

Minutes of the Health Committee

The Health Committee of the McLean County Board met on Wednesday, August 5, 2015 at 7:30 a.m. in Room 400 of the Government Center, 115 East Washington Street, Bloomington, IL.

Members Present: Chairman McIntyre; Members Wendt, Harris, Robustelli, Gordon and Martin

Members Absent: None

Other Members Present: None

Staff Present: Mr. Bill Wasson, County Administrator; Ms. Hannah Eisner, Assistant County Administrator; Ms. Julie A. Morlock, Recording Secretary, County Administrator's Office; Mr. Don Knapp, First Assistant Civil State's Attorney

Department Heads/
Elected Officials
Present:

Mr. Walt Howe, Director, Department of Health; Laura Beaver, Behavioral Health Programs, Health Department; Nicole Aune, Promo Program Manager/Health Education; Kim Anderson, Maternal and Children Health Program; Jane Turley, President of the Board of Health

Others Present:

Chairman McIntyre called the meeting to order at 7:30 AM and declared a quorum.

Chairman McIntyre stated there were no minutes to approve and no appearances by members of the public.

Chairman McIntyre thanked Board members for volunteering and thanked everyone from the Health Department for coming to the meeting. He indicated he was looking forward to working with everyone and it was his hope that the Committee could help the Board to better understand all the things that the Health Department does.

Mr. Howe presented for action a request for approval an Emergency Appropriation Ordinance of the McLean County Board Amending the 2015 Combined Annual Appropriation and Budget Ordinance for Fund 0105 Health Fund for the Health Promotion Program. He explained that they had received grant funds from March of Dimes, Ticket for the Cure and Komen.

Ms. Aune explained what each of these grants were developed to help with, including reduction in smoking; and services for mammograms and what the funds were used to pay for.

Motion by Robustelli/Harris to recommend approval of an Emergency Appropriation Ordinance of the McLean County Board Amending the 2015 Combined Annual Appropriation and Budget Ordinance for Fund 0105 Health Fund for the Health Promotion Program.

Motion carried.

Mr. Howe indicated that he did not have a formal report for the Committee, but stated he wanted to provide some general information to the Committee. He provided the Committee with what he sees on a national level the top public health issues that the Department of Health is facing:

1. The spread of new microbes, Ebola, resurgence of past diseases such as mumps and the need to keep the public aware in how to prevent these.
2. A rise in drug resistance pathogens where the public health department has to come in and find ways to deal with these issues.
3. The over utilization of health care in treating diseases that could be prevented if we could get back into the schools and teach them how to take better care of themselves.
4. The resurgence of HIV, STDs and CDs because we have medicines that help treat these diseases there has become a lack of fear of them.
5. Globalization of travel and food supplies where people travel to other countries that have low vaccination rates and less sanitary conditions, pick up a disease or sickness and then come back to the United States with it and spread it here and we then have to find ways to treat it.

Mr. Howe then went on to list some issues the Department of Health is facing in McLean County including

1. Salaries for Nurses and environmental health professionals. He stated that he is having a difficult time attracting Nurses as we can't compete in the community with the salary structure that we have. He stated that the Health Department needs people who are trained in specific public health issues.
2. McLean County is the largest geographic county in the State of Illinois and to get the message out to everyone is very difficult. He stated that they are starting a new program to try to go out in the County to provide immunizations and any other preventative service. Mr. Howe indicated that they have become credentialed with 13 insurance carriers, so they can bill for services/immunizations that they provide.

3. He stated that they are trying to be better at teaching people that they are the responsible party for their own health and while we are here to assist them they are the responsible party.
4. Physical structure of the building we have been there 15 years and we need to start getting some maintenance on the building.
5. Transparency issues sometimes provide barriers to providing services. He stated that they are spending an enormous amount of time responding to specific requests from the community. He indicated that it is hard to put general information out on a website to answer the specific questions.
6. New computer programs are being installed. He stated that one is a medical records program so if you want to continue to collect public insurance you need to provide information in an electronic format. He stated that they were also installing a new field program for the Environmental Health Program so they can go out and take their inspection information without having to travel with paper.

