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DeKalb County Government
Sycamore, Illinois

**Health & Human Services Committee Minutes
February 1, 2016**

The Health and Human Services Committee of the DeKalb County Board met on Monday, February 1, 2016 at 6:30 p.m. in the Administration Building's Conference Room East. Chairperson Haji-Sheikh called the meeting to order and those Committee Members present were Mr. Askins, Mr. Porterfield, Mr. Reid, Mr. Whelan, and Chairperson Haji-Sheikh. Ms. Little was absent. A quorum was established with five Members present and one absent.

Others present were Gary Hanson, Donna Moulton, Amanda Christensen, and Deanna Cada.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

It was moved by Ms. Askins, seconded by Mr. Whelan and it was carried unanimously to approve the minutes from the January 4, 2016 meeting.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

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

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments made.

CHAIR'S COMMENTS

Chairperson Haji-Sheikh noted that recently the Daily Chronicle has announced that they are going to start reporting on mental health issues on a regular basis to spread awareness and there has recently been other articles published relating to students needing mental health. The Chairperson shared that she was pleased to see that mental health was starting to get more well-needed traction in the media.

She also announced that KishHealth/Northwestern is planning to attend the HHS Committee Meeting next month to follow up and be available for any further questions individuals may have regarding the recent merger at the hospital.

It was also announced that some 360 DeKalb County seniors will have to find a new service provider and 80 employees will be out of a job when Lutheran Social Services of Illinois shuts its office here later this month.

Lastly, Chairman Haji-Sheikh complimented Donna Moulton and her Community Action Department on hosting a very well done strategic planning session.

COMMUNITY ACTION STAFFING

DeKalb County Community Action Director Donna Moulton joined the Committee to bring forward two staffing requests for her department. The first proposition that Ms. Moulton brought to the Committee was for the addition of a Juvenile Justice Coordinator to her Community Action Department. She shared that the DeKalb County Juvenile Justice Council voted to employ a full time coordinator to plan and implement the endeavors of the Council on July 21, 2015.

It was also stressed that this position would be entirely funded by grants through the State of Illinois and other funding through foundations and other local sources and is not dependent in any way on the County's General Fund. If any grant funding is lost and other funding options would not cover the costs of the position, it would be eliminated. Ms. Moulton added that the Community Action Department maintains a mission and feels that this coordinator position would be a great fit and a great addition to their mission.

Lastly, Ms. Moulton described that the proposed Juvenile Justice Council Coordinator position would be retroactive to February 1, 2016 and would be for a total of 40 hours per week, with an hourly wage range of \$17,07 - \$26.64 with full benefits.

It was moved by Ms. Askins, seconded by Mr. Whelan and it was moved unanimously to forward a resolution authorizing this position to the full County Board recommending its approval.

The second request from Ms. Moulton was to approve a classification and hour change for the Family Support Specialists in the Community Action Department. Ms. Moulton shared that her Department is experiencing an increase in both a demand for services due to an increase in the number of DeKalb County residents living in poverty related to the number of Illinois residents living in poverty as well as an increase in Federal Community Services Block Grant funding.

The request for the classification change is reflective of the wider responsibilities of the Family Support Specialists and the additional hours per week are necessary to best meet the needs of citizens serviced by the Department. The increase in the authorized work week hours would be from 37.5 hours to 40 hours, with said changes being effective February 22, 2016. Ms. Moulton stressed again as well that these changes and additional hours are contingent on the award of Federal Funding and that no County General Fund dollars would be utilized for these changes.

It was moved by Ms. Askins, seconded by Mr. Reid and it was moved unanimously to forward a resolution authorizing these classification and hour changes to the full County Board recommending their approval.

REGIONAL OFFICE OF EDUCATION ANNUAL REPORT

Regional Superintendent Amanda Christensen joined the Committee to present her 2014-2015 Annual Report. She noted that her report is standard from the previous years but this is the first year that she has additionally added trend data to her report to help provide a historical overview. For the full Annual Report: http://dekalbcounty.org/ROE/pdf/ann_rpt15.pdf

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Ms. Christensen highlighted that the Regional Office of Education assists teachers seeking an Illinois Professional Educator License including applications, registrations, endorsements, and renewals. The ROE continues to be the resource for local educators who have licensure questions or who need training on the Educator Licensure Information System (ELIS). According to the ELIS statistics report, 1087 educators registered a total of 1348 licenses, 485 new teacher licenses were issued, 73 new endorsements were issued, and 115 new paraprofessional licenses were issued.

