

CHAMPAIGN COUNTY BOARD  
**COMMITTEE MINUTES**

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**JUSTICE & SOCIAL SERVICES COMMITTEE**

**Monday, January 5, 2009**

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

7:00 p.m.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Jan Anderson, Lloyd Carter, Matthew Gladney (Chair), Kevin Hunt, Stan James, Alan Nudo, Giraldo Rosales, Larry Sapp, Samuel Smucker

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** None

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Carol Ammons (County Board Member), Kat Bork (Administrative Secretary), Deb Busey (County Administrator of Finance & HR Management), Bill Keller (EMA Director), Peter Tracy (Mental Health Executive Director), C. Pius Weibel (County Board Chair)

**CALL TO ORDER**

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

**ROLL CALL**

Bork called the roll. Anderson, Carter, Gladney, Hunt, 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 Sapp to approve the agenda; seconded by Carter. **Motion carried.**

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**MOTION** by Carter to approve the Justice & Social Services Committee November 3, 2008 minutes; seconded by Anderson. **Motion carried.**

Weibel noted that line 211 should be changed to reflect that he said “federal investigator” not “fellow investigator.”

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

There was no public participation.

## **MONTHLY REPORTS**

**MOTION** by Sapp to receive and place on file the Animal Control October 2008 and November 2008 reports and the Court Services September 2008 report; seconded by Hunt. **Motion carried.**

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

Gladney stated that Kathleen Liffick sent her regrets since she could not attend tonight's meeting.

**MOTION** by Carter to receive and place on file the Head Start November 2008 monthly report; seconded by James.

Gladney noted that things seemed to be satisfactory at the last Head Start Policy Council meeting. Money is tight, the Policy Council is reconstituting itself, and there are some parents actively involved.

**Motion carried.**

### **JUVENILE DELINQUENCY GRANTS** **Quarter Cent for Public Safety Post-Detention Programs Status Report**

**MOTION** by Carter to receive and place on file the January 2009 Quarter Cent for Public Safety Post-Detention Programs Status Report; seconded by James.

Carter asked what the quarter cent tax was. Tracy said an ordinance was passed by the County Board when the Juvenile Detention Center (JDC) was built that required 5% of money collected by the quarter cent tax be spent on delinquency prevention activities. This amounts to a little over \$200,000 annually that is allocated to agencies who provide delinquency prevention services primarily to juveniles at the JDC. Carter asked why there was a double standard. Tracy did not understand what Carter was asking. Carter said that was the reason the quarter cent tax was created. Tracy stated the Mental Health Board staff is managing the delinquency prevention grants per a memorandum of understanding approved by the County Board. Carter said he would be over there because he did not understand a lot of it and what they were getting for the money. Anderson provided some history on the delinquency prevention grants for the new committee members. The Justice & Social Services Committee formerly allocated those funds, but they really did not have the background for it. So the full County Board passed the resolution that gave the Mental Health Board the authority to administer the funds, including the application and monitoring process. Anderson asked Tracy to explain how the Mental Health Board has given money to enhance the grant programs. Tracy explained that one of the reasons for entering into the memorandum of understanding was that the Mental Health Board funds a variety of mental health services for juveniles in the criminal justice system. The Mental Health Board has tried to coordinate the two pots of money to get more bang for the buck. In addition, the Mental Health Board allocated over \$100,000 to supplement the quarter cent tax money and create a stronger program. Tracy has also worked with Connie Kaiser, Julia Rietz, and Joe Gordon to plan for how the money is used and monitor the programs. The Mental Health Board is in the process of bringing in an

evidence-based practice with Savannah Family Institute in an effort to improve the services for juveniles at the JDC. The Savannah Family Institute had a consultation with the Mental Health Board. Afterwards, staff commenced an evaluation process to determine how the practice works in other areas. Joe Gordon contacted juvenile justice departments in five other states who use this particular practice and was very impressed with the findings. Tracy said, in all honesty, they were not entirely satisfied with results they were getting from the current programs, although the recidivism numbers looked pretty good. Carter said he was coming to Tracy's office to get a breakdown. Tracy said he would be happy to provide it.

