

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 and Human Services Committee Minutes
May 5, 2014**

The Health and Human Services Committee of the DeKalb County Board met on Monday, May 5, 2014 at 6:30 p.m. in the Administration Building's Conference Room East. Chairman DeFauw called the meeting to order. Those Members present were Mr. Emerson, Mr. Johnson, Mr. Metzger, Mr. Tyson and Mr. Whelan. All Committee members were present.

Others present were Gary Hanson, Cathy Anderson, Misty Haji-Sheikh, and Samora Covington

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

It was moved by Mr. Whelan, seconded by Mr. Emerson, and it was carried unanimously to approve the minutes from April 7 & April 14, 2014.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

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

SAFE PASSAGE

Samora Covington a Sexual Assault Therapist and Community Educator at Safe Passage came and spoke to the Committee about what Safe Passage provides for the community and programs they offer. Ms. Covington explained that Safe Passage is DeKalb County's domestic violence and rape counsel center. She continued to explain that there are three departments within Safe Passage that they tend to such as domestic violence, sexual assault, and services for perpetrators. An outline was given of all the programs and services they provide some of those include: a 24/7 hotline for anyone in need or professionals who may need support or have any questions involving domestic violence and sexual assault, they provide a domestic violence shelter for women and children (boys 12 and under), and long-term housing for domestic violence survivors. There are many free of charge group programs for domestic violence, substance abuse, parenting, as well as individual counseling to help with victim empowerment and safety planning. They also provide group, individual and family therapy for survivors of sexual assault, which is where Ms. Covington mentioned she worked with. Safe Passage also provides legal advocacy services and medical advocacy services to help and support victims through hardships.

Community Education Services is another important role that Safe Passage provides. They educate everyone from pre-k to adult and trainings for allied professions. Ms. Covington explained that a big push right now is educating school age children about Erin's Law Education. Erin's law is to get age-appropriate education in all 50 states on the prevention of sexual abuse by empowering children with their voice instead of allowing sex offenders to silence them.

Ms. Covington reiterated that the biggest push and goal Safe Passage is focusing on this year is educating the community and children about sexual assault and domestic violence and speaking up about situations.

Mr. Metzger asked how big of an abuse problem DeKalb County has. Ms. Covington answered that it is bigger than one would think. There were no local statics available but she mentioned that the national average is 1 in 4 girls will be abused before they are 18. Mr. Metzger added that Ms. Covington had a very difficult job. She commented that sometimes it is but she is very passionate about the awareness raising and educating.

The Committee and Ms. Covington continued to discuss the shelter, types of abuse, and keeping their location anonymous.

Mr. Hanson asked as an organizations, what are some of the biggest challenges and needs they are facing. Ms. Covington shared that raising awareness is always their biggest needs and biggest pushes for Safe Passage and funding is always a need, they are largely supported by grants, so it is always important for them to keep track of numbers so that they can continue to be awarded grants so they can offer the resources and programs to the community.

Mr. Tyson announced that he has noticed that there are many more women beating up on guys these days. Ms. Covington shared that there are more women than ever in abuser programs and there is no age limits or relationship types that are exempt, abuse happens to everyone.

The Committee thanked Ms. Covington for come to speak with them and informing them about such important programs and outreach for the community.

REHAB & NURSING CENTER – CATHY ANDERSON

Cathy Anderson, Administrator of the DeKalb County Rehab & Nursing Center updated the Committee on her facility. She indicated that they are operating at about 90% occupancy and that they have had a decline in long-term care but an increase in short-term care, which is an indication that citizens are using all the resources to help stay out of nursing homes for as long as possible. A huge challenge that they have faced is a very large increase in Alzheimer's patients and the challenge the nursing staff faces when there are younger (60 year old) patients who are still very strong and have Alzheimer's, which makes caring for them significantly more difficult.

The Committee then took some time and discussed insurances and how they pertain to be able to be accepted in the Nursing Center and other possible Support Living Facilities. Ms. Anderson also shared that their Medicare average daily census went up from 18 – 23.6.

The Rehab & Nursing Center is doing a lot with corporate compliance and undergoing many inspections and audits and trying to reproof fraudulently acquired Medicare money. That has kept administration at the Nursing Center very active, making sure they are in compliance that that everything is in order.

Ms. Anderson shared that last year they did 198 admissions and 133 discharges. She also indicated that they are doing okay with staffing and the work of a nurse is just getting harder and harder, especially with pill distribution.

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DCRNC OPERATING BOARD & SUPPORTIVE LIVING FACILITY BOARD BY-LAWS

Mr. Hanson explained that this item came about as a byproduct after updating the County Board Appointment Database and noticed that both these boards had just one year terms. So it was thought best to change each board to have two year staggered terms. Mr. Hanson that the goal was to only change the staggered terms along with the terms, there are additional changes for cleaning up text in the By-Laws. He also explained that both the DCRNC Operating Board and the Supportive Living Facility Board have approved these changes at both their board meetings as well.

It was moved by Mr. Metzger, seconded by Mr. Tyson and it was moved unanimously by voice vote to forward two resolutions to the Full County Board for approval to make the appropriate changes to the DCRNC Operating Board & Support Living Facility Board By-Laws.

ADJOURNMENT

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

Respectfully submitted,

Sally DeFauw, Chairman

Tasha Stogsdill, Recording Secretary

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