The ROE maintains a database of all substitute teachers in DeKalb County. It also maintains the records for substitutes such as their blood-borne pathogens training, mandated reporter acknowledgement, criminal history records information, and proper licensure. All substitute teachers can guest teach in all of the school districts and private schools in DeKalb County. During the 2014-2015 school year, 346 substitute teachers took advantage of this service. The ROE also increased its efforts to recruit substitute teachers. In March, a Substitute Informational Meeting was held in order to encourage individuals with at least a bachelor's degree to pursue substitute teaching. The monthly newsletter has also continued to run advertisements for recruitment.

The Regional Office of Education has a digital fingerprinting system that allows a quick return of criminal background information to the local school districts at a cost of \$60.00 per employee, substitute, or student teacher. The ROE also provides this service to bus drivers, healthcare workers, school volunteers, and county jail volunteers. The office fingerprinted a total of 1,692 people last year. The Office has additionally increased their operating hours to be more accessible for fingerprinting customers.

Ms. Christensen provided that thanks to DeKalb County making available a computer lab, the DeKalb ROE continues to be a PearsonVUE authorized testing center on Tuesdays 9am—4pm. Registrations are done online through the testing company or PearsonVUE. In FY15, 396 different candidates tested on a total of 530 tests. There were 53 actual testing days, averaging 10 candidates per day. The Constitution Test was first made available in January 2015. The ROE continues to offer the ETS Paraprofessional Assessment. These appointments are made by calling the office; 4 spots per testing day are reserved for paraprofessional candidates and/or Constitution tests. See charts to the right for the number of tests administered. During 2014-15, 38 GED certificates and 92 GED transcripts were issued. Paper applications ceased in January 2014 to make way for the new online registration process and computer-based test. There was a spike in 2013-14 (210 certificates/transcripts issued) as candidates hurried to finish the battery of tests before the test format changed. In 2014-15 the number returned to a more typical 130.

During the 2014-2015 school year, 349 homeless students were identified in DeKalb County. As for truancy, Total student enrollment in public schools was 16,873. Since all referrals came from the public schools, 2.9% of all DeKalb County students were referred to DeKalb County Truancy Intervention Program (DCTIP). Out of the 492 referred, 26% were Black or African American, 22.5% were Hispanic or Latino, and 47% were White. Males constituted 57.5% and females were 42.5%. The grade from which the greatest number of referrals came was 10th, followed by 7th, followed by 1st. Ms. Christensen lastly touched on some enrollment and financial figures.

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The Committee thanked her for presenting her Annual Report and noted that they look forward to hearing from her again shortly.

COMMUNITY MENTAL HEALTH BOARD UPDATE

DeKalb County Community Mental Health Director Deanna Cada joined the Committee to provide a brief update on what was happening with the Community Mental Health Board. She was additionally happy to announce that Mental Health is being talked about in many different arenas right now which is wonderful.

Ms. Cada shared that there was a Mental Health Summit done in December and the main goal was to identify gaps that we have for Mental Health. Some of those gaps identified was the need for psychiatry, intensive outpatient services, the lack of triage and crisis centers, and short-term crisis intervention beds. She is additionally having conversation with KishHealth and working to pilot a program that would provide an open access for short-term Mental Health issue.

There are still ongoing discussions regarding the 211 Program. The Mental Health Board is additionally looking at supervised housing and is working with KishHealth and The Association for Individual Development out of Aurora to see how to make that happen within the DeKalb County Community.

The Committee and Ms. Cada additionally discussed the ongoing State Budget impasse issues that are facing most if not all Social Service Agencies throughout DeKalb County. The Mental Health Board is helping monetarily with some agencies but Ms. Cada noted that they will not be able to continue to do so far much longer.

The group talked about the transitioning that Ben Gordon is going through since taken over by KishHealth and the improved communication and transparency that the Mental Health Board has experienced since the transition as well. Ben Gordon along with other surrounding agencies are at and above capacity right now and there isn't much to help that right now.

Lastly Ms. Cada noted that the Mental Health Board on the 25th approved to fund an Affordable Care Act Navigator (1 part-time position) at the Health Department. This is the first time they are entering into a partnership with Public Health. The Committee thanked Ms. Cada for her informative update and look forward to hearing her Annual Report next month.

ADJOURNMENT

It was moved by Ms. Askins, seconded by Mr. Whelan, and it was carried unanimously to adjourn the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,


Misty Haji-Shoikh, Chairperson


Tasha Sims, Recording Secretary

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