home summary. Ammons was concerned that either she was not in the right meetings or she was not receiving the right information. James suggested that maybe Buffenbarger could use a format for the monthly report to provide staffing levels and bed levels. James thought Buffenbarger had been asked at the County Board meeting to start providing that. Buffenbarger said the Nursing Home Board of Directors has just been started and he suspects it will become his parent committee very soon. He suspects the report that the Board of Directors will be requesting will be rather detailed and the Directors will be forwarding that report to the County Board. Busey said the function of oversight of the Nursing Home has been reassigned to the Nursing Home Board of Directors, which met this morning at 7:30. The County Board has placed that responsibility with the Board of Directors. The concerns about the Nursing Home's finances are going to be addressed at the Finance Committee meeting every month. It is expected that the Nursing Home will provide a comprehensive financial update to the Finance Committee every month. Busey believed the intent was to have the decisions about the Nursing Home operations now go to the Nursing Home Board of Directors. If changes need to be adopted by the County Board, then the recommendation will come from the Board of Directors directly to the County Board. Both Anderson and Nudo serve on the Board of Directors. Nudo said Weibel did a great job in appointing the Nursing Home Board of Directors. Anderson and Nudo spoke about the Board of Directors meeting this morning. Anderson said the Directors bring a mix of expertise and ask very good questions. They got organized quickly and had clearly read the materials. The Directors recognized a daunting financial picture of the Nursing Home that Buffenbarger laid out in detail. The Directors will have an orientation in two weeks.

Motion carried with two votes against by Ammons and Carter.

State of Illinois Para-Transit Vehicle Grant

Buffenbarger said he has just completed the grant documents and dropped them off at the State's Attorney's Office for review today. He did not have anything for the committee and will bring the matter to the full Board meeting. Busey said the grant requires a public hearing so the hearing is scheduled for 6:45 p.m. before the May County Board meeting. The grant will be placed directly on the County Board agenda.

CHAIR'S REPORT

Anderson stated the Nursing Home Board of Directors would be meeting monthly on the first Monday, the same day as the Justice & Social Services Committee, at 7:30 a.m. The Directors established a study session time for the Tuesday after the third Monday in a month if any study sessions are needed. The Directors might have a study session next month on the contract nursing issue to generate ideas. She noted the Directors already had some ideas, but the ideas are not things that are going to happen immediately. Ammons asked if the meeting would be placed on the monthly calendar. Busey said the meeting would be on the weekly calendar and the agendas and minutes will be posted on the website just like all committee meetings. Busey pointed out the Tuesday study sessions will be scheduled for 7:00 p.m. Anderson said the meeting generated a lot of interest in the local media.

Putman asked Anderson and Nudo to make a monthly report to the Justice & Social Services Committee about the Nursing Home latest news. She said it did not have to be a printed report. Putman said that when she voted to establish the Nursing Home Board of Directors she never intended that the County Board would stop being an informed decision-maker. Nudo stated that every third month, the Chair of the Board of Directors, Dr. Lansford, will make a report to the County Board in accordance with the bylaws. Putman asked if any Nursing

Home employees were present at the meeting. Anderson said no, though Tara McCauley from AFSCME was there.

OTHER BUSINESS

Champaign County Court-Watching Project – Fourth Annual Report 2007-2008

Putman said this was an excellent report. Anderson described the Court Watching Project for the benefit of committee members who were not present last year. Putman distributed a copy of the jury summons with her notes on it. Putman said one possible reason for underrepresentation of people of color and young men might have to do with the jury summons. She would like the committee to think about things they could do to change the juries. She suggested sponsoring an essay contest or challenge people to come up with rap music for a radio public service announcement with small prize money attached. She also suggested that high school driver's education teachers should talk to students about how getting a driver's license entitles them to the privilege of serving as a juror. Putman felt the jury summons looked intimidating and suggested it be accompanied by an attractive letter that talks about their sincere wish to have every eligible person serve on a jury.

James stated that the State intimidates him when he gets his driver's license, but he does it because he wants the license. He respectfully disagreed with Putman because he does not like to be too flowery about government run things. He felt if people of any background felt strongly serving on a jury then they would do it. He also raised the issued of cost and how much money the federal government wasted to mailing letters to citizens telling them about the economic stimulus rebate as an example. Putman said there is obviously a problem if people are not responding to the summons and she would like to look at practical ways to educate young people and overcome their hurdles.

Anderson said there were some changes in the report that indicated more African-American participation, but fewer Asian males. Anderson did not think this committee could actually make any changes. They would have to approach Roger Holland or someone with their suggestions. Putman said she recognizes that she cannot require Roger Holland or Julia Rietz or anyone who works in the Circuit Court to do something that they are not disposed to do, but these are her partners in government and she thinks they will want to do these things. She explained that she was not suggesting that the County send another piece of stamped mail, but that they include an 8½ X 11 piece of paper in the mailing to be cost effective.

Carter spoke about what he considered to be the problem.

Anderson said she was horrified at the statistics on the number of people who do not respond to the jury summons that are mailed to them. Ammons said the jury summons is basically the same, although they have made some tweaks to it. Ammons said the questions are not required by state statute, even though a lawyer has to ask those questions of the jury pool. She claimed the problem was getting people in the jury pool and in the last 30 days on jury trials there have been zero African-Americans in the pool. Ammons suggested the committee work with Julia Rietz to address how to do it on the front end without eliminating people that are already only 12% of the population. Ammons said the jury pool resources where the names come from is supposed to be random, however, it is not as random as people think it is. Ammons stated the question is how is it that more European-American females get into the jury pool multiple times if the system is random.

Nudo said the heart of the matter is education and it is a shame that the schools have dropped history as an important aspect to empower people to want to be a part of a jury.

Putman asked for this matter to be placed on the June agenda for discussion. She said that she would contact Julia Rietz, Roger Holland, and Shirley Marshall to see whether or not the jury summons has been revised and about ideas to increase the response rate to the summons. Anderson asked if they wanted some of those people at the meeting. Busey asked if the committee wanted an explanation of how the jury selection

software works. Anderson said yes and asked who would explain it. Busey said it would be Roger Holland and Shirley Marshall. Ammons said she has spoken to them in the past and would be interested to see if they have made any progress since the last time she talked to them. Anderson felt there was a consensus of the committee to put this item on the June agenda and invite Holland and Marshall to the meeting.

Busey said this committee might want to start thinking about whether it would like to cancel its July committee meeting. The committee agreed to cancel its July meeting.

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 8:40 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.