

CHAMPAIGN COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH
Monthly Meeting

November 27, 2006

Call to Order & Roll Call

The Board of Health of Champaign County held its monthly meeting on November 27, 2006 in meeting room two at Brookens Administrative Center, 1776 East Washington, Urbana. The meeting was called to order at 6:05 p.m. by Kim Winston. Upon roll call, the following board members were found to be present: Stan James, Susan Maurer, Julian Rappaport, Carrie Storrs and Kim Winston. The following members were absent: Nezar Kassem, Tom O'Rourke, John Peterson. Others present: Susan McGrath, Vito Palazzolo, Jan Anderson, Claudia Lenhoff, Lisa Bell.

Public Participation

There was no public participation.

Approval of Minutes – August 22, 2006 and September 26, 2006

MOTION by James to approve the minutes of August 22, 2006 and September 26, 2006; seconded by Storrs.

Mr. Rappaport stated he would like his comments from the September 26, 2006 meeting regarding Mr. Peterson's budget presentation included in those minutes.

Motion carried to approve the minutes of August 22, 2006 and the minutes of September 26, 2006, as amended.

Monthly Reports (October 2006)

Champaign-Urbana Public Health District's Divisions

Ms. Winston stated this report is available on the website. Ms. Maurer asked about the 11 County visits for Home Health and how many staff are doing that. Mr. Palazzolo stated he has two staff members who are in home health care but they are not just doing those visits. There were about 26-30 County residents in that program with over 140 persons all together. Ms. Maurer asked what happened to the other County residents on the program because we are now down to 19. Mr. Palazzolo stated he is not sure of the specifics, they are not taking any new residents even though there have been requests. There have been no services terminated nor has there been any indication that will happen. He explained there was a resignation of the director in that program and they just hired a new one and they are working toward creating criteria. He stated they are evaluating what the program is, the needs of the program and what the costs are. They have noted there have been people on the program over 13 years and they need to determine what the real true role of the program is.

He explained he has drastically reduced staff to two persons but kept the same visiting number and reminded the board that the CUPHD Board might say this is something they may not want to continue. Mr. Rappaport stated in their last budget they approved funds to hire a person, he asked what the plans are for that and how they, as a board, can be engaged in that. He stated he would like to know how to make this work better, increasing communication between the Board of Health and the CUPHD. He stated one of the things he had in mind when they decided to have an administrative person was to have that person track what comes out of the meetings; it would be their responsibility to not let things fall through the cracks because currently we don't know who is responsible for what.

Mr. Palazzolo stated if he had given this board the impression that the CUPHD board nor he is advocating the home health program go away, that is the wrong impression and there has been no decision made in that manner. They are reviewing the program to determine the best usage of their dollars and the CUPHD Board will determine if it is a need for the community that should be continued. He stated that the Board does not have a process to address these kinds of personnel issues and he is not sure whose responsibility it is to do that. He suggested they may need a job description for that position and if it is a county employee he believes it should go to the County Administrator or they could look at amending the contract with the CUPHD. He also stated there is another issue with the contract, a large part that has been mis-defined that states he is this boards administrator. Mr. Palazzolo stated the intent of him being the administrator for the board as compared to what the job has turned into and what is expected of him are drastically different. They are required by law to have an administrator and the initial contract was put together so it would cost the county minimal dollars to put programs together. He believes the contract needs to be addressed and cleared up so both boards understand what the relationship means. Mr. Rappaport stated our contract doesn't run out for two years so we are not required to renegotiate that contract but he agrees, we do need to clarify. Mr. Palazzolo stated he will be happy to be at any meeting to discuss the contract but the board needs to decide what they want from that position. Mr. James suggested we put this issue on the next agenda.

Mr. Rappaport stated, when discussing the administrative support, that they never discussed the duties of this position and the board should start thinking about the 10 hours this support provides and what else the duties could include. Ms. McGrath stated the County absorbed the cost of providing administrative help from July until December and at this point the board was to review what, if anything else, they wanted from the position.

Ms. Winston stated the board needs to review the contract, review the consultants report and the minutes from the training we had this summer. She suggested having a special meeting in December and a study session in early January.

Ms. McGrath explained that there ordinarily would not be a meeting in December but because of our fiscal year the board will need to approve the last two invoices from CUPHD at a meeting in December.

CIDES

Ms. Maurer pointed out that there are big numbers on this month's reports.

MOTION by Winston to receive and place on file the CUPHD monthly reports that are available on the website, and the CIDES report for October 2006; seconded by James. **Motion carried.**

Mr. Rappaport stated they should express some sort of thank you to the County Board for continuing this program.

Ms. Bell stated that she informed the County Board that it is because of what they all do together that creates situations like what we are in right now. They are seeing more kids now than they ever have before and they are doing it on the same amount of money they have for 5 years and a lot of it has to do with the generosity of providers. The impact they are making on the health and well-being of the county's children is huge. Mr. Rappaport stated he feels they should send a letter to these professional people who are contributing to this program and let them know it is noticed.

Ms. McGrath stated if Ms. Bell will provide the addresses they will get the letters out.

Correspondence & Communications

Ms. Winston stated the members received a FOIA request from a citizen. Mr. Bailey, who is requesting information as to whether there is a conflict of interest with several board members.

