

CHAMPAIGN COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH

Contract Subcommittee Meeting Monday, April 16, 2007, 5:00 p.m.

Call to Order

The Board of Health Contract Subcommittee held a meeting on April 16, 2007 in Meeting Room 3 at the Brookens Administrative Center, 1776 East Washington, Urbana. The meeting was called to order at 5:12 p.m. by Thomas O'Rourke.

Roll Call

Thomas O'Rourke, John Peterson, and Julian Rappaport were present at the time of roll call. Others present were Darlene Kloepfel (Regional Planning Commission Social Services Director) and Susan McGrath (Senior Assistant State's Attorney).

Public Participation

Kloepfel stated she was present to learn about the issues and to see if there was a way for the Regional Planning Commission could help the Board of Health (BOH).

Discussion and Recommendations Concerning the Investigation of Alternatives for Service Delivery of Board of Health Programs by Community Organizations and Agencies Within and Outside Champaign County, Including Other County Health Departments

The Board of Health approved exploring the possibilities of contracting with agencies (within or outside of Champaign County) other than the Champaign-Urbana Public Health District (CUPHD) including, but not limited to existing organizations or other public health departments. O'Rourke put together a list of some possible agencies along with contact information. The purpose of this meeting was to discuss the list and develop strategies in moving forward.

Peterson asked about the state and federal grants that are awarded to Champaign County. O'Rourke spoke with a public health administrator who recommended contacting the Illinois Department of Public Health and the Department of Health and Human Services about those grants. These grants are county-wide and the Board of Health, as the County agency, could be a viable entity for county-wide grants. The grants represent a major component of the Board's budget. Rappaport said they should find out in advance if the BOH could be the legal recipient of the grants and the activities involved in administering the grants.

McGrath said there was a time when the County's grants from IDPH came to the County and then a portion was distributed to CUPHD. CUPHD now receives those grants instead of the County. She was not sure why this process changed and suggested O'Rourke try to find out from his contacts. There is now some conflict regarding what administration, if any, CUPHD is providing to the County Board of Health. McGrath wondered if CUPHD was the proper recipient of the County's grants. O'Rourke will contact IDPH with these questions, but he

wanted another subcommittee member to contact the Department of Health and Human Services. McGrath offered to contact the DHS person if O'Rourke would send her a list of questions.

Discussion and Recommendations Concerning Alternative Funding for Board of Health Programs, Including Grant Research and Application, and Raising the Board of Health Levy

McGrath said there have been feelings that the BOH is not realizing the entire grant funding that it potentially could as a health department. Because the BOH does not have staff, McGrath asked Kloepfel about the possibility of contracting with RPC to have a staff member who could write grants for the BOH. Kloepfel said that would be possible. She explained that DHS receives money from the federal government and distributes it by county. The amount a county receives is often determined by population. In her experience, DHS only performs a RFP process for political reasons or if an agency is not fulfilling the proper outcomes. Typically, whoever receives the grant continues to receive it every year until the next RFP process is initiated. RPC receives funding as the admissions screening agency to determine state-funded Medicaid services for people with developmental disabilities. That contract was bid out eight years ago and has not been rebid since. She did not think the public health services were bid out very often. The subcommittee discussed the major grant programs in Champaign County. O'Rourke asked if it would be appropriate to send a letter to CUPHD asking what county-wide grants and grants specifically for the county's rural areas they receive. Rappaport also wanted to create a list of all the rural health services available from various agencies, such as the Mental Health Board, RPC, and Family Service. McGrath agreed to write a letter on the subcommittee's behalf to CUPHD asking about the county-wide grants.

Kloepfel explained that the Mental Health Board is a funding agency, not a provider of the actual services. She said the Mental Health Board does not receive grants; instead it collects county tax dollars and arranges an RFP process to distribute the money to other agencies. In answer to McGrath's question, Kloepfel confirmed that RPC's Social Services Division was still receiving funding for the rural transportation service. McGrath explained the responsibilities of the County Highway Department and CUUATS for the subcommittee's benefit.

Rappaport asked Kloepfel if RPC would be an appropriate entity to provide public health services since it administers social services. Kloepfel could not say because the RPC Commissioners are currently looking at its mission. Her staff provides senior services and there could be some links to public health, but they are not in the business of providing healthcare right now. They would need to hire a public health administrator who would hire nursing staff to create a parallel department to provide health services. McGrath said the BOH's most urgent need is with the Home Health Program for Seniors. Rappaport indicated seniors might benefit from a social network model that would provide support less expensively than the current program, which pays for a nurse to visit seniors in their homes to perform minor medical services. Kloepfel said they would need to hire someone as the coordinator of the service and other staff or volunteers to do the visiting and prioritize needs. Peterson expressed that the BOH has been concerned about the level of service being provided via the Home Health Program for Seniors considering the amount of money the BOH is paying CUPHD. The subcommittee continued to discuss the possibilities of contracting for services with other agencies. Kloepfel described how RPC, a government entity, and Family Service, a private, not-for-profit

organization, both provide services for seniors in Champaign County. She stated there is a state law that allows counties to collect a senior services tax to keep seniors out of nursing homes. It may be used for non-institutionalized services and transportation. This would be similar to the Developmental Disabilities tax and would require a great deal of political will to be enacted. Rappaport thought that was a very sellable political idea.

McGrath suggested the subcommittee should research its in-county options for services with RPC and Family Services, along with O'Rourke and McGrath contacting the state and federal agencies. The subcommittee should also speak with other counties regarding their Public Health Administrators. Peterson was concerned that CUPHD moved into a new, more expensive building last summer and the BOH will be charged a higher overhead cost. This would be a good time to look into contracting with other agencies. The subcommittee discussed how to move forward in gathering information. McGrath offered to meet with Kloeppe and Peter Tracy to find out what collaboration is possible with their organizations.

Establishment of Next Meeting Date(s)

The next meeting would be held on May 7, 2007 at 4:00 p.m.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 6:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kat Bork
Board of Health Secretary