

Approved 12/8/2015

CHAMPAIGN COUNTY BOARD
BUDGET HEARING MINUTES

LEGISLATIVE BUDGET HEARINGS

**Joint Meeting of the Finance Committee of the Whole
& the Champaign County Mental Health/Developmental Disabilities Boards
Tuesday, August 18, 2015
Brookens Administrative Center, Lyle Shields Meeting Room
1776 E. Washington St., Urbana**

FINANCE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEMBERS PRESENT:

Christopher Alix, Lloyd Carter, Lorraine Cowart, Aaron Esry, Josh Hartke, John Jay, Jeff Kibler, Gary Maxwell, Jim McGuire, Diane Michaels, Patsi Petrie, James Quisenberry, Giraldo Rosales, Sam Shore, C. Pius Weibel

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Jack Anderson, Astrid Berkson, Stan Harper, Shana Harrison, Max Mitchell, Jon Schroeder, Rachel Schwartz

MENTAL HEALTH BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

Dr. Deborah Townsend, Dr. Deloris Henry, Dr. Thom Moore, Aillinn Dannave, Dr. Julian Rappaport, Judi O'Connor, Susan Fowler

MEMBERS ABSENT: Anne Robin, Astrid Berkson

DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Joyce Dill, Phillip Krein, Debra Ruesch, Sue Suter

MEMBERS ABSENT: Michael Smith

OTHERS PRESENT:

Deb Busey (County Administrator), Lynn Cantrell (Mental Health Board Office), Mark Driscoll (Mental Health Board Office), Tami Ogden (Deputy County Administrator/Finance), Tracy Parsons (ACCESS Initiative), Kay Rhodes (Administrative Assistant), Peter Tracy (MHB/DDB Director)

CALL TO ORDER

County Board Chair Petrie called the hearing to order at 6:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Rhodes called the rolls of each board. DDB: Dill, Krein, Ruesch, and Suter; MHB: Dannave, Fowler, Henry, Moore, O'Connor, Rappaport, and Townsend; Finance Committee of the Whole: Alix, Carter, Esry, Hartke, Jay, Kibler, Maxwell, Michaels, Petrie, Quisenberry, Rosales, and Shore were present at the time of roll call establishing a quorum for each board.

Petrie said that the Deputy Chair of the Finance Committee would chair the meeting. Alix explained that the joint meeting was being held due to the heightened interest concerning the MHB and DDB budgets. He explained that the goal of the meeting was to bring the boards together to discuss certain areas of contention. He explained that this meeting was not intended to be a debate; it was an opportunity for the County Board to better understand the issues that the MHB and DDB face, as well as for the MHB and DDB to better understand the budget concerns of the County Board.

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Alix stated that on Tuesday, September 8, 2015, the County Administrator would provide the Finance Committee of the Whole with FY2016 budget decision points. On Thursday September 17, 2015 the County Board will receive a 5-year financial projection on the Champaign County Nursing Home. On Thursday, September 24, 2015 the County Board will hold a public hearing on the FY2016 proposed budget. Members of the public are invited to express their comments and concerns regarding the budget at this hearing. A Special Finance Committee of the Whole meeting would be held on Tuesday, September 29 to provide the County Administrator with direction to finalize the FY2016 budget. On Thursday, October 22, 2015, the County Board will receive the FY2016 Tentative Budget and place it on file. On Tuesday, November 10, 2015 the Finance Committee of the Whole will recommend approval of the final budget to the County Board. Finally, on Thursday, November 19, 2015, the County Board will approve the FY2016 final budget and tax levy ordinance beginning January 1, 2016.

Alix noted that questions arose concerning the County Board's authority over the Mental Health Board's budget requiring the legal opinion of the State's Attorney and possibly the Attorney General. The County Board is awaiting responses.

Busey provided an overview of the County's current budget situation. Busey stated that most departments in Champaign County government were required to make budget cuts in order to balance the FY2016 budget. However, the MHB/DDB were not required to make cuts because these budgets are supported entirely by property taxes. The County's overall EAV has increased in 2015 by 2.2%; meaning for the first time in 3 years, the property taxes can be increased. Busey reviewed the highlights of the budget information regarding departments within the Mental Health Fund. The MHB Access Sustainability Plan is included in this budget. Total expenditure and revenue for this particular budget are balanced at \$4.7MM. CILA is a new department budget. The Access Initiative Grant ends in October 2015. The 2016 budgeted amount is to cover expenses to complete/close out this grant. The Developmental Disabilities Board budget shows a 2.76% increase in revenue; the first increase this board has had in the last couple of years.

Mr. Quisenberry asked why the fund balances in these areas are significantly more than seen in other areas. He cited a goal of 15 – 20%; commenting that these are closer to 50%. According to Ms. Busey, the fiscal year for the grant awards that are provided by both of these department funds are on July 1st. Since the county fiscal year begins January 1, they need 50% to fund the ensuing grant year.

Mr. Alix raised questions posed concerning the Developmental Services Center. He noted the \$3MM of funding directed to this organization. He asked to learn more about the historic relationship between the MHB and DDB; how the boards see the relationship with DSC evolving; whether the proportion of funding going to a single entity encourages or discourages other providers. He invited anyone with insight to speak to these questions.

Discussion about the role of DSC and similar agencies followed. DSC is the largest developmental and intellectual disabilities provider in Champaign County. The programs provided include Sheltered Workshop, developmental training, and children's program (early intervention for kids 0 – 5). The long-term goal of all of these organizations is to move from segregation to integration; as mandated by the Olmstead ruling.

Ms. Fowler expressed appreciation for the scheduling of the MHB and DDB consecutively. This provides an opportunity for better communication between the boards; as many of their issues are common.

