

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
September 8, 2014**

The Health and Human Services Committee of the DeKalb County Board met on Monday, September 8, 2014 at 6:30 p.m. in the Administration Building's Conference Room East. Chairman DeFauw called the meeting to order. Those present were Mr. Emerson, Mr. Johnson, Mr. Metzger, Ms. Polanco, and Mr. Whelan. All Members were present.

Others present were Donna Moulton, Bob Shipman, Brandon Pettigrew, Yvette Sellers, and Elizabeth Koselka.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

It was moved by Mr. Johnson, seconded by Mr. Whelan, and it was carried unanimously to approve the minutes from August 4, 2014.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

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

OPPORTUNITY HOUSE REPORT

Bob Shipman, Executive Director of the Opportunity House provided the Committee with an update of what the Opportunity House has been doing and any upcoming challenges they may be facing in the future. Mr. Shipman started with sharing that the Opportunity House was currently wrapping up the building of a new group home located on Center Cross Street in Sycamore. The home will have eight beds total with six of them being accessible. He shared that the home was a needed addition due to them seeing an increased need for accessibility in their group homes. Also, while they are waiting the completion of the new Center Cross home, he explained they will soon be opening another small CILA group home located behind the Developmental Training Program building in Sycamore. The Sacramento Street property will allow them to downsize some of their larger group homes and will be home for up to three individuals.

Mr. Shipman also shared that through strategic planning they currently downsized their Board of Directors to fifteen members in order to be more engaged and be able to meet on a monthly basis as opposed to a twenty-four member board that used to meet quarterly. Mr. Shipman reiterated that he felt this new board structure will provide a more activity and engagement to the organization.

Mr. Shipman also shared that some of the challenges the Opportunity House faces as an organization is limited and decreased funding for the services they provide. Opportunity House is

a non-profit organization that relies on both public and private funding to maintain the high quality of services. Public funding and funding from the state covers less than 70% of the costs of delivering these services. Without local and private funding we would be unable to maintain these services. He also explained that reductions in state funding over the years have made the financial support of the community even more important. Fundraisers, along with generous donations from citizen, have played a key role in supporting the organization. The funding sources that Opportunity House is run on are from Illinois Department of Human Services, DeKalb County Community Mental Health Board, United Way, DeKalb County Senior Grant, Contract income and third party payments, and Private donations.

He also shared that they have been continuing their partnership with Kishwaukee Committee College to help provide education and work opportunities. He also spent some time sharing information with about OH Industries and the different employment opportunities they help their clients obtain and sustain, even in this tough economy.

Mr. Metzger asked how many clients they have and Mr. Shipman indicated that Opportunity House serves over 275 individuals with disabilities each year in a variety of ways and there are currently around 67 in 24 hour residential care and another 120-130 that utilize their day programs.

Mrs. Moulton shared that the Committee was provided a summary of her site visit to the Opportunity House as a follow up to the Senior Tax Levy Allocations. Mr. Shipman shared with the Committee they very much appreciate the Senior Tax Levy money and it goes a long way for them to continue to provide services for their senior clients.

The Committee thanked Mr. Shipman for his report and commented on what a great program the Opportunity House is for the DeKalb County Community.

NORTHERN ILLINOIS FOOD BANK PRESENTATION

Four Staff Members from the Northern Illinois Food Bank joined the Committee to discuss what the Food Bank does for the community, as well as provide some statistics regarding food insecurities and poverty within the County, and bring awareness to Hunger Action Month.

Brandon Pettigew, Communications Specialist at the Northern Illinois Food Bank started by sharing the Food Bank has 800 feeding programs connected to them through partnerships, including more than 25 programs located in DeKalb County. They serve a 13 county area which include: Stephenson, Winnebago, Boone, McHenry, Lake, Ogle, DeKalb, Kane, DuPage, Kendall, Will, Grundy, and Kankakee.

Brandon continued to share that the reason they asked to join the Committee was to help bring light to their recent 2014 Hunger Study. The Hunger Study is conducted by their parent organization, Feeding America, and is completed every four years, surveying the food pantries and feeding programs in the Northern Illinois Food Bank network and the people who seek food assistance from them. He shared that although the economy may be improving a bit the number of hungry neighbors coming to local food pantries are not decreasing and are in fact increasing. The reason for this being is that 77% of the individuals utilizing the food pantries are employed but are not making a large enough salary to make ends meet for their families. He also shared

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another alarming statistic they found was that 62% of households are having to choose between paying for food and paying for medicine at least once in the past 12 months.

