

Note: These minutes are not official until approved by the Health and Human Services Committee at a subsequent meeting. Please refer to the meeting minutes when these minutes are approved to obtain any changes to these minutes.

DeKalb County Government
Sycamore, Illinois

**Health & Human Services Committee Minutes
June 3, 2019**

The Health and Human Services Committee of the DeKalb County Board met on Monday, June 4, 2019 at 6:30 p.m. in the Community Outreach Building's Conference Room West in DeKalb, Illinois. Chairman Porterfield called the meeting to order. Those Members present were Mr. Tim Bagby, Mr. Scott Campbell, Ms. Rukisha Crawford, Ms. Maureen Little, Mr. Larry West, and Chairman Chris Porterfield. Ms. Linda Slabon was absent. A quorum was established with all six Members present and one absent.

Others present were Heather Coyle, Lisa Gonzalez, Drew Alexander and three other members of the public.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

It was moved by Crawford, seconded by Mr. Campbell and it was carried unanimously to approve the agenda as presented.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

It was moved by Ms. Little, seconded by Mr. West and it was carried unanimously to approve the minutes from the May 6, 2019 Committee Meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mr. Drew Alexander of Sycamore commented the following:

“As most of you are probably aware, since last meeting with your committee we have attended a couple of meetings with the BOH about the DCAC program. There is good news and not so good news which is why we wanted to come back here and bring you up to date.

The bad news is that the BOH appears confused about what they do and do not own. Indeed, the last communication from Mrs. Jones stated *"DeKalb Public Health Department does not have official animal shelter oversight responsibility. The agency tasked with that responsibility is the Department of Agriculture. I encourage you to connect with the Animal Welfare Division at 217-782-6657. They should be able to help you get more traction on your Barn on Baseline concerns."* We know that the ILDOA claims ownership over their licensees. That is NOT what we went to the BOH to convey. What DC owns through DCB, DCHD, DCAC, BOH and this committee is the meaningful design, control, oversight and analysis of the program that in large part sources animals for local shelters - in the case of BOB over 40% in fact. This statement from Mrs. Jones is worrying because it appears that our efforts to communicate what is and what is not in scope have largely been ignored or misunderstood.

There is however some good news to report. I have provided you the last slide of a presentation that Ms. Gonzalez made to the BOH which is the most relevant portion of her DCAC Program Scope pitch. We note that only the first four bullets are relevant to our cause and concern but are thrilled that Ms. Gonzalez heard our position sufficiently to use that information to promulgate the creation of this list. To both expedite and give that information greater visibility than it might otherwise have had, we are bringing this list to you with some additional observations.

1. Strengthen the contractual agreement for Animal Control Services including contract for Animal Control Administrator and for boarding/veterinary care. *** *The current controlling document is not a contractual agreement. It is insufficient to detail the roles, responsibilities, obligations between the parties. While it may be sufficient to allow the making of payments for services rendered, it does nothing to ensure that animals are treated fairly, sent to the most viable shelter when ready and lastly to hold the vendor; MV to any accountability on the spending of taxpayer dollars.* ***
2. Determine feasibility of putting Animal Control contracts out to bid. *** *Why would a rebid to an agreement not be "feasible"? This "non-agreement" agreement has been in force for several years without review and rebid. We concur that the leadership at DCAWL has a tense relationship with most if not all local veterinarians but we think it is more than time to test the waters and see if a better deal (not just financial but medical) can be achieved for the animals who have to suffer through this current experience. We respectfully assert this is entirely feasible. It just needs to be made a priority by HHS/BOH.* ***
3. Reassess local shelter capacity for transfer of stray animals processed through animal control. *** *We are not entirely sure what is meant by this bullet but suspect it has to do with the disproportionate distribution of animals to the BOB courtesy of a specific animal control officer who happens to live on the DCAWL property. Today we were advised by Ms. Gonzalez that DCAC has stopped since the beginning of the year, sending any animals to BOB post the filing of criminal charges by SA Amato at the end of last year- we will verify via FOIA. As previously stated, we fundamentally agree that where animals go to should be predicated on the ability of the receiving location to care, nurture and adopt/foster animals out to their forever home not to hoard them until they become unadoptable or expire.* ***
4. Explore the possibility of utilizing the new HealthSpace software for data collection. *** *Absolutely. We agree that the data collection today is a farce. It is inconsistently entered, captured and certainly not evaluated by the DCAC. The vendor; MV does a very average job of data collection & entry. We do not know if HealthSpace is the right choice but certainly a redesign of the data collection tool combined with a system of record that captures the data - more attribution, images etc. would be a light year advance from the current approach.* ***

