

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
March 7, 2016**

The Health and Human Services Committee of the DeKalb County Board met on Monday, March 7, 2016 at 6:30 p.m. in the Community Outreach Building's Conference Room West. Chairperson Haji-Sheikh called the meeting to order and those Committee Members present were Ms. Little, Mr. Porterfield, Mr. Reid, Mr. Whelan, and Chairperson Haji-Sheikh. Ms. Askins was absent. A quorum was established with five Members present and one absent.

Others present were Donna Moulton, Deanna Cada, Chuck Rose, Joseph Dant, Michael Kokott, Barry Schrader, and a group of about 12 other citizens.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

It was moved by Mr. Porterfield, seconded by Ms. Little and it was carried unanimously to approve the minutes from the February 1, 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 shared a couple recent newspapers articles with the Committee as well as read aloud a letter from the DeKalb County Veteran's Assistance Commission that outlined what an excellent job they are doing and proudly announced that last year was the third year in a row where the Retroactive Pay was over \$1 million.

FOLLOW-UP DISCUSSION WITH NORTHWESTERN MEDICINE (KishHealth)

Chairperson Haji-Sheikh introduced guest speakers Joseph Dant, Vice President, Business and Development, KishHealth Systems and Michael Kokott, Assistant Vice President, Marketing and Planning, KishHealth Systems. The Chair shared that she had invited both gentleman to come speak to the Committee and public regarding any community updates they had regarding the KishHealth / Northwestern Medicine merger at the hospital and also answer any additional questions that individuals may have.

Mr. Dant and Mr. Kokott thanked that Committee for allowing them the opportunity to come speak and provide an update. Mr. Dant shared that most of the work being done in 2016 will be related to integration work. The first phase of integration with Northwestern Medicine is around 26-27 areas that they call Corporate or Business Functions (non-clinical functions). Some of these may include: marketing, human resources, planning, maintenance, accounting and billing, and other areas that really provide the infrastructure necessary to do the clinical work. There are many department leaders that are helping with this first phase of work and they have additionally met a lot of the counterparts at Northwestern. KishHealth is currently being asked to define their current state (how they currently provide work in those certain type of areas), Northwestern at the same time is defining how they provide those same functions, and then together they are working together to outline a future state. Right now the goal for identifying their future state is May.

A very large provide that has begun kickoff is the conversion of electronic medical records. This project will be a major work effort on behalf of the hospital as well as on behalf of Northwestern. At different times in the Summer and the Fall it is anticipated that there will be as many as 50 people on the Kish Campus helping with the conversion process. The actual conversion over to the electronic records system is expected to be completed by March of 2017.

Mr. Dant additionally shared that they have started some work in the clinical areas. He also touched on having in place clinical affiliations with other larger health facilities such as Loyola and evaluating whether it would be beneficial to keep with Loyola or open the possibilities to have other affiliations with other larger hospitals. The only way that something like that would happen though is if the other hospitals would be able to match what Loyola does as well as provide additional incentives as well.

The group also discussed Ben Gordon joining KishHealth Systems prior to merging with Northwestern in order to keep those outpatient behavioral health needs local and reiterated why the inpatient wing was closed at the hospital. Mr. Dant noted that if you don't have the volume or support to provide a certain service to be great at it, then in their minds they shouldn't provide that services because you just can't take the risk of entering into a situation that you may be unfamiliar or uncomfortable with and unable to provide the best quality services that the patient deserves.

The Hospital Team is also working on identifying additional services that may be needed within the Community that is not currently being provided here. The group also discussed the exploration of providing Proton Center services within the area. It was also touched on why the Board of Directors chose to merge with Northwestern and why they thought they were the best players to integrate with.

Chairperson Haji-Sheikh noted that she was told that the Community has only two psychiatrists that take Medicaid and they are currently booked and other Counties have been calling here trying to get their clients here to be seen as well and it seems to be an injustice that there are only two psychiatrists that accept Medicaid. Mr. Kokott indicated that is miss-information and that all psychiatrists that work with KishHealth as an employee or that are under a service agreement

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accept Medicaid as one of their insurers. Psychiatric Services has been identified as one of the most compelling and urgent need within the Community. The Hospital is currently working on bringing in more providers to the area that can fulfil the need for psychiatric services. They are also working with Ben Gordon to help increase providers there after many were lost.

The ongoing dialog with the hospital and governing bodies are providing Community Needs Assessments in order to identify what are the needs of the community and how the hospital is reacting to those needs. Mr. Dant noted that adding programs and expanding programs within the Community is always a win for them. They hospital in time will also be working on providing a list of provided services and will be working towards increasing their price transparency.

Chairperson Haji-Sheikh opened the floor to questions from the public in the attendance. One individual expressed her concern with the idea of KishHealth Doctors being replaced with Northwestern Doctors and Mr. Dant noted that he did not see something like that happening at all. Other hospital that they have visited that have merged with Northwestern are still using their staff as well and they have not been forced to change. Northwestern has stated that if something is working for the hospital they have no intentions on coming in and changing it. An augment that is hoped for is that if there is a lack of coverage or lack of depth, then that service can be added to because Northwestern does attract great talent from around the world with both current doctors as well as with students.

Mr. Barry Schrader noted that he had heard of the possibility of adding crisis intervention beds to Ben Gordon and questioned how they would differ from inpatient and psychiatric beds. Mr. Kokott noted that is an interested program that they are taking a look at and noted that there will not necessarily be beds but will provide an area for someone to go that is in need of immediate psychiatric care. A medical check from a nurse would be administered to determine that someone is healthy enough to be outside of an emergency department. Mr. Kokott shared that Rosecrans in Rockford has a similar program and they have identified that 60% of patients that were admitted went home within 23 hours. They think that crisis intervention is a worthwhile program to explore as well as substance abuse beds and they will continue to do so.