Ammons stated there were some requested changes in the policy being considered at the Policy, Personnel, & Appointments Committee meeting later in the week that she wanted to talk about. She thought the oversight of the delinquency prevention grants was being removed from the Justice & Social Services Committee and wanted to know if that was taking place. Busey clarified the memorandum of understanding between the County Board and the Mental Health Board placed the awarding and monitoring of the delinquency prevention grants with the Mental Health Board. This memorandum of understanding occurred three years ago, but the language in County Board Rules was never changed to reflect this. The Mental Health Board will continue to report to this committee about the decisions it makes and the progress of the grants. The requested rules change does not change the reporting requirement to this committee, it simply documents that the Justice & Social Services Committee is no longer awarding and monitoring the delinquency prevention grants. The Justice & Social Services Committee originally reviewed the applications and awarded the grants when the quarter cent tax money was first received. It was decided by the County Board that the expertise to take on those initiatives resided more with the Mental Health Board than with the Justice & Social Services Committee. The Mental Health Board is in the business of implementing grant processes for social service agencies throughout the community. Busey added that there were no additional costs for administration when Mental Health Board assumed the administrative responsibilities. All of the money still goes to grants and none goes to paying the Mental Health Board for its services in providing the grant process. Anderson felt the Justice & Social Services Committee actually knows more about what is happening with the grant programs since the Mental Health Board has been administering the grants. Tracy presents a monthly report to the committee and provides a better picture about what progress the agencies are making than the committee had when it administered the grants themselves. James concurred that the grants are being administered much better than before. The committee is seeing better outcomes for the dollars being spent on the programs. He thought it was being fairly administered because agencies who were not meeting outcomes were addressed. He gave Tracy the credit for taking charge and doing a wonderful job making sure the programs are properly administered.

Carter said he wanted to get the amount of money paid out to each agency because he was going to make sure to walk through each one to see what progress has been made. Busey asked if Carter wanted to know which agencies received money from the beginning of the Public Safety Sales Tax to date. Carter said yes, he did not think the County Board was getting its money's worth out of the people it has been paying for services. Busey said she could provide that list.

**Motion carried.**

## **EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY**

### **Approval of 2009 Emergency Management Assistance Grant Program Agreement**

**MOTION** by Sapp to approve 2009 Emergency Management Assistance Grant Program Agreement and to allow the County Board Chair to sign the agreement prior to the County Board meeting in order to meet the state's deadline; seconded by James.

Keller explained this was an annual grant to help offset EMA's administrative expenses for the year. The office is eligible for the grant through state accreditation. Busey added the state would like to have the signed grant agreement back by this Friday, hence the approval of the County Board Chair signing it now and then being ratified by the full Board on January 22<sup>nd</sup>.

**Motion carried.**

## **SHERIFF**

### **Sheriff's Letter to Rural Residents Concerning Shed Burglaries**

Gladney noted this letter from the Sheriff about shed burglaries was sent to the members via email. Gladney asked for it to be included on the agenda for informational purposes. Weibel added this issue was brought up at the Farm Bureau Legislative Committee meeting last month and he will take this report back to the Farm Bureau. The Sheriff is aware of the increased type of activity in the County and is working on it. James said this has been an ongoing problem for years and there is a farm watch program in place to help.