Ms. Harris asked if they had considered having an interactive website to reduce the number of questions coming in to the Health Department.

Mr. Howe indicated that they have a good website now, but they are trying to make it more interactive so that people can fill out register for appointments and complete paperwork before they come in to the office; however this does not help with the very specific questions they get from the public.

Mr. Howe stated that they are more than happy to answer any questions that the Committee has about the services that they provide.

Mr. Wendt stated that he felt it would be helpful to get an idea of the revenue streams of the Health Department and asked about the total budget of the Health Department and the portions of that budget that they receive from private grants, state grants, general fund and any special taxes. Mr. Wendt stated that he is concerned about the programs in the Department of Health that might be depending on the money coming from Springfield since there is still no solution to the budget issue.

Mr. Howe stated that total budget is about 8.5 million and about 30% of their budget comes from State grants and contracts. He stated that grant programs that we have now are pretty stable because several of them are federally funded, even though there is still a question of when they will get the funds. Mr. Howe stated that they have a good Health fund balance now which helps in times like this so that we can depend on that money while the government gets the budget finalized.

Mr. McIntyre stated that one of our roles is to show support and interact with State agencies to help in those funding situations.

Mr. Wasson stated that the Department of Health has been very good at managing their grant programs.

Ms. Harris stated that the Department of Health's higher exit report is a testament to the professionalism of the department. Mr. Howe thanked her and said that yes it tells a good picture.

Mr. McIntyre asked if they were having difficulty getting RNs. Mr. Howe responded that yes they were having difficulty hiring RNs. He stated that several of the programs they offer require that they have an RN so they are not able to hire LPN's.

Mr. Robustelli stated that the Nursing Home is also having a difficult time getting applications for RN's and he had mentioned previously that having the nursing home under the Health Committee might help as they could compare matters and work together to come up with solutions. He stated that he just wanted to check in with the Health Department to see if the issue with hiring RNs is similarly a pay classification issue. Mr. Howe responded that yes it is a money issue. Mr. Robustelli went on to say that this is not a unique problem where you cannot hire the nurses that you need because of the personnel policies that are in place, but that is something that the County Board can change. Mr. Howe stated that even at the impacted position rate we can't attract nurses of quality. He stated that they have had people come in based on the job notice but when you start to discuss salary they actually get up to leave.

Mr. Wendt asked how much more money does the private sector pay their nurses than what we can pay. Ms. Anderson responded that nurses that work with us make about \$19.00/hour, but on the application it asks what you are looking to make and most of them put down \$25/\$26 per hour. She stated that when the positions are posted the top of the range is close to that so they think they can get close to that. Mr. Anderson stated that because of the rules in place they have to start them at the bottom of the range which puts them at a \$6/\$7 per hour pay cut and that most who leave state that they can make more money and work less hours elsewhere.

Mr. Wendt asked Mr. Howe to confirm that though they list a range of pay in the job posing they are restricted to the lowest of that range. Mr. Howe responded that there is some flexibility in that because these are impacted positions but even going up to the maximum amount before it has to come to Committee for approval, he can't get close to what individuals are seeking. He stated that the Health Department has the money in their budget to offer but we can't get it in the salary schedule.

Mr. Wendt asked him if they advertise \$19/\$25 per hour and you get a well-qualified person can you go to the \$25. Mr. Howe stated that they cannot normally do that because they have to have certain things in place in order to offer that such as so many years of education and experience. He stated that he is limited in the number of steps he can offer in terms of salary to a person who just graduated with their RN.

Mr. Wendt asked if that was a rule the Board/County had. Mr. Howe responded that yes it is a rule of the County and if we could modify those rules then we would have a

better chance of being competitive in the market place. Mr. Wendt responded that the County Board could change that rule. Mr. Howe stated that would help.

Mr. Wendt asked Mr. Howe to confirm that even when they interviewed a person that they felt would be a good employee, with or without the experience that he still could not hire them because we can't meet their salary expectations. Mr. Howe confirmed that was correct. He stated that he can get a good feeling about some interviewees but they still are not interested once salary is discussed.

