

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
November 2, 2020**

The Health and Human Services Committee of the DeKalb County Board met virtually via Zoom on Monday, November 2, 2020 at 6:30 p.m. Chairman Porterfield called the meeting to order. Those Members virtually present were Mr. Scott Campbell, Ms. Rukisha Crawford, Mrs. Karen Cribben, Ms. Kiara Jones, Ms. Maureen Little, Mr. Larry West, and Chairman Chris Porterfield. A quorum was established with all seven Members present.

Others present were Gary Hanson, Deanna Cada, Gretchen Sprinkle, and Kathy Lampkins.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Ms. Crawford moved to approve the agenda as presented. Mrs. Cribben seconded the motion. Those Members voting yea were Mr. Campbell, Ms. Crawford, Mrs. Cribben, Ms. Jones, Ms. Little, Mr. West, and Chairman Porterfield. The motion carried unanimously by roll call vote.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

Ms. Little moved to approve the minutes of the October 5, 2020 Committee Meeting. Mr. Campbell seconded the motion. Those Members voting yea were Mr. Campbell, Ms. Crawford, Mrs. Cribben, Ms. Jones, Ms. Little, Mr. West, and Chairman Porterfield. The motion carried unanimously by roll call vote.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mr. West wanted to ask the Health Department a few questions and they hopefully get back to the Committee with the answers. He asked the following:

“I want to know the difference between when we test for COVID and we test for flu what is the difference? What is the different process we are using? (We) being Test Sites.”

“Why are we basing our test results on positive tests verses the number of people tested, when every other disease or virus is tested based on population?”

ALICE (Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed) REPORT

Kishwaukee United Way Executive Director Gretchen Sprinkle joined the Committee via Zoom to provide the Committee with an updated ALICE Report.

ALICE is an acronym that stands for Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed — households with income above the Federal Poverty Level but below the basic cost of living. A household consists of all the people who occupy a housing unit.

From 2010 to 2018, Illinois showed steady economic improvements according to traditional measures. Unemployment in the state and across the U.S. fell to historic lows, GDP grew, and wages rose slightly. In DeKalb County, 36% of households still struggled to make ends meet.

And while 16% of these households were living below the Federal Poverty Level (FPL), another 26% — almost twice as many — are ALICE households.

The release of this ALICE Report for Illinois comes during an unprecedented crisis — the COVID-19 pandemic. While our world changed significantly in March 2020 with the impact of this global, dual health and economic crisis, ALICE remains central to the story in every U.S. county and state. The pandemic has exposed exactly the issues of economic fragility and widespread hardship that United For ALICE and the ALICE data work to reveal. That exposure makes the ALICE data and analysis more important than ever. By showing how many Illinois households were struggling in 2018, the ALICE Research provides the backstory for why the COVID-19 crisis is having such a devastating economic impact. The ALICE data is especially important now to help stakeholders identify the most vulnerable in their communities, and direct programming and resources to assist them throughout the pandemic and the recovery that follows. And as Illinois moves forward, this data can be used to estimate the impact of the crisis over time, providing an important baseline for changes to come.

It was asked if the ALICE population qualify for County Services? Ms. Cada answered that unfortunately, in most cases, this population makes just over the amount that would qualify them for many services but it is something that the Mental Health Board is looking into as well.

The Full ALICE Report can be viewed at: https://dekalbcounty.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/packet-hhs-11022020-ALICE_FULL.pdf

The Updated Report can be viewed at: https://dekalbcounty.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/packet-hhs-11022020-ALICE_UPDATE.pdf

The Committee thanked Ms. Sprinkle for attending their meeting and sharing this information with them. They thought this would be an important topic to bring to the entire County Board at a future Committee of the Whole Meeting.

SENIOR SERVICE TAX LEVY UPDATE

DeKalb County Community Mental Health Board Director Deanna Cada shared that the agencies that receive funds from the County through the Senior Services Tax Levy have all been able to continue operating through the COVID pandemic. They have also been really good at keeping Ms. Cada up to date on any changes or adaptations they have had to do to stay open. Ms. Cada shared a letter with the Committee from Opportunity House:

“We greatly appreciate the grant we receive to support seniors in our Developmental Training Services (DT). COVID stopped our ability to provide in person DT Services between mid-March and September 1, 2020.

In April we reassigned our Developmental Training staff to assist clients in our 9 group homes and schedule some staff hours to offer virtual activities using Zoom. On September 1st, we were able to offer a limited reopening of our Development Training program, which allowed 8 of our seniors to return during that month (along with other clients). We closed again on September 28th after having a COVID positive incident occur outside of the day program. Again, redeploying staff to group homes for staff coverage. We are planning to resume a limited offering of DT

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services on October 19th. We hope to increase the number of attendees during the upcoming weeks if it is safe to do so. We are using a cohort service model that schedules staff and clients by groups into separate classrooms and attendance days.”

The Committee agreed that this was a great adaption to the environment right now. Chairman Porterfield added and the Committee agreed that they had no problems with any reasonable adjustments to the way the agencies are utilizing their funding right now.

Ms. Cada lastly updated the Committee on COVID-19 relief funding and the adjustments that Voluntary Action Center’s transportation is going through on January 1st. She added that she would keep the Committee updated on both items.

ADJOURNMENT

Ms. Crawford moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:09 p.m. Mr. Campbell seconded the motion. Those Members voting yea were Mr. Campbell, Ms. Crawford, Mrs. Cribben, Ms. Jones, Ms. Little, Mr. West, and Chairman Porterfield. The motion carried unanimously by roll call vote.

Respectfully submitted,

Chris Porterfield, Chairman

Tasha Sims, Recording Secretary