Carter said he had a letter from a Champaign law firm concerning the Sheriff and the County Fair grounds. He asked if the County Board Chair was aware of it. Weibel confirmed he was aware of the situation and there has been correspondence between the Sheriff and the County Fair Association's attorney. The County Fair is not part of the County Board's area of influence and the Sheriff is working to resolve the situation. Carter said, if it takes going back to the legislature, then either they are part of the County and they have the power to supervise it or they should get rid of it. He insisted they could not be both and the only time that the County Board has responsibility is when they are paying for the lawsuit. Weibel explained this is a disagreement based on the Sheriff's opinion that better security was needed at the fair grounds when the security provided by the association was not adequate. He repeated that the Sheriff and the County Fair Association is working it out and he would rather wait until a conclusion is reached before reporting on the situation. Carter said we would have to determine whether we are their boss or not. Weibel confirmed the County Board is not the boss of the County Fair Association. Carter said we should then get out of their business and not just pay their lawsuits without having any responsibilities. Carter declared it was nuts. Weibel did not believe the County had been sued yet. Carter asked Weibel how he could have a bunch of men working for him if he does not have the authority to supervise them and asked if that made sense. Weibel stated that was not making sense and again said the Sheriff was working on reaching an agreement over this issue. Carter said everyone thought the County Board was supposed to supervise them and when they get into a problem, they call the County. He did not see why they should have to respond if they are not responsible. Weibel confirmed the County Board has not responded and the Sheriff is dealing with the association's attorney. Gladney agreed the Sheriff was working on it. Carter claimed the committee still did not understand him because if they do not change some policy then they would have to pay for

their own doing and he could not tell them anything. Carter asked if they were understanding him. Gladney asked if Carter has expressed his concerns to Sheriff Walsh.

### **CHAIR'S REPORT**

#### **Chair's Suggestions & Goals for the 2008-2010 Term of the Justice & Social Services Committee**

Gladney listed four suggestions and goals for committee's next two years and was open to other suggestions on goals from committee members after the meeting; Gladney's first goal was increased communication with the Sheriff's Department regarding conditions at the County Jail. He felt this was an ongoing concern of the committee and the public. Sheriff Walsh has been very accommodating in his willingness to discuss conditions at the jail both in and out of committee meetings. Gladney hopes to increase this communication and make it more of a prominent role for the committee, maybe have a Justice & Social Services Committee meeting at the jail with a tour of the facility.

Ammons appreciated this goal and spoke about an incident with a downtown jail visitor whose personal items were mistakenly given to the wrong individual. She noted the Sheriff promptly worked out a solution out for person and the person was reimbursed by the County for the cost of her belongings. Ammons said it would be beneficial for the Justice & Social Services Committee to draft some language to help deal with issues at the County Jail that may be overlooked. She suggested that visitors should not be allowed to bring any personal items, such as cell phones or purses, into the County Jail.

Anderson commented about calls she has received from constituents about the inmate visiting rules at the jail. Anderson encourages constituents to contact the Sheriff, who has been very willing to talk about the reasons for the rules at the County Jail. Gladney clarified that his goal was to increase dialogue with the Sheriff and is not meant to be adversarial.

Gladney's second goal concerned verbal updates from the committee members who serve on the Nursing Home Board of Directors. Nudo noted that he and Anderson have been sharing updates with the committee all along and suggested they might consider doing this for the full County Board. They supported making the members aware of the Nursing Home Board of Directors' progress.

Smucker asked if the Nursing Home Board of Directors provided a standard report to the Justice & Social Services Committee. Gladney explained that the Nursing Home Board of Directors Bylaws, approved by the County Board, stated the Board of Directors would report to the County Board, not to this committee. The Nursing Home Administrator used to give monthly reports to the committee before the Board of Directors was created. Gladney hoped Anderson and Nudo would keep supplying an informal verbal update to the committee on the Nursing Home's progress. It would not be a formal report. Busey pointed out there is a monthly financial report about the Nursing Home on the Finance Committee's agendas. The financial report is usually prepared by management on the day of the meeting and distributed at the meeting. This report is also posted on the County's website. Busey described the quarterly reports required by the Nursing Home Board of Directors' Bylaws to the County Board. The next quarterly report will be presented in February because there is not enough FY2008 closeout information available in January.

