

CHAMPAIGN COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH

Study Session

Tuesday, June 12, 2007

Call to Order & Roll Call

The Champaign County Board of Health held a study session on June 12, 2007 in Meeting Room 2 at the Brookens Administrative Center, 1776 East Washington, Urbana. The meeting was called to order at 6:10 p.m. by Susan Maurer, acting as Chair in the absence of Kim Winston. Upon roll call, the following board members were found to be present: Susan Maurer, John Peterson, and Julian Rappaport. McGrath indicated Stan James had called to say he had a conflicting meeting tonight and Dr. Prashanth Gowda had indicated at the last Board meeting he had to work tonight. Others present were Kat Bork (Administrative Services Department) and Susan McGrath (State's Attorney's Office).

Discussion 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

McGrath provided budget materials for the Board members, as well as a list of discussion items from the Budget and Contract Committees that were pertinent to this discussion. Maurer began the discussion by describing the Budget Committee meeting held earlier today where Julie Pryde of CUPHD suggested using the mobile unit to visit certain areas at certain times that the Board of Health would designate. CUPHD would provide everything and the Board of Health would be charged an hourly rate and a mileage rate, instead of being charged by the service. The committee discussed having someone come in and talk about where the mobile unit ought to be and what kind of services should be offered. Pryde assured Maurer good statistics would be kept so the services could be tweaked as needed. Maurer stated the statistics would be important to adjust what services and where they are being offered to meet the public's needs over the course of a year. Maurer felt Pryde was very receptive. Peterson stated Pryde is a highly energetic and creative individual. The Board discussed the possible future of the CUPHD Administrator position and the importance of a positive relationship between the Administrator and the Board of Health. Rappaport indicated two members of the CUPHD Board are open to having someone from the Board of Health involved in a search for a new CUPHD Administrator, should such a search occur, to raise certain issues specific to the County Board of Health. Rappaport encouraged the Board to be active in the search if the CUPHD Board is agreeable. Rappaport asked if a contract for mobile services would be dependent on who holds the CUPHD Administrator position. Maurer did not think the contract would be dependent on who fills the position if the Board of Health has a contract for a certain number of service hours. Rappaport inquired about building in flexibility to such a contract, so services and times can be adjusted because the Board cannot accurately predict what might be needed a year in advance. For example, a smaller community such as Ludlow might need more service time. Maurer stated the amount of services could change over time as more people become aware of the mobile unit and the services it provides. The committee discussed the mobile unit and need for flexibility.

McGrath stated that Maurer and Peterson were very clear in the earlier meeting about how the County Board of Health felt they had been burned in promises made of service delivery prior to today and their expectations should the Board continue to contract with CUPHD for services. McGrath said the Board of Health should be careful in crafting the contract so it is not dependent on the person in the Administrator position. Peterson said the Board's goals and benchmarks should be made clear so the contract can be terminated if those goals are not met.

