

**PUBLIC HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE**  
**McHenry County Administration Building**  
**667 Ware Road, Conference Room A**  
**Woodstock IL 60098**

MINUTES OF FRIDAY JANUARY 28, 2005

Chairman Peschke called the meeting to order at 8:15a.m. The following Committee Members were present: Virginia Peschke, Chairman; Rick Klasen; Anna May Miller; Sandra Salgado, Lyn Orphal; Don Larson and Barbara Wheeler. Also present: Chairman Ken Koehler; Rick Bernotas, County Administrator; John Labaj, Deputy County Administrator; Pat McNulty and Norma Spitzbart, Health Department; Ann Kate and Don Larson, County Board Members; Ken Koehler, County Board Chairman; Dr. Epstein, Executive Director of the Pioneer Center; Dennis Smith, Director of the Mental Health (708) Board Frank Gosser, 708 Board Attorney and other 708 Board Members; interested public; and the press.

Virginia Peschke, Chairman	
Richard Klasen	Don Larson
Anna May Miller	Lyn Orphal
Sandra Salgado	Barbara Wheeler

MINUTES

Mr. Klasen made a motion, seconded by Ms. Salgado to recommend approval of the Public Health & Human Services Committee minutes of January 14, 2005.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Chairman Peschke announced that this is an open meeting and as such no comments would be accepted that would criticize any individual. If such statements are made, the speaker will be asked to stop.

Ms. Suzanne Hoban, Family Health Partnership; Nancy Monica, mother of a child with disabilities; Jay Foreman, Thresholds and Carlos Acosta, Latino Coalition spoke in favor of the Mental Health Board and the support they have received either through the Mental Health Board or from an agency funded by the Mental Health Board.

PRESENTATION

Dennis Smith provided a slide presentation regarding the Mental Health Board. Liz Doyle, LCPC-WRAP Coordinator, Frank Gosser, Mental Health Board Attorney and Bob Lesser, Deputy Director of the Mental Health Board joined Mr. Smith in providing committee members with the power point presentation of the Mental Health Board to address concerns previously raised regarding the Mental Health Board and the way it funds services provided to outside agencies. The Mental Health Board is the public's representative for Mental Health Services. They hold agencies accountable for the spending of their funds. The Mental Health Board has a collaborative coordination of services and helps agencies develop cost-effective quality services. The Mental Health Board has five core models of accountability, Fee-for-Service (FFS) payment system, JCAHO accreditation, payment reconciliation and review, data tracking and billing systems and monitoring evidence-based fidelity to programs. The Mental Health Board performs its services within the parameters of the Community Mental Health Act in accordance with the guidelines established in the consent decree entered in the United States District Court for the Northern District of Illinois, Eastern Division known as Frank Bogard, et.al. Plaintiffs vs. Philip Bradley et.al.c Case No. 88 C2414 which as been followed and embraced by the Illinois Department of Human Services.

Ms. Wheeler thanked Mr. Smith for the services that have been provided to her sister-in-law. She noted she was thanking Mr. Smith not at a County Board Member but, as a member of the public. She stated that because of the services provided by the Mental Health Board, through outside agencies, her sister-in-law was able to get her life back.

OLD BUSINESS

*Noise Ordinance – for discussion:* Chairman Peschke noted that as previously discussed, if we as a county should take on the noise ordinance, it will take full county commitment to regulate. The IEPA currently regulates complaints regarding noise on a complaint basis by providing decimal readers to the complainants. Lake and Kane Counties are currently looking into the creation of a noise ordinance. Mr. Klasen noted that we should not need a special Ordinance to handle noise complaints. As a former officer in Cook County, individuals were arrested based on disorderly conduct for disturbing the peace. It was noted that Judges are unwilling to act, without proof. Chairman Koehler noted that most complaints do not concern "parties" that have gotten out of hand. The issue seems to be from ATV's, mini-bikes and lawn equipment. He stated that it may be necessary for the County to purchase a decimal reader with training for Deputies to monitor noise complaints within the County. State Statute states that evidence needs to be collected to enforce this Statute and the problem seems to be an enforcement issue. Committee members questioned how Lake and Kane County are planning to enforce a noise ordinance and requested Mr. McNulty obtain copies of the proposed ordinances from both counties. Committee members then requested the State's Attorney view these ordinances to question whether we would be able to enforce an ordinance if we should create one. Mr. Larson noted that a neighbor has created a dirt bike track which drives the neighbors crazy, he stated that unfortunately, noise does not stay on the property.