Nudo noted the purpose of his suggested changes to the County Board Rules was to clean up the language that existed concerning the Nursing Home Board of Directors and the Juvenile Delinquency Grants reporting. The rules' language had not previously been amended to reflect the memorandum of understanding with the Mental Health Board to administer the grants or the Nursing Home Board of Directors' Bylaws, both of which have been approved by the County Board.

Smucker asked if Nudo's proposal to amend the County Board Rules would go before the County Board in January. Nudo confirmed it would go before the Policy, Personnel, & Appointments Committee this Wednesday and before the County Board later in January. Busey explained this process is in accordance with the County Board Rules. Gladney asked if the changes reflected action taken in 2005. Busey confirmed the memorandum of understanding with the Mental Health Board occurred in 2005 and the Board Rules were never amended to reflect the change in the Justice & Social Services Committee's responsibilities. Gladney asked why the rules were not amended at that time. Busey did not think there was a close analyze of the County Board Rules when the new session began. Nudo suggested an annual review of the County Board Rules to keep them up-to-date.

Ammons said she understood the Nursing Home Board of Directors was initially advisory to the County Board. She asked how a language change giving the Board of Directors separate authority from the County Board fit in with the Illinois Compiled Statutes. Busey advised that was getting into the discussion that is on the Policy, Personnel, & Appointments Committee agenda for Wednesday and it is not an item on tonight's Justice & Social Services Committee agenda. Basically, the language was taken directly from the Nursing Home Board of Directors' Bylaws, in which the County Board approved. Busey read the applicable section of the bylaws. She noted that most decisions are still made by the County Board, but the Nursing Home Board of Directors reports directly to the County Board instead of to a County Board standing committee. Sapp noted there was a lengthy discussion when the Nursing Home Board of Directors was created by the County Board about the term "advisory" that was eventually removed. The bylaws were drafted so the Board of Directors reports to the County Board and was given authority to examine the Nursing Home and make recommendations to improve the Nursing Home's operation. Gladney thought the term "advisory" was still in the bylaws. Carter said he objected and wondered what the County Board was supposed to do with the reports from the Nursing Home Board of Directors. He thought the Justice & Social Services Committee was the committee that took care of the Nursing Home's business. He indicated the County Board could not digest the reports from the Board of Directors and it did not make sense.

Smucker asked if there was a precedent of other agencies of the County Board that report to the full Board as opposed to reporting to a committee. Busey explained the Nursing Home is the only enterprise operated by Champaign County, so it is unique. Other County entities, like the Mental Health Board, Regional Planning Commission, and the County Board of Health; report to the County Board instead of to committees, so there is some precedent.

Weibel confirmed the term "advisory" is in the bylaws, but it was removed from the name of the Nursing Home Board of Directors at his suggestion so any changes in the powers of the board would not require a name change. Nudo expressed, in context of Carter's statement, that the Board of Directors' quarterly reports are not actionable items. Anything actionable would require far greater time to be placed in front of all twenty-seven County Board members for discussion and action. The day-to-day activities of the Nursing Home, which neither the County Board nor any committee ever controlled, are under the control of the Board of Directors and Management Performance Associates.

Nudo confirmed the control still lies with the County Board for actionable items, such as contracts. Gladney thought everyone was happy that the control of the Nursing Home remained with the County Board and would continue to do so. Carter said he served on most of those boards for almost seventeen years and the policy has been to take things to the parent committee and if there were any problems, they were taken to the Board. Carter said bringing this to the full Board was why the members were often there unnecessarily. He claimed they could work the problems out and tell the Board to either approve or reject issues. Carter stated efforts to divert things were trickery so no one knew anything until they actually vote on it.

James spoke about the benefits of an entity like the County Board of Health, which has its own directors and reports to the full County Board. Board of Health issues are dealt with efficiently and without much controversy at the County Board level under this process. Ammons said one of her concerns with the process was some Board members often know nothing about the operation or any of the reports that are being passed on. She claimed there was no regulation with Head Start, Mental Health, or the Nursing Home Board of Directors and some Board members know even less. The quarterly reports would not have any real time for any actual oversight, which Ammons stated was a problem with this County Board and the government as a whole. She thought this committee should be concerned with what was being done in its name and what was being rubber-stamped at the full Board.