Rappaport asked if the Board of Health's money for a contract with CUPHD would be simply divided into 12 payments. Peterson said they are considering having a funded line item for the Executive Director position. Rappaport concurred with that approach. At the morning meeting, Pryde told Peterson and Maurer that the Board's major expenses are environmental services. They asked her to put together a cost breakdown for environmental services. Peterson noted that HIV, hepatitis, and other sexually transmitted diseases will be done because they are state funded. Pryde told Peterson and Maurer about how the grants are for the county and CUPHD does not separate out whether the grants are providing services for county or Champaign-Urbana residents. Peterson made the point that the Board of Health wants to maintain its presence in Rantoul and would like information on the costs of providing these services. He noted CUPHD's bookkeeper has put together quite a bit of information for the CUPHD Board. The first step in understanding CUPHD's total budget is understanding their district budget. The Board of Health represents approximately 10% of that activity. The Board of Health would like information about the actual cost of providing environmental services, so they can be sure they are recouping the costs. Maurer felt the major issue of environmental services is the enforcement inspections and making sure businesses are charged when the health department has to perform additional inspections due to noncompliance. Peterson asked if the ordinance had to be changed to charge for the additional enforcement inspections. McGrath explained it would require changing the ordinance and the Ordinance Committee is working on revising the ordinance, which will require approval by the County Board. Maurer asked about an effective date for the ordinance. McGrath recommended the new ordinance take effect on December 1st with the new fiscal year. The Ordinance Committee will make recommendations to the Board of Health, the Board of Health will submit the revised ordinance to the Justice & Social Services Committee, and then to the full County Board. Rappaport asked if an ordinance revision would be a controversial issue at the County Board level. McGrath thought it would be matter-of-fact because the Board is only changing the ordinance in ways to update it and allow the County to recoup costs. She noted the Animal Control Ordinance, Nuisance Ordinance, and the Zoning Ordinance all contain language regarding enforcement costs to violators. Carrie Storrs and Kim Winston are the Ordinance Committee. McGrath anticipated the ordinance would be submitted to the County Board in September. Since the ordinance has not been updated since it was passed in 1989, the revisions are taking some time. McGrath, Storrs, and Winston are going through the ordinance to reflect the statutory changes, particularly regarding bioterrorism, core programs, and enforcement. The Ordinance Committee is meeting in June to discuss it. The Board agreed it needs to look at re-inspections of restaurants, wells, and sewers. The Board does perform some enforcement proceedings. McGrath was recently involved in an enforcement proceeding about a septic system in Sadorus. The homeowners had to be taken to court and removed from their house because they did not repair their septic system. A non-functioning septic system is a health hazard. The Board of Health does not have the ability to impose a fine, but they can remove someone from their home.

McGrath informed the committee this morning that a proposal from the Regional Planning Commission (RPC) for senior services is anticipated in June. This proposal will be evaluated for inclusion in the FY2008 Board of Health budget. McGrath will email the proposal to the Board if she receives it from Darlene Kloeppel prior to the meeting. Maurer asked about possible collaborative efforts with the Mental Health Board. Rappaport confirmed there have been meetings with Peter Tracy. Tracy indicated the Board of Health and Mental Health Board need a concrete, cooperative project to get started. If the Board moves forward with a proposal from RPC, they could then apply to the Mental Health Board for program funding. Rappaport noted the Mental Health Board does not provide services, they fund services. Tracy did not make any promises, but felt the Board of Health would have a good chance of developing a priority for the Mental Health Board. Maurer asked for a concrete example of a possible project. McGrath gave the example of working with RPC on a project for seniors. The Mental Health Board is on a different fiscal year than the Board of Health, which could be beneficial. Because the Mental Health Board will consider grant proposals in April 2008 for funding starting in July 2008, the Board would have the opportunity to start the RPC project and then submit a grant application to the Mental Health Board. McGrath noted the Mental Health Board does not offer a lot of services in the county and they would like to offer more services. Rappaport said Darlene Kloeppel implied she could assign Victoria Christensen to develop the project with an infrastructure of volunteers and referrals to make services available through a network that does not cost as much as professional services. Christensen comes highly recommended. If such a project is up and running, the Board could apply for funding from the Mental Health Board so both entities would be expanding their resources. McGrath stated Tracy is aware of the lack of mental health services available to county residents in general. Tracy wants to come up with a project in conjunction with the Board of Health to facilitate mental health services for county residents sometime in the future. Many people in the county are isolated from services that would be helpful to them. Tracy is looking for ways to expand dollars out to county residents. The Board agreed a project for seniors with RPC would be a good starting place and would address the home health visiting issue. The Board discussed that it would take some time to build up the number of people being served, but felt they could do better than serving only 9 people for \$125,000.