The information provided in the 2014 Hunger Study is going to be utilized to help redirect the Northern Illinois Food Bank's strategic plan. Brandon explained that their strategic plan is to provide every meal, every day, for every hungry neighbor by 2020. He shared that while in FY14 Northern Illinois Food Bank provided the equivalent of 50 million meals to our hungry neighbors, the sad fact is it's not nearly enough. According to Feeding America's Map the Meal Gap study, each year our hungry neighbors are at risk of skipping 70 million meals, simply because they don't have enough food for three meals per day. Their committed to filling this meal gap and recently announced a strategic plan with a goal of bringing the number of meals distributed by Northern Illinois Food Bank and its network to 75 million annually by the year 2020, and thus providing every meal, every day, for every hungry neighbor. He also added there are trying to mend that meal gap by working with their network partners and also working with local farmers to help provide fresh produce.

Next Yvette, the Network Partner Specialist at Northern Illinois Food Bank helped describe her role in the industry to the Committee. She shared that she is the liaison between the agencies and the food banks so any questions or delivery complications would be directed through her. She serves 4 Counties (DeKalb, Ogle, Stephenson, and Winnebago) and within that she serves 110 agencies. A unique aspect of her job she shared was that not one day is the same and she does multiple tasks such as distributing foods to the food banks and monitoring them to make sure they are keeping compliant with food bank regulations. She also touched on helping provide grants to local food banks to help assist hungry neighbors.

Next to speak was Jessica who explained she is a Capacity Building Consultant AmeriCorp Vista with the Northern Illinois Food Bank. She also explained she is working with the same 4 Counties that Yvette is and she is helping them be able to food more hungry neighbors and she does that in a variety of different ways. Jessica explained she works with the whole team at Northern Illinois Food Banks and helps find different resources and different ways that the Food Bank can do to aid the various pantries they network with. A Vista stands for Volunteers in Service to America and is similar to an American Peace Corp. A year of service is dedicated to the program and the individuals have to live at the poverty level and are working 365 days a year and are not allowed to have any secondary or outside income provided to them.

Last to speak on behalf of the Northern Illinois Food Bank was Elizabeth Koselka who works as Child Nutrition Specialist. She explained in her position she started to work with a school based pantry (Barb Food Mart located in DeKalb's Huntley Middle School) and has also worked with the Huskies Food Pantry at Northern Illinois University. Liz also shared that she has been so impressed with the passion and commitment to help one another she sees every day from the DeKalb County Community. She also touched more on Barb Food Mart and also how the Huskies Food Pantry was created.

The Committee thanked the individuals who joined them from the Northern Illinois Food Bank for all the information and statistics they provided and the initiatives they are taking to solve hunger all throughout the region.

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The Committee briefly spoke with Donna Moulton, Executive Director of Community Actions regarding her having an official performance review next month. She also updated the Community on what she has been working on in her department.

ADJOURNMENT

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

Respectfully submitted,

Sally DeFauw, Chairman

Tasha Stogsdill, Recording Secretary



Hunger Study 2014

The Hunger in America 2014 study, conducted by Feeding America, is completed every four years, surveying the food pantries and feeding programs in the Northern Illinois Food Bank network and the people who seek food assistance from them.

How many people are served by Northern Illinois Food Bank?

- 590,400 people are served annually
- 71,500 people are served weekly

Here is a snapshot of who Northern Illinois Food Bank serves:

ETHNICITY

- 40% identify as white
- 33% identify as Hispanic or Latino
- 17% identify as black or African American

AGE

- 36% are children under age 18
- 15% are adults age 18-29
- 26% are adults from age 30-49
- 13% are adults age 50-59
- 9% are seniors age 60 and older

POVERTY

- 66% of households have incomes that fall at or below the federal poverty level
- 45% of households have annual incomes of \$10,000 or less
- 28% have annual incomes of \$10,001 to \$20,000
- 13% have annual incomes higher than \$30,000

HEALTH

- 57% of households have unpaid medical bills
- 53% of households report at least one member with high blood pressure
- 26% of households report at least one member with diabetes

EMPLOYMENT

- 77% of households have a member that has worked for pay in the last 12 months
- 23% of households did not have employment in the past 12 months, but these households include those with members who are retired, disabled, in poor health or caretakers

SPENDING TRADE-OFFS

- 77% of households reported they had to choose between paying for food and utilities in the past 12 months
- 69% of households chose between paying for food and transportation in the past 12 months.
- 62% of households chose between paying for food and paying for medicine at least once in the past 12 months
- 62% of households chose between paying for food and paying for housing at least once in the past 12 months