PRESENTATION – CONTINUED

*Health Department – Animal Control Facility:* Mr. McNulty and Norma Spitzbart provided committee members to a presentation regarding the Animal Control Facility. The Mission of the Department of Health is to prevent disease and promote health. This is to be accomplished by investigating, assessing and implementing solutions to health needs through

collaborative community involvement. Animal Control is a self supporting division of the Health Department through the licensing of dogs in the County. Ms. Wheeler questioned why cats were not licensed and felt this issue should be revisited. It was noted that even though the statistics show there has been an increase in euthanasias in the county, this number is skewed because of two impoundments of over 150 animals in two separate instances. Without reporting these two instances, the rate has actually decreased. With large impounds the euthanizations increase because of disease and sickness. The County is below the National Rates and the rates of the surrounding counties for euthanized animals. When an animal is brought into the facility the health status of the animal is evaluated, it is then behavior tested and then disposed by either returning the animal to its owner, transferred to a rescue group, placed for adoption or humanely euthanized. Committee members thanked Ms. Spitzbart and Mr. McNulty for this presentation.

NEW BUSINESS

*Open Burning:* Mr. Bernotas reported to committee members the status of the open burning forum committee that meets monthly. The next meeting is scheduled on February 18<sup>th</sup> for those interested in attending. A presentation was given during the forum by Kane County, next month a presentation will be provided by Lake County. All views on the burning issue will be discussed. He noted this is a big group focused on the various issues with everyone in the group having differing views.

*Health Department – Resolution authorizing acceptance of a \$85,893 grant from the Illinois Department of Public Health for emergency preparedness and an emergency appropriation to the Health Department Fy04/05 budget:* Ms. Salgado made a motion, seconded by Ms. Orphal to recommend approval of a Resolution authorizing acceptance of a \$85,893 grant from the Illinois Department of Public Health for Emergency Preparedness and an Emergency Appropriation to the Health Department Budget. This is additional funding received for an existing grant. The motion carried with a unanimous voice vote of all ayes.

REPORTS TO COMMITTEE

*WIB:* Chairman Peschke reported she will be attending a WIB seminar the first week in March in Washington.

*HRC:* The HRC brochure is available on the internet for those interested.

*Board of Health:* Chairman Peschke addressed concerns regarding some of the members of this committee attending a Board of Health meeting and requesting an executive session with the members of the Board of Health. She noted that the County Board has no authority over the Board of Health is inappropriate to request that this executive session occur. She noted this should have been discussed in committee or at the very least with Mr. McNulty prior to attendance at the Board of Health Meeting. Ms. Miller noted that she wanted to address the Board of Health members because she did not feel that complaints regarding the Animal Control Facility were being addressed and wanted them to be aware of the volumes of complaints being received. She noted that it was not the intent of these board members to intimidate or embarrass the Health Board members and these County Board members attended this meeting, not as county board members, but to represent constituents in their complaints of the Animal Control Facility. Chairman Peschke noted that this highlighted the need to have joint meetings with the Board of Health. The complaint process was discussed at Monday’s meeting by the Board of Health. IT is being contacted regarding possible solutions and options for emails for the Board of Health Members. The Board is looking at options regarding ways to open up the communication process. It was noted that people have complained that they are not receiving answers to complaints. Committee members noted that complaints regarding employees are the concern of the department and the Board of Health and should be handled internally. Committee members questioned whether a volunteer policy had been created yet and were informed that the policy is in the process of being created. It was noted that a volunteer coordinator is needed in the county to handle complaints against a volunteer as well. Committee members were informed that volunteers are under the direct supervision of staff. Mr. Labaj informed committee members that volunteers are covered under workers compensation. Committee members questioned whether an Ad Hoc committee would be formed and were informed that this is being looked into and that change is occurring in the right direction.

*Mental Health Board:* Mr. Larson reported that the Mental Health Board recently hired a psychiatrist for Family Services. This person will work to spin off the new “Club House” program.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

None

ADJOURNMENT

Noting no further business, Ms. Orphal made a motion, seconded by Ms. Salgado, to adjourn the meeting at 10:54 a.m. The motion carried with a unanimous voice vote.

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**RECOMMENDED FOR BOARD ACTION:**

Approve a Resolution authorizing acceptance of an \$85,893.00 grant from the Illinois Department of Public Health for emergency preparedness and an emergency appropriation to the Health Department FY04/05 budget