

Note: These minutes are not official until approved by the Health & 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
February 6, 2023**

The Health & Human Services Committee of the DeKalb County Board met on Monday, February 6, 2023, in the Legislative Center’s Gathertorium in Sycamore, Illinois. Chair, Rukisha Crawford called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. Those members present were Meryl Domina, Michelle Pickett, Chris Porterfield, Amber Quitno, and Chair, Rukisha Crawford. Savannah Ilenikhena was absent at the time of the roll call and arrived at 6:36 p.m. A quorum was established with five members present and two absent. Others present included, Deanna Cada, Brian Gregory, and Ellingsworth Webb.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Chris Porterfield moved to approve the agenda as presented. Michelle Pickett seconded the motion and the motion was approved unanimously.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

Michelle Pickett moved to approve the minutes of the October 3, 2022 committee meeting and Amber Quitno seconded the motion and it was carried unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments.

OVERVIEW OF SENIOR TAX LEVY

Deanna Cada, Executive Director of the DeKalb County Community Mental Health Board provided an overview of the senior tax levy funds application timeline and mentioned that the application process for organizations to apply for funding opened in December. She stated that the applications will be available for online review by the Health & Human Services Committee members in March. She explained that the application review process will run from March through mid-April and that the applying agencies will make their presentations to the committee in April. Deanna Cada reviewed that the Health & Human Services Committee will be making the funding recommendations with the final determinations made by the full County Board in May.

Meryl Domina asked that Deanna Cada provide additional details on the levy process. Deanna Cada explained that DeKalb County voters determined several years ago that a portion of the property taxes should be used help to fund senior-focused organizations. She added that

programming within these organizations reduces the need for senior placement into nursing homes.

Deanna Cada mentioned that training will be provided to the committee on the application review process and that she will provide links to training resources. She also provided an option to the committee for onsite training to be conducted during the March meeting. Deana Cada mentioned that she will be providing the committee with worksheets on individual organizations that outline the amount of prior funding each organization has received and their current funding requests. She stated that she will be supporting the committee during the next few months to enable the committee to make the best possible funding decisions for the county's seniors.

Chris Porterfield asked about potential applicants and Deanna Cada responded that the organizations that have applied in the past are expected to apply again this year and she mentioned some of the organizations that have previously applied.

UPDATE ON ARPA LOST REVENUE ALLOCATION TO COMMUNITY HEALTH IN 2021

Deanna Cada reviewed that in 2021, the DeKalb County Board voted to disburse a portion of the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds to the Community Mental Health Board as well as to other boards in DeKalb County. She added that the \$24,612 that the Community Mental Health Board received from this disbursement was then used to fund DeKalb County agency grants (i.e., *Contributions to Agencies*), which helped organizations meet the huge increase in costs related to COVID.

Deanna Cada provided copies of the DeKalb County Mental Health Board 2021 annual report and stated that she will be presenting the committee with the 2022 annual report later this year.

County Administrator, Brian Gregory suggested that the committee meet in one of the smaller conference rooms in March, as the information that's scheduled to be presented can be more easily viewed on-screen in a smaller room.

DCRNC UPDATE

Brian Gregory provided an update on the sale of the DeKalb County Rehabilitation and Nursing Center (DCRNC) to Illuminate HC. He outlined that the process is still moving forward and that a "Certificate of Need" is required by the State of Illinois, which essentially ensures that there is a need for the nursing home in the area. Brian Gregory stated that he doesn't anticipate that this process will result in any significant delays and hopes that the sale can potentially be finalized by the end of the first quarter.

Brian Gregory reviewed that the current census at the nursing home is 114 residents and that the census has been allowed to come down to align with the staffing level which reduces the need for additional agency expense.

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Brian Gregory outlined that Asset Replacement, Opportunity and Special Projects funds have been used for the DCRNC's operation and he stated that the plan is to replace these funds after the sale. Following questions from Chris Porterfield and Rukisha Crawford, Brian Gregory stated the monthly contribution needed for the DCRNC continues to average \$200K per month. He provided additional detail regarding bond call dates and outlined that there may be a need to temporarily access General Fund dollars, depending on the timing of the DCRNC sale but that the goal would be to reimburse the fund after closing.

Brian Gregory emphasized that his objective is for the transition to Illuminate HC to be a seamless one for the residents and said that he credits the DCRNC staff for their commitment to the operation.

Rukisha Crawford asked about the possibility of Bart Becker, DCRNC Administrator attending future committee meetings and Brian Gregory indicated that he will inquire with Bart Becker about attending the next meeting.

Brian Gregory mentioned that if any of the committee members have questions regarding the DCRNC, they should feel free to contact him.

ADJOURNEMENT

It was moved by Amber Quitno and seconded by Michelle Pickett to adjourn the meeting. The motion was carried unanimously, and the meeting adjourned at 7:14 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Rukisha Crawford, Chair

Chris Klein, Recording Secretary