The public and group also discussed the issue of suicidal patients and the type of help that is in place for them or how they are transported to facilities that can provide the needed support they need as well as being sure that the Community Needs Assessments surveys are being adequately administered and that the right questions are being asked. Community Mental Health Director Deanna Cada spent a short time discussing data that is currently being collected and gaps that are being identified through her Mental Health Summit initiative. Other individuals discussed student health services that are provided for Northern Illinois University attendees and if student insurance covers all of the hospitals access points. Lastly, the group talked about the inpatient mental health wing at the hospital once more and it was determined that at this time there is still no talk about reopening that wing.

The Committee thanked Mr. Dant and Mr. Kokott for taking their time to come and speak to them and for answering their questions.

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MENTAL HEALTH BOARD ANNUAL REPORT

Mental Health Board Executive Director Deanna Cada and Board President Charles Rose joined the Committee to provide their annual report. Ms. Cada reminded everyone that the Mental Health Board is a funding body and they, by statute, set forth what their duties are and those are to fund mental health, substance abuse, and developmental disabilities services for the residents of DeKalb County. A portion of taxpayer dollars are granted to them in order to do that. Every year the most important item that the board handles is to determine how to allocate their about \$2 million levy dollars. From grant year 2016, the Mental Health Board funded 47 programs and 16 different agencies in the amount of \$2,888,000. Also, 91% of the dollars that the Mental Health Board receives through their levy is utilized for program funding, for capital projects, and for community projects.

Ms. Cada also shared that in 2015 there were a number of changes for the Mental Health Board. Ms. Cada started in January 2015 with 6 out of 9 Board Members recently appointed in late 2014. One of the big issues that the Board worked on was the crisis response to the April 9, 2015 Fairdale Tornado. They made a commitment to fund mental health services for victims of the tornado to manage the difficult emotions and trauma that occur as part of a natural disaster. The Board hosted a Crisis Intervention Training for local providers and has committed to the long term recovery of Fairdale by participating as member of the DeKalb County Long Term Recovery Corporation, and the Spiritual/Emotional Subcommittee of the LTRC.

In May of 2015 the Mental Health Board worked with Chairman Pietrowski to introduce a resolution supporting the Stepping-Up Initiative. This is a national initiative to reduce the number of people with mental illness in jails.

In September 2015 the Mental Health Board hosted the first meeting of the Mental Health Coordinating Council. The Mental Health Coordinating Council came out of a planning group that included: the Honorable Judge Robbin Stuckert, 23rd Circuit, Michael Douglas, Director, DeKalb County Drug Court, Eileen Dubin, Retired, Former County Board & Former 708 Board Member, Jack King, NIU, Internship Coordinator, College of Liberal Arts & Sciences and Deanna Cada, Executive Director, DeKalb County Community Mental Health Board. That initial meeting lead to a full Mental Health Summit held on December 2, 2015 with over 68 stakeholders in attendance. The purpose of the Summit was to examine the Sequential Intercept Model, identify successful programs working in other communities, conduct sequential intercept mapping to identify resources and gaps at each intercept for DeKalb County and action planning to develop a list of priority responses.

The State Budget has had a huge impact on mental health and social services. Ms. Cada shared that the Mental Health Board cannot solve all the problems that the State Budget has caused. She also shared that DeKalb County used to be one of the recipients of an annual \$300,000 Psychiatric Leadership Grant that was used to help offset some of the costs associated with Medicaid and it has now been determined that those dollars and that grant are completely gone and are never coming back. So DeKalb County has lost \$300,000 in psychiatric funding County-wide. Now the Mental Health Board is looking at where they fit in to ensure those basic services are still going to be met.

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The Mental Health Board is really interested in looking at the performance measurements for the organizations that they fund. They all have missions and say that they are doing things to impact the Community but the Board wants to ensure that those things are really happening. So they are looking to partner with NIU and to have them work with the agencies and teach them how they are able to show their outcome and performance measurements.

The Community Mental Health Board now has a new mission statement they have developed: "Through leadership and funding, the DeKalb County Community Mental health Board supports access to high quality behavioral healthcare services for DeKalb County residents." They have also reviewed their one and three year plans.

For the 2016 grant year they have a little over \$2 million that they are able to allocate but they have over \$710,000 over that \$2 million dollar amount in requests. The Mental Health Board has a very hard road ahead of them to determine how best to utilize those dollars. Seven new organizations came to the Board for funding and that is because of the State Budget and they have nowhere else to go.

Ms. Cada ending that they look forward in 2016 to continue the work with the Mental Health Coordinating Council, continuing the work with performance measurements and outcomes, and really having a great partnership with their providers to make sure that they are having those continuum of services and have the most care within the Community as possible and is high quality care.

The DeKalb County Community Mental Health Board's full Annual Report can be found at: <http://dekalbcounty.org/MentalHealth/pdfs/AnRpt2015.pdf>

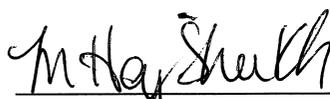
NEW BUSINESS

Chairperson Haji-Sheikh reminded the Committee that next month's meeting starts their two-meeting Senior Services Tax Levy sessions. They will be held April 4th and 11th and will begin at 5:30 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

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

Respectfully submitted,



Misty Haji-Sheikh, Chairperson



Tasha Sims, Recording Secretary

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