Ms. McGrath stated it is up to the board as to how they would like to move forward from here, they are not commanded to do anything. Mr. James stated, without the people named in the document being present, they can just accept it and place it on file. Mr. Rappaport stated he is going to ask for a legal opinion about what constitutes a conflict of interest, with respect to this board, because most of the activities brought up in the packet have to do with members of this board and other roles to the CUPHD. Ms. McGrath stated this issue was raised in very similar form about 3 years ago and at that time the State's Attorney's office issued an informal opinion and brought it to the Board of Health; those materials, Mr. Bailey received in response to his FOIA request. She explained that because she is one of the people discussed in the correspondence, this is something the State's Attorney's office will have to decide on how they want to respond. Mr. Rappaport stated, as a county agency, they would like to ask the State's Attorney who they go to for legal advice. Ms. McGrath stated, by statute, the State's Attorney is their legal council. He stated in addition to just accepting this we are now going to ask the State's Attorney what our legal responsibilities are, suggesting a written request and requesting a response back on a date before our study session. Ms. McGrath stated County Administration will arrange to ask for that opinion as well as a clarification to the conflicts of interest.

Ms. Winston explained she received a letter from Carol Elliott, regarding comments made at the September meeting, which she feels is not an accurate reflection of what took place in that meeting. In general, her comments were that we all came to the agreement that Dr. Peterson could have used a better term, during his budget presentation, but he did qualify what he said with an explanation. She stated they voted for the budget and they would not have done that if they felt there was a problem with CUPHD. Mr. James stated that overall, everyone he has spoke with felt Dr. Peterson did a great job with the budget explanation. Dr. Rappaport stated he agrees that Dr. Peterson's presentation of the budget itself was extremely well done and represented the group accurately and clearly and he doesn't want to mix that up with the other issue. Ms. Storrs stated because there were people who were concerned about the comments and presented those concerns in writing to the board, they deserve a response in writing to clarify it was a regrettable use of words and it is not the intent of the board.

Ms. McGrath stated she would be happy to construct a response letter to Ms. Elliott, including comments stated at the September meeting. Ms. Winston reminded the committee that at the September meeting they stated they want to make sure their relationship with CUPHD is a good one and she expressed concern about Dr. Peterson's comments.

Mr. Palazzolo stated he is not asking for an apology but that type of comment is totally unnecessary and he doesn't want it to be continued. He feels it is insulting to he and his staff and makes the CUPHD look bad and gives the impression they are doing something with their books.

Treasurers Report
Report from the Champaign County Auditor

Ms. McGrath reported there is no report from the Auditor's office this month.

Approval of Invoices submitted by CUPHD for 8/06 and 9/06

Ms. McGrath stated Dr. Peterson asked her to report to the board that he did have a chance to review the invoices submitted by the Public Health District for August and September and recommends their approval to the board.

Ms. Winston asked about the September invoice being almost double. Ms. Maurer stated there were three pay periods in September and there were also some issues about grant reimbursement.

MOTION by Ms. Maurer to approve payment of the August 2006 and September 2006 CUPHD invoices; seconded by Ms. Storrs. **Motion carried.**

Old Business
Administrator's Report

Mr. Palazzolo reported that CUPHD has purchased a new building which they are very excited about. It is 100,000 square feet and is on Kenyon Road, just off of interstate 74. They are looking at the administrative office on Broadway and some staff from the Neil Street office to be moved in by early January. He explained they have a lot of new things being developed; with Health Care Consumers help they are looking at getting into some primary care with one of the local hospitals, they are looking at an eye glass program for people on Medicaid and they are looking at expanding to adult dental. They have hired a new dentist, a new IT employee, and a new HR director and they are still looking for a second dentist. He also explained that the board will be receiving another letter from the CUPHD board chairperson explaining at their last regular meeting there was a vote for him to look through all the programs that are currently being provided in the county. Their legal council made it clear if they are subsidizing county programs with CUPHD dollars, they cannot continue to do that; any program that is a county program that cannot be funded will be discontinued. As a result, they are going to look at programs being provided in the contract and what the costs of those are.

He asked the board to also put the subcommittee back together to look at the contract and some of the issues that are in that contract. He reported that the CUPHD board approved, at their November meeting, to open up the Neil Street office one day a week on Tuesdays for the Christian Health Center to provide services.

Claudia Lenhoff stated that CUPHD is looking at what will happen if the County Board decided to not fund the child dental access program. The question was, if it would be possible to have that program, which serves county residents, continue to operate but as a program of CUPHD. If all of the money for that program comes from C-U tax payers but it only serves county residents, it could not continue. They are looking at long term stability for that program but the only way it could continue to operate would be if there was a funding component from the county; the only programs for the county that could not be subsidized by CUPHD would be those where there is no county money coming in.

Set meeting date for Ordinance Review Committee

Ms. McGrath stated the date of this meeting will depend upon when the committee sets their other meetings.

New Business

Renewal of contract with CIDES

Ms. McGrath explained the contract is set to expire at the end of November and the County Board has approved its grant to the Board of health to allow that program to continue. Before the board tonight is the exact same contract as last year with CIDES, the only change she recommends is the paragraph that states if there are some changes with CIDES during the course of this contract year we could sit down and look at what would happen as a result of that change. The procedure would be that the Board of Health gives their approval of this contract and it would then go to the CUPHD board for their final approval. Ms. Lenhoff stated their attorney has not seen this but they are in agreement as far as where they want to go; she is worried that this board is not having a regular meeting again until January and she suggested just extending the current contract.

Ms. McGrath stated they can add approval of the contract to the short December agenda.

MOTION by Mr. James to extend the current CIDES contract until 12/19/2006 at which time a new contract will become effective; seconded by Ms. Storrs. **Motion carried.**

Other Business

Upcoming Meeting

Regular meeting: January 30, 2007 @ 6:00 p.m.

Committee consensus to hold a special meeting on January 19, 2006 at 6:00 p.m. with the Ordinance Review Committee meeting after. The committee also agreed to hold a study session on January 16th at 6:00 p.m.

Adjournment

Ms. Winston declared the meeting adjourned at 8:10 p.m.