

DeKalb County Government
Sycamore, Illinois

**Health & Human Services Committee Minutes
March 6, 2023**

The Health & Human Services Committee of the DeKalb County Board met on Monday, March 6, 2023, in the Legislative Center's Freedom Room in Sycamore, Illinois. Chair Rukisha Crawford called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. Those members present were Meryl Domina, Savannah Ilenikhena, Michelle Pickett, and Rukisha Crawford. Chris Porterfield and Amber Quitno were absent. A quorum was established with four members present and two absent. Chris Porterfield joined the meeting at 6:37 p.m. Others present included Bart Becker, Deanna Cada, Brian Gregory, and Nate Kloster.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

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

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

Meryl Domina moved to approve the minutes of the February 6, 2023 committee meeting and Michelle Pickett seconded the motion with the motion passing unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments.

PUBLIC HEARING

A Public Hearing to obtain public comment and consider the economic, social, and environmental effects of the application for Public Transportation Assistance under Section 5311 of the Federal Transit Act – Rukisha Crawford welcomed Nate Kloster, CEO of the Voluntary Action Center (VAC). Nate Kloster thanked the committee for their consideration of the Resolution (R2023-033). He explained that the VAC transportation program relies on support from the Downstate Operating Assistance Program (DOAP) grant and the 5311 grant. Nate Kloster outlined that Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act funding has provided significant operating assistance to VAC and that additional DOAP and 5311 grant funding is needed to replace the CARES funding that will run out in Fiscal Year 2024. He emphasized that the operation needs these additional funds to continue providing necessary services to the community.

Chair Rukisha Crawford opened the public hearing at 6:35 p.m. Nate Kloster responded to a question regarding the transportation program's staffing level and vehicles in the fleet. He outlined that generally, the fleet is aged with high miles and that he will likely be addressing fleet needs with the committee next month. Nate Kloster stated that recruiting employees has been difficult and that there is currently a Dispatcher position open, as well as driving positions that need to be filled. Chair Rukisha Crawford closed the public hearing at 6:38 p.m.

RESOLUTION R2023-033 – A Resolution Authorizing Execution and Amendment of Federal 5311 Grant Agreement – Chris Porterfield motioned to approve Resolution R2023-033 and Savannah Ilenikhena seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously following a roll call vote.

CONSIDERATIONS

DeKalb County Rehabilitation & Nursing Center (DCRNC) Operational Update – County Administrator Brian Gregory introduced the DCRNC Administrator Bart Becker. Bart Becker thanked the committee for inviting him to the meeting. He reviewed that the current census at the DCRNC is 118 residents. Bart Becker stated that the current overall rating for the center is three stars out of a possible five. He reviewed that the DCRNC continues to have monthly meetings with Kishwaukee Community Hospital and that the center has a good working relationship with the hospital staff.

Bart Becker mentioned that the level of agency staffing is gradually being reduced, although the DCRNC continues to experience challenges in hiring CNAs and nurses. He stated that the center continues to work through collections issues on delinquent accounts and that approximately \$270,000 has been collected since the end of January 2023.

Bart Becker stated that the staff appears calm regarding the pending sale and that employees seem to have a positive outlook about the situation. He stated that he has reassured employees that they will have a job once the sale is completed.

Bart Becker reviewed that the Illinois Department of Public Health (IDPH) recently completed the annual survey at the center. He stated that the center received five tags for which they have developed plans of correction. Bart Becker provided details of the concerns and outlined specifics relating to the plans of correction.

Brian Gregory addressed an inquiry on the status of the Certificate of Need and responded that although the certificate is still in process with the State, he feels confident that the certificate will be issued.

Senior Tax Levy Training – Deanna Cada, Executive Director of the DeKalb County Mental Health Board, provided online grant application review training to the committee. She emphasized that she is always available via phone for questions or concerns. Deanna Cada reminded the committee that as they review the applications, they should consider how the applicants' programming will assist with the objective of keeping senior citizens out of long term care. She added that there are ten applications that need to be reviewed.

Deanna Cada outlined what the applying agencies are required to include in their grant application. She stated that in April, the agencies will be making their presentations to the

committee. Deanna Cada stated that questions for the agencies can be addressed during this time as well and that the committee will be making the final funding recommendations in May.

OLD BUSINESS – There were no Old Business items.

NEW BUSINESS - There were no New Business items.

ADJOURNEMENT

It was moved by Michelle Pickett and seconded by Savannah Ilenikhena to adjourn the meeting. The motion was carried unanimously and the meeting adjourned at 7:29 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted by Chris Klein, Recording Secretary