Hunt stated this matter did not change anything that had not been previously voted on by the County Board. The amendment to the County Board Rules reflected the bylaws' language that had been approved. James added that the County Board still has oversight over the Nursing Home. The daily affairs of the home are being managed by those on the ground with the most knowledge. The County Board still see reports and has oversight; the daily activities are being managed with those with the most knowledge. He felt it was redundant for the County Board or this committee to continue arguing about it. He encouraged putting trust in those hired by the County and giving them a chance to do their jobs so the Nursing Home can move forward. Nudo acknowledged there seemed to be an overriding feeling that there was some backroom decision-making process taking place although anyone can attend the Nursing Home Board of Directors meetings, which are held in accordance with the Illinois Open Meetings Act. Mike Scavatto has also made himself available before these meetings for anyone who desires to speak with him. The Board of Directors have gone out of their way to meet with the Nursing Home staff to learn more about their concerns. Many governmental agencies are run by private enterprises for the benefit of the government so the best job can be accomplished. The oversight remains with the County Board; his recommendation is just to clean up the rules' language. He suggested those who object to the Board of Directors go to the County Board Chair to ask for another vote instead of bringing it up time and time again. It was noted progress is being made in the Nursing Home's operations as opposed to years of financial deficits. Nudo acknowledged the nursing home business is very complicated and there are very few business people on the County Board. Nudo and Anderson share what happens at the Board of Directors meetings and would continue to do so.

Gladney stated a request for more information is not necessarily meant as an accusation of any ulterior motive, though it is sometimes taken this way. He felt the Board members view themselves as elected representatives of the people who own the Nursing Home and it is okay if people want more information. Nudo said comments have made accusing members of secrecy when the Nursing Home Board of Directors and MPA have made efforts to make everything as publicly available as possible. Gladney said the innuendo could be ignored in favor of those people who honestly want more

information out there. Anderson stated she and Nudo would be happy to report each month on the Nursing Home. In comparing the Nursing Home Board of Directors to when the Justice & Social Services Committee had the responsibility for the Nursing Home, she saw the benefit of having a Board of Directors focused solely on the Nursing Home instead of it being one item on an agenda. The committee previously received general reports on the Nursing Home and the committee members did not always know what questions to ask, whereas the Board of Directors' focus is completely on the Nursing Home and provides more information to the County Board members than they formerly received. James stated that he was originally opposed to the idea of the Nursing Home Board of Directors and voted against it. But as the process has moved on, it seems to be doing what needs to be done at the Nursing Home. He feels those County Board members who were a part of those same discussions and voted for the Board of Directors now seem to think that something is not right. He pointed out that the Justice & Social Services Committee and then the County Board choose to create the Board of Directors and implement the MPA contract. He supported letting the Board of Directors and the Nursing Home management get the job done. Carter stated he voted against all of the ideas about the Nursing Home because he knew it was wrong. He asked how much better the Nursing Home was. Gladney said the Nursing Home update would be provided later.

Gladney's third goal was to have more regular updates and reports regarding the jury selection progress. Roger Holland has made past presentations to the committee and Gladney was sure he would be willing to come to the committee again. A citizens advisory committee on jury selection was being developed. Ammons said she was grateful Weibel extended the application deadline for the advisory committee to February. Committee members would try to get more citizens to apply for the committee.

The fourth goal was for increased communication regarding Drug Court with more frequent reports from Judge Ford. Gladney encouraged any committee members to contact him with any goals they might have. James suggested the committee should receive a quarterly report from the Animal Control Department. Weibel suggested a verbal report from Court Services and Probation each year. Busey and Anderson noted that Joe Gordon comes to a meeting when the Court Services annual plan is presented to the committee. Smucker encouraged Board members to attend the Drug Court graduation ceremony to get a sense of the worthwhile program. Sheriff Walsh has offered to arrange tours of the County Jail or ride-alongs in patrol cars for Board members.

