



**Champaign County Children's Advocacy Center
Governing Board
Emergency Meeting
Thursday, October 6, 2005
1601 E. Main Street
Urbana, Illinois**

Minutes

Members Present: Dr. Kathleen Buetow, Chairman, Carle Clinic
Chief Daniel Driscoll, Secretary/Treasurer, Mahomet Police Department
Detective Dan Ault and Officer Brad Saltgaver, Rantoul Police Department
Mr. Matt Burgess, Clinical Supervisor, The Mental Health Center
Ms. Lolita Dumas, Acting Site Administrator, Illinois Department of
Children and Family Services
Lt. Joseph Gallo, Champaign Police Department*
Lt. Michael Metzler, Urbana Police Department
Lt. David Nelson, University of Illinois Police Department
Superintendent Judy Pacey, Regional Office of Education
Investigator Dwayne Roelfs, Champaign County Sheriff's Office
Mr. Steve Ziegler, First Assistant State's Attorney

Members Absent: Champaign County Mental Health Board
Champaign County Probation & Court Services Department

Others Attending: Michael Williams, Executive Director, CAC

*Lt. Gallo joined the meeting in progress at 9:30 a.m.

Call to Order

After finding a quorum present, Chairman Buetow called the meeting to order at 9:05 a.m.

Accredited Member



Public Participation

There was no public participation.

Discussion of Possible Relocation of the Champaign County Children's Advocacy Center

Each of the Board members was provided with a draft copy of a "Position Paper" Dr. Buetow and Mr. Williams have been working on to address the possible recommendation that the proposed County Fleet Maintenance/Highway Facility be built on the CAC site. Attached to the Position Paper is a table which lists all revenue received by the Center since 1999. Dr. Buetow recognized that the Position Paper is quite long; however, both she and Mr. Williams think it is important that we provide County Board members with all of the information outlined in the paper. In the interest of brevity, Mr. Williams also prepared "bullet points" which capture highlights from the Position Paper (copy provided to Board members). Dr. Buetow and Mr. Williams plan to present this information, along with photographs of the CAC, to a joint meeting of the County Facilities and the Highway & Transportation Committees, which is scheduled for 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday, October 12, 2005. Mr. Ziegler stated that he learned earlier today that the meeting will begin at 6:00 p.m. on the 12th. Mr. Williams will confirm the time for the meeting and will notify CAC Board members.

Extensive discussion followed. In response to questions from Board members about the type of facility being planned, Mr. Ziegler stated that the proposed facility is "substantial" and will include maintenance, storage, and office space. Based on the size of the proposed facility, Mr. Ziegler does not believe that it would be amenable to sharing the CAC site. Mr. Ziegler also stated that the County does not own other property which would be suitable for the Fleet Maintenance/Highway Facility and he is "95% sure" that the County will chose the CAC site as the site for the proposed Facility.

Detective Ault inquired about the time frame for the construction project. According to Mr. Ziegler, if the CAC site is chosen for the project, it is anticipated that ground would not be broken until September 2006.

Late yesterday, Mr. Williams received by e-mail a letter from Candace Masten, CAC Project Director for the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services (copy provided to Board members). Ms. Masten outlined DCFS' financial support for the 2001 remodeling project and she added, "This was a one-time expenditure for startup purposes that cannot be replicated again and therein lies my concern." Mr. Williams has since discovered that the amount of funding provided by DCFS for the renovation project was slightly higher and he will obtain a corrected copy of Ms. Masten's letter for inclusion in the packet to be presented to the County Board. Mr. Williams stated he has also solicited a letter from Peter Tracy, Executive Director of the Champaign County Mental Health Board. As outlined in the Position Paper, the CCMHB was a major financial contributor to the renovation project and the CCMHB has made it clear on several occasions that no CCMHB funding would be available for future renovation or relocation costs.

Mr. Williams provided each of the Board members with a list of the members of the County Facilities and Highway & Transportation Committees. Superintendent Pacey suggested that CAC Board members contact County Board members to discuss their concerns about possible relocation of the CAC and to invite County Board members to tour the CAC before the October 12th meeting, if possible. Dr. Buetow stated that she had a telephone conversation about this issue with the Chair of the County Facilities Committee, Steve Beckett. Dr. Buetow indicated that Mr. Beckett has been through the CAC and his knowledge of the facilities could be advantageous to our position.

The advantages of the present facility were discussed at length. Dr. Buetow pointed out that the location of the CAC helps to protect client confidentiality in ways that a shared facility could not. The child-friendly design of the CAC also allows us to provide services in a neutral, but welcoming environment. Mr. Ziegler added his belief that one of the Center's greatest advantages is that it operates without property tax revenue. On the other hand, it is his belief that County Board members know little about the Center and its operations.

Extensive discussion was had about the CAC Board's response to this development. It was the unanimous position of the Board that the CAC should be maintained in its present facility, if at all possible. Should the County Board decide to utilize this site for the Fleet Maintenance/Highway Facility, the CAC Board will urge the County to accept financial responsibility for relocating the CAC to a facility of at least equal design and functionality. Mr. Williams stated he is not optimistic that the County will pick up the costs of relocating the Center.

Detective Ault pointed out that this development may not be a "disaster" and may present the CAC Board with the opportunity to address any inadequacies in the current facility when selecting and designing a new facility. Dr. Buetow expressed her hope that a new facility would include a large enough room to host educational meetings and to accommodate monthly Multidisciplinary Team Case Review meetings. The advantages/disadvantages of alternative facilities were discussed at length.

Mr. Williams will prepare a packet of information for next week's joint meeting of the County Facilities and the Highway & Transportation Committees. That information will be provided to all members of the County Board, not just those serving on the Facilities and the Highway & Transportation Committees. Dr. Buetow encouraged CAC Board members to attend next week's meeting, if at all possible. Mr. Burgess asked that the conclusion of the Position Paper include reference to the hundreds of families that have received services from the CAC.

Although the next CAC Governing Board meeting won't be held until October 27th, Dr. Buetow will notify CAC Board members if the outcome of the October 12th meeting of the County Board committees merits scheduling an emergency meeting of the CAC Board.

Other Business

In response to a question from Dr. Buetow, Mr. Williams stated that the new digital recording system has been used on two occasions since Monday and he added that the system worked fine on both occasions.

Adjournment

Dr. Buetow thanked everyone for attending today's meeting. There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:07 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael B. Williams
Executive Director