HOUSING

- 96% of people who use the Food Bank's services live in non-temporary housing, such as a house or apartment. Of those:
 - 63% rent or lease
 - 21% own their own home with a mortgage
- 23% of respondents have lived in at least two places in the past 12 months
- 20% of respondents have experienced foreclosure or eviction in the past five years

EDUCATION

- 78% of people who use the Food Bank's services have a high school diploma or general equivalency diploma
- 30% of people who use the Food Bank's services completed some college, earned a business, trade or technical degree or completed a four-year college degree or higher level of education

SNAP PARTICIPATION

- 53% of households currently receive benefits through the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP, formerly the Food Stamp Program)
- 54% of households receiving SNAP benefits say they exhaust their monthly benefits in two weeks or less

ADDITIONAL DATA

- 19% of respondents are grandparents who have responsibility for grandchildren who live with them
- 16% of households have at least one member that has served in the U.S. military

Feeding Our Hungry Neighbors

WWW.SOLVEHUNGERTODAY.ORG



DeKalb County Statistics

**A family of four with a household income of more than \$41,000 would be ineligible for any public benefits.

Poverty – U.S. Census Bureau

- 16,599 or 17.0% of residents are living in poverty
- 3,609 or 16.1% of children are living in poverty

Unemployment (March 2014) – Illinois Department of Employment Security

- 4,611 or 7.8% residents are currently unemployed

SNAP Monthly Participation by Individuals - Illinois Department of Human Services

2011: 9,255 2012: 10,278 2013: 11,975 2014: 12,715

Food Insecurity – USDA and Feeding America

- 14,610 or 13.9% of residents are facing food insecurity
 - Nearly 5,114 are ineligible for public benefits
- 4,630 or 20% of children are facing food insecurity
 - Nearly 1,621 of these children are not eligible for free/reduced price lunch because their family income is too high

Free/Reduced Price Lunch Eligibility – Illinois State Board of Education

- 6,320 are eligible to receive free or reduced price lunch with the National School Lunch Program

Self-Sufficiency Standard – Heartland Alliance Social Impact Research Center

- As of 2009, an adult with one preschooler and one school-age child needs to earn **\$22.25 per hour** to make ends meet. Out of the 108 places in the state for which the Standard is calculated, 12 have a higher Self-Sufficiency Wage

Housing – National Low Income Housing Coalition

- Fair Market Rent (FMR) on a two bedroom apartment in DeKalb County: \$839
- The mean renter in DeKalb County earns \$9.34/hr and can afford a 2BR rent at \$486
- In order to afford the FMR on a two bedroom, a mean renter would need to make \$16.13/hr
- An average renter would need to work 69 hours per week to afford FMR on a two bedroom

DeKalb County Food Partners

Barb City Manor (DeKalb)	New Hope Missionary Baptist Food Pantry (DeKalb)
Bethesda Lutheran Communities (Sycamore)	Opportunity House (7 locations in DeKalb & Sycamore)
Bethlehem Feed My Sheep (DeKalb)	Our Sharing Food Pantry (Somonauk)
Camelot School (DeKalb)	Safe Passage Inc (DeKalb)
Children's Learning Center (DeKalb)	Salem Lutheran Church (Sycamore)
Clinton Rosette Middle School (DeKalb)	Salvation Army DeKalb Area Food Pantry (DeKalb)
Cornerstone Church (Sandwich)	Shabbona Elementary School (Shabbona)
Cortland Elementary (Cortland)	St. Vincent dePaul (DeKalb)
Founders Elementary (DeKalb)	Sycamore UMC Food Pantry (Sycamore)
Hinckley Area Food Pantry (Hinckley)	The Growing Place (DeKalb)
Hope Haven (DeKalb)	The Store Harvest Chapel (Sandwich)
Huntley Middle School (DeKalb)	Tyler Elementary (DeKalb)
Indian Creek Middle School (Shabbona)	Waterman Elementary School (Shabbona)
Jefferson Elementary (DeKalb)	West Elementary (Sycamore)
Kirkland Food Pantry (Kirkland)	
Lincoln Elementary (DeKalb)	
Littlejohn Elementary (DeKalb)	
N.I.C.E. (Lee)	

Northern Illinois Food Bank distributed 1,771,093 pounds of food in DeKalb County in FY14, providing 1,475,911 meals.