Maurer asked where the Board stands in looking at other county health departments. Peterson said this was put on hold after recent events. McGrath stated Tom O'Rourke had raised this issue in part because Gary Bird has left CUPHD. The interim person is Jim Roberts. It is unknown who might replace Bird permanently. The Board of Health would like to be involved in the search for a replacement because the Board is affected by the position and puts a lot of money into it. Depending on the outcome of the search, the Board of Health might want to look elsewhere for contracting environmental services. Rappaport asked about the administration of the environmental health program. Peterson said a major issue with the latest administration was cost. In the past, the Board was told it was paying 2/3 of the costs and could make up difference with a fee increase. Then the recent administration told the Board of Health the costs were significantly higher. Maurer added that Pryde assured the Budget Committee that the prices would be very different with the new budget. The Board discussed the financial and service aspects of the environmental health program. McGrath stated a good candidate for the position would be someone who has operated a county program before. County programs are very different from city programs because a county program includes septic and well water programs,

which cities are not allowed to have. Enforcement is a big part of the food side of environmental health. There should be an educational component to go with enforcement. Regular reporting to the Board is essential in this area so the Board knows what it is getting. The Board discussed the position vacancies at CUPHD and agreed they would prefer to have input in the search.

Rappaport would like for the Board to have regular informational exchanges with CUPHD on an informal basis. The Board discussed making efforts to improve communication with the CUPHD Board. Rappaport suggested holding Board of Health/CUPHD joint meetings in the future and having the two Chairs communicate in advance to address the order of the meeting. The Board conferred about having a member attend the CUPHD Board meetings on a regular basis. Maurer was willing to try to attend CUPHD Board meetings.

Discussion Concerning FY2008 Budget

Deb Busey would bring a proposal for secretarial support to the June meeting so the Board can build it into the budget.

Maurer stated she would like to communicate to CUPHD what the Board wants in administrative services and then ask CUPHD what those services would cost. Rappaport supported that idea of the Board paying a portion of the Administrator's salary. He would like to be able to engage the Administrator in a constructive way around public health issues for the county. He would rather have it understood to be this approach instead of the Administrator doing A, B, and C. He feels the Board of Health has lacked thoughtful communications about plans and decisions with the Administrator. McGrath said the contract outlines exactly what the Administrator is supposed to do and it includes all the issues Rappaport raised on reporting to the Board and making recommendations on services. The Board has not been getting this. Rappaport suggested if the Board has a good relationship with the Administrator then the specific requirements do not have to be spelled out. The Board discussed that services are difficult to quantify. McGrath stated the Budget Committee mentioned to Pryde that there are other options for administrative services if the Board of Health has to go that route. A major decision for the CUPHD Board is what is appropriate for their Administrator to do for the Board of Health. The Board discussed how to initiate communication with the CUPHD Board and decided to start with contacting Pius Weibel because he is the County Board Chair and the County's representative on the CUPHD Board. Peterson said there have been discussions about funding an Executive Director position exclusive to the Board of Health, but this paints the Board's activity with the CUPHD as simply contracting with the district for services and otherwise being headed in a different direction. The CUPHD receives a great deal of funding for county-wide issues. Maurer noted this makes listing what the Board wants the Administrator to do problematic because many issues could be considered county issues. Peterson stated the Board of Health is a \$900,000 contract or 10% of CUPHD's total budget. Rappaport recommended coming to an understanding that the Board of Health is charged with providing good health services for the county and they need CUPHD's help to provide this. The Board discussed having an informal conversation between the County Board Chair and the Budget Committee to get his advice on how to approach the CUPHD Board. The Board agreed to include in its budget a line item for the Administrator's salary. Peterson stated the responsibility

for generating the Board of Health's budget is no longer in CUPHD's hands. The Board will request that Weibel attend the Board of Health meeting on June 26th.

The Board discussed the open member position and the difficulty in finding members who are both medical professionals and willing to regularly attend the meetings.

McGrath said there is money in the budget for a grant writing position. This is a potential area of collaboration with the Mental Health Board. McGrath will speak with Peter Tracy tomorrow about the Mental Health Board making a proposal to the Board of Health.

The Board thanked McGrath for compiling the list of discussion topics to give the meeting direction.

Adjournment

Maurer declared the meeting adjourned at 7:21 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Kat Bork
Administrative Secretary