We ask that you take all of "Ms. Gonzalez" ideas and move them from future consideration to action items that need to get on her department's to do list with a high priority. Lives all be it four legged ones will be further compromised if you do not. Consider including members of the public who are more aware of the situation on the ground in the development of the language of the new agreement, so that they can advocate for the animals who pass through this program. None of this means anything if it simply remains on her wish list. Animals are being nursed back to health, only to be sent to a facility - BOB that then compromises their wellness and their future. That is not responsible governance.

Finally, given the acknowledgement that the Animal Control program and its relationship with the vets and shelters has been accepted as in scope, please consider this our formal request to have an item added to the agenda at your next meeting so we can provide our input as DC moves forward with addressing some of the systemic problems being experienced.”

Note: These minutes are not official until approved by the Health and Human Services Committee at a subsequent meeting. Please refer to the meeting minutes when these minutes are approved to obtain any changes to these minutes.

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS EXTENSION UPDATE

Ms. Heather Coyle, County Director Unit 2 for the University of Illinois Extension Serving Boone, DeKalb & Ogle Counties joined the Committee. Ms. Coyle introduced herself and shared that she has been with the Extension Office since 2004 and has been the Director for about a year now. She also provided a brief history about herself which included nine years in County Government work relating to Central Services.

Ms. Coyle handed out the 2017 Impact Report serving Boone, DeKalb, & Ogle Counties. She additionally reviewed Unit 2's Program Activity Summary. The Program Activity Summary does not include 4-H participants which add a large amount to the totals. Ms. Coyle reviewed some of the different programs that are taught in the area through Extension.

Ms. Coyle stated to the Committee that Extension would like to partner with the County better. She wanted to confirm that she was not saying they haven't partnered well in the past but that she appreciated County Government and the need to keep dollars local and to capitalize on local dollars in the best way possible.

Ms. Coyle asked the Committee what some of the unmet needs are in the Community and where more education may be needed that the U of I Extension Office could assist with. Without further discussion some of the items shared were: Mental Health, Bullying Curriculum, Nutrition on Elementary Schools (more specifically C.U.S.D. #428), Consumer Economics (understanding financial decisions), and Leadership Development for County Staff.

Ms. Little suggested that the Committee take some additional time to come up with two priority needs in the community that Extension can help with and have Ms. Coyle back in a month or two to help them further. Ms. Coyle agreed and noted that she would love to work help and work with the Committee further.

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT ANNUAL REPORT – [Link to Full Report](#)

DeKalb County Public Health Administrator Lisa Gonzalez joined the Committee to provide them with her 2018 Annual Report. Ms. Gonzalez provided an oral review of the key highlights within the Annual Report to the Committee.

Ms. Gonzalez shared that they began the year by engaging various sectors of the community through participation in the Mobilizing for Action through Planning and Partnership (MAPP) process. Once again they partnered with Northwestern Medicine Kishwaukee and Valley West Hospitals, to complete the Community Health Needs Assessment and Community Health Improvement Plan for DeKalb County. By utilizing the MAPP process, they were able to cast a wider net into the community in order to gain valuable insight into the strengths and opportunities within the current Public Health System. Ms. Gonzalez noted that they feel very fortunate to have such strong collaborative partners in the community and are excited to put the plan in to action.