Anderson and Nudo shared a verbal update on the Nursing Home. As of December 31, 2008; the Nursing Home's census was 197 with 39 in rehab. Anderson brought a copy of the Sunday op-ed piece in the *News-Gazette* about the Nursing Home written by Mary Ellen O'Shaughnessy, a Director. She also spoke about a letter to the editor from the child of a former dementia patient complaining about the Nursing Home's care. Anderson explained the circumstances as described in the letter were misleading and the former patient's family now wants to bring their mother back to the Champaign County Nursing Home. The Nursing Home does have a complaint process that is being reviewed to determine if any improvements can be made. Gina Jackson, a Champaign City Councilmember, wrote a glowing letter to the County Board about the care a member of her family received at the Nursing Home. The Center for Medicare and Medicaid is performing a national five-star rating survey for nursing homes. The Nursing Home received three stars overall and scored five stars in the staff ratio category. The Nursing Home will be working on improving quality in the other areas where the scores were lower.

Nudo described how the Board of Directors worked with Parkland College and Joan Dickson at the Community Foundation on the Grand Victoria Scholarship Program to make scholarship money available to all employees at the Nursing Home, particularly CNAs, Housekeeping, and Dietary employees who want to become nurses. A presentation was made to the employees a week ago and over twenty-four employees attended. The Board of Directors voted at its last meeting to have more visits with employees and to have a quarterly meeting about non-grievance issues with the employees. The non-grievance issues are those which are not in the administration's domain. Several Directors already make extra visits to the Nursing Home and have publicized the scholarship program amongst employees. The Nursing Home was marginally unprofitable in November, which is a great stride compared to years of \$100,000 losses each month. The census is credited with the financial improvement and Nudo spoke favorably of Mary Amin, who was hired to work with the discharge nurses and relatives to convince them to send elderly patients to the Champaign County Nursing Home. The Nursing Home is shaping up to be slightly profitable in December. January will post a loss because there will be three payrolls and money will continue to be tight. The modified bargaining negotiations are going very well with lots of input from both sides and a consensus to work together. Nudo mentioned that the scoring system used for nursing homes initially put the Nursing Home at a disadvantage because the Home's software is obsolete. Mike Scavatto is looking into new software to help improve the score. Gladney thanked Nudo and Anderson for their informative updates.

Ammons asked about the appointment of the Nursing Home Mediation Team on the Policy, Personnel, & Appointments Committee agenda and wondered what matter was being mediated if things at the Nursing Home were moving in the right direction. Weibel stated the Nursing Home Mediation Team deals with the litigation involved in the Nursing Home construction. The cases with Otto Baum and Farnsworth are still active and litigation issues are considered by the team before going to the County Board. The team consists of one Republican, one Democrat, the County Administrator of Facilities & Procurement, and the State's Attorney. The Mediation Team has been in existence for approximately two years and both County Board members on the team are also members of the County Facilities Committee, which handles construction issues. Those County Board members are Steve Beckett and Stan James. The reappointment of this team was not done at the County Board Organizational Meeting with the various other committees, so it is being done this month. James noted the Mediation Team has reported to the County Board during closed sessions. Most of the team's meetings deal with specific construction details and legal counsel on an as-needed basis. Ammons asked if a previous resolution existed with the Nursing Home Mediation Team's memberships. Weibel confirmed the resolution was approved a few years ago.

### **OTHER BUSINESS**

#### **Citizens Advisory Committee on Jury Selection Update**

The County Board Chair extended the application deadline to January 23<sup>rd</sup> in an effort to obtain more applications.

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

Gladney designated agenda item 9A for the consent agenda.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Meeting adjourned at 8:18 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.*