Conversation continued regarding Community Integrated Living Arrangements (CILA). Mr. Jay raised questions regarding current locations and recent citizen complaints. There are currently two locations which are not yet inhabited. There was some work required and the complaint Mr. Jay referenced was in regard to some done by the Water utility and has been remedied. There are people ready to move into these properties; with an additional waiting list. These properties will be run by Individual Advocacy Program. There was additional discussion regarding the costs for renovating/establishing/running these properties. Mr. Tracey quoted an \$800,000 (total) ceiling.

Mr. Alix asked how the funding in this budget facilitates the availability of service for at-risk or in-crisis juveniles. He referenced the Access Initiative Grant and the Justice and Social Services sub-committee hearing in May. Mr. Tracy gave information on the Parenting with Love and Limits and Access Initiative. Access Initiative is aimed at

providing service to kids/families of color. Mr. Maxwell questioned the number of families served annually by the program. Mr. Tracy provided a matrix of funds spent on adult vs. youth services.

Dr. Townsend relayed the Mental Health's Board wish to clarify the position of the board as it relates to the Access Initiative, the Sustainability Plan, the budget transfer which was voted down and the budget for 2016. She voiced concern over youth violence in Champaign County. The board supports the community coalition. She requested the County Board to rescind the decision not to hire (by budget transfer) Tracy Parsons and Chandra Sommerville. Dr. Henry, Dr. Rappaport and Dr. Moore also spoke in favor of the Access Initiative. Dr. Moore explained that ACCESS is actually an acronym for Agencies for Champaign County Engaging in Social Services. ACCESS was already in place when the SAMHSA Grant was first available. He reviewed the goals of the Sustainability Plan. Dr. Moore requested the board reverse its decision on the budget transfer for two positions. Additional discussion ensued regarding the "budget neutrality" of the addition of these two positions.

Mr. Alix directed the discussion toward the creation of the Project Director for System of Care and Community Engagement and the Cultural and Linguistic Competence Coordinator; and asked for clarification on the importance of these roles to the Community Coalition, what impact these will have on the community, and what the impact on the community would be if these positions were not available. Discussion from several committee members followed.

Mr. Maxwell questioned the composition of the committee that created the Sustainability Plan. He raised the ethical issue of a person establishing a policy and being on the payroll. He commented that the program is not budget neutral. He suggested setting up an outside agency for the continuation of, or to administer a similar program. He also stated it is Champaign County policy to not fund programs once a grant is closed.

Dr.'s Townsend, Rappaport, and Moore offered information regarding the difference between a "program" and a "system of care"; and the benefits of the latter. According to them, one of the advantages is the requirement of communication between various agencies for the common goal. They discussed issues with providing services to the minority population. The subjectivity of Mental Health service was stressed; in relation to the ability to measure success of a program.

Mr. Kibler asked how success is measured within the realm of "systems of care" as opposed to "programs". He voiced a concern about whether the money being spent could be better spent in another area. Ms. Dill commented that the new positions would take additional dollars from the DDB budget; meaning the program is not budget neutral. Ms. Fowler pointed out that the Strategic Plan ends in 2015 and there will be a lot of conversation regarding the scope/strategy of the entire MHB. She stressed the need for a holistic approach to service and leveraging of funds and resources.

Mr. Carter reminded the group the heart of the discussion is race. He stated the minority community gets less service than anybody in this county. He cited lack of regular communication between the boards (MHB and CB) as an issue.

Mr. Hartke discussed the years of experience represented by the people on the MHB and DDB. He commented that the members are appointed because their specialties lend themselves to determining which programs are necessary and how they should be run. He stressed the ACCESS program was designed to service the minority community who have been underserved in the past. He also reiterated the high amount of scrutiny this program has been given; compared to others where more money has been spent.

Mr. Weibel asked Ms. Busey whether there was a written policy regarding continuation of funding programs beyond the term of the grant. Ms. Busey explained the County's grant ordinance sets parameters; and the expectation should not be that a program that was fully funded by a grant will be maintained without identifying other resources for funding moving forward. Mr. Weibel voiced concern over the County Board's involvement in the hiring process of the MHB. He requested that any measurements or reports on the success of the ACCESS program be provided to him for review.

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Mr. Esry questioned why other funding sources for the ACCESS program were not identified and sought out earlier; since it has been in place for the last six years. He commented that the budget transfer seemed last minute.

Mr. Alix asked for closing comments. There was discussion by several members reiterating points made earlier, including the merit of this meeting, budget neutrality, success metrics, hiring process for new positions, funding sources, and availability of service for minority communities. Mr. Kibler reminded everyone of the duty of the county board members to their constituents to oversee the budget and be able to explain how tax dollars are being spent.

Ms. Petrie encouraged all to read the statutes for these boards and asked that people pay particular attention to the fiduciary responsibility of each. Mr. Krein commented the state of IL has an appalling reputation for supporting services related to mental health and developmental disabilities. He stated he sees Champaign County taking a leadership role in the future for these services. Dr. Townsend deferred to Tracy Parsons for closing remarks. Mr. Parsons stated he would have been able to answer many of the meetings questions; if he had been asked. He provided examples of reports of national evaluations that have been performed over the course of the program. The most recent was conducted in May 2015. He stated only three communities in the United States (Syracuse, Champaign, and Memphis) have programs being evaluated because they are specifically aimed at minority populations.

Cowart entered the hearing at 6:20 p.m.
Weibel entered the hearing at 6:25 p.m.
McGuire entered the hearing at 7:00 p.m.
Hartke left the hearing at 7:45 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

The hearing adjourned at 8:37 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kay Rhodes
Administrative Assistant

Assistant's note: The minutes reflect the order of the agenda and may not necessarily reflect the order of business conducted at the meeting.