The DCHD Marketing Committee continued to make great strides in strengthening our online presence and improving our reach within the community. The Department's website went through a full refresh in the fall, which resulted in significant improvements to the site's navigation and also moved it to a mobile-friendly format. Through a few targeted grant

Note: These minutes are not official until approved by the Health and Human Services Committee at a subsequent meeting. Please refer to the meeting minutes when these minutes are approved to obtain any changes to these minutes.

opportunities, the Department was able to further enhance their outreach efforts by conducting community campaigns related to family emergency preparedness and tobacco prevention and cessation. The Department also made additional progress in their efforts to improve operational efficiencies this year by implementing a new electronic billing and data management system. Phase I of the project has allowed them to schedule across all of their clinical services by location and run reports by type of visit and by time period. Many of their consent forms are now signed electronically and captured within the system, eliminating the need to make and file paper copies. The system will allow them to add additional functionality in order to utilize it as a full Electronic Health Record (EHR) in Phase II of the project.

Ms. Gonzalez additionally highlighted some annual numbers for 2018 for Animal Control, Health Protection, Community Health & Prevention, Clinical Services, and Health Promotion & Emergency preparedness, as found in the Annual Report. Additionally it was shared that the Household Hazardous Waste collection was held on May 19, 2018, with over 265 vehicles served. An Electronic Waste Collection was held June 2, 2018, with over 436 vehicles served and four semitrailers filled. A second Electronic Waste Collection event held on September 22, 2018, served over 320 residents recycling 61,900 pounds of electronic waste. The Paint Collection event held on July 14, 2018, was a success with 57 residents recycling 469 gallons of latex paint and 156 gallons of oil-based paint. This is a total of 5,700 pounds of paint that residents contributed to the County's recycling effort.

In late 2017, the Community Health Needs Assessment (CHNA) Steering Committee that included representation from both DeKalb County Health Department (DCHD) and Northwestern Medicine Kishwaukee Hospital and Valley West Hospital was established to provide oversight to the development of the DeKalb County Community Health Needs Assessment and Community Health Improvement Plan. The CHNA Steering Committee chose the MAPP (Mobilizing for Action through Planning and Partnership) model which is a community-wide strategic planning process for improving public health. The MAPP tool includes four different assessment and its purpose is to help communities prioritize public health issues, identify resources for addressing them, and take action.

In February 2018, the Steering Committee initiated the Community Themes and Strengths Assessment and collected over 1,000 surveys from both Public Health System Partners and the broader community. In a separate effort, they brought together stakeholders and community leaders for a series of five meetings to conduct the Local Public Health System Assessment and engaged over 50 Public Health System Partners in dialogue around the strengths and opportunities that exists within the current Public Health System.

In March 2018, the Forces of Change Assessment was conducted with the CHNA Steering Committee, the Health Department Senior Leadership Team, the Northwestern Medicine – Kishwaukee Hospital Leadership Team and with the DeKalb County Board of Health. In May 2018, the CHNA Steering Committee reconvened to review the data compiled as part of the Community Health Status Assessment and to participate in a Strategic Prioritization Session to determine the 2017-2022 health priorities which were identified as: **Adolescent Health, Behavioral Health, Chronic Disease, Maternal & Child Health**. In October 2018, the Health Department received confirmation of IPLAN approval and documentation of the continued Local Health Department Certification through September 16, 2022. Moving forward, a community

Note: These minutes are not official until approved by the Health and Human Services Committee at a subsequent meeting. Please refer to the meeting minutes when these minutes are approved to obtain any changes to these minutes.

action plan around each of the identified priorities will be developed, implemented and monitored throughout the project period.

Lastly, Ms. Gonzalez reviewed the Health Department's unaudited financial statement. She shared that they expected a shortfall but it ended up being significantly less than budgeted – expected \$83,000 but ended up closer to \$50,000. This was due to State-level grants coming in mid-year.

Ms. Gonzalez thanked her dedicated staff and shared they would be continuing with their social media presence and outreach to the public. The Committee thanked Ms. Gonzalez and commended her and her Department for all the work they do for the County.

COMMITTEE MEMBER COMMENTS

Porterfield reported on the DeKalb County Rehab & Nursing Center Operating Board Meeting he attended.

ADJOURNMENT

It was moved by Campbell, seconded by Bagby, and it was carried unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 7:53 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Chris Porterfield, Chairman

Tasha Sims, Recording Secretary

Note: These minutes are not official until approved by the Health and Human Services Committee at a subsequent meeting. Please refer to the meeting minutes when these minutes are approved to obtain any changes to these minutes.