Mr. McIntyre stated that there is a competitive job market situation nationwide and we don't have answers on that one. But there are some things that we can talk about including salary. He stated that we are also trying to find solutions for the amount of FOIA requests.

Mr. Wasson stated that we took action in the Finance Committee for the Nursing Home last month over a similar issue and request to authorize up to a \$24/hour starting salary for RN's. He stated that if the Health Department made a similar request we would consider it and forward it to the Committee. He also stated that during budget discussions Administration and Mr. Howe have discussed possible reclassification of those positions. Mr. Howe stated that he would put in the request.

Ms. Harris asked if having a nurse practitioner who could administer prescriptions would help. Mr. Howe responded that they do not offer a lot of prescription medication, instead they offer more immunizations. He stated that they are looking at possibly hiring a nurse practitioner but he wants to make sure they get the medical records situation in place and get more additional medical dollars for the Medicaid rate because then they could provide a stream of services that would make that position effective in the Health Department.

Mr. McIntyre stated that the Board of Health meets every other month and asked if there was a way to get Minutes for Board of Health's July meeting at our next meeting. He stated that in the off months it would be nice for the Committee to be able to review the minutes from the last Board of Health meeting. Mr. Howe indicated that they would try but the Minutes are 9 to 10 pages long and it takes time to get them finalized. Ms. Harris asked if the minutes were online. Mr. Howe stated that they are put online after they are approved.

Mr. McIntyre asked if there was a directory outline that gives the organizational structure and a breakdown of departments. Mr. Howe responded that they had put together a power point presentation for new Board of Health members that covered the departments and preventative services they provide that might be beneficial to the Health Committee. Mr. Gordon asked if they could get the power point presentation electronically. Mr. Howe stated that they would get them an electronic copy.

Chairman McIntyre stated that as part of the Mental Health Plan they might have sessions within the Committee meeting where individuals or groups from the area would come in and discuss issues and programs that they have to help the public. Mr. McIntyre asked if Ms. Beavers would be willing to come to the next meeting and provide a review of the status of the mental health situation within the County, what progress have we made and what needs to be done. He also asked Mr. Howe about their overall plan and if it would involve a behavioral health component.

Mr. Howe stated that they are working on a new strategic plan but that they are not a behavioral health provider. He stated that they provide funds to professional behavioral health organizations within the community and a component of that would be what particular behavioral health organizations we feel would get the best use of public resources.

Ms. Beavers stated that she would be more than happy to bring in a power point presentation to the next meeting that could give information on the programs that they fund. She produced a document that had an overview of their funded programs as well as the fiscal year 2016 funding proposals and recommendations. She stated that in the past they had funded agencies from a July 1st to June 30th period, but this year we decided it would be easier for Board of Health Members, County Board Members and agencies to understand the budget if we fund based on the County Fiscal year. She stated that in order to move to that Fiscal year, the Board of Health approved for the Department of Health to offer sustained funding to our current funded programs through December 31 and then our new funded programming will start on January 1st. She went on to explain that the chart showed their recommendations for 2016 including 19% to the criminal justice system, 23% to children, 34% to crisis, 24% to treatment so it is definitely more of a preventative recommendation and not a treatment recommendation. Chairman McIntyre indicated that following the same calendar would be helpful.

Mr. McIntyre thanked Ms. Turley for coming to the meeting and indicated that they would also like for members of the Board of Health to attend and provide information/overview of where they are and hoped they could exchange information.

Mr. McIntyre asked if Ms. Aone could give a summary of what they do in their department. Ms. Nicole Aone stated that they try to educate the public by providing information and implementing policies that make it easier for people to live healthier lives. She provided examples of enforcing smoke free policies in restaurants and public locations as well as providing smoking cessation programs. She stated that they are also currently working with Advocate BroMenn, OSF and United Way of McLean County to conduct a collaborative community health needs assessment that will result in one community health improvement plan (I Plan) instead of all of us doing these separately and coming up with four different plans for the same community.

Mr. Wendt stated that he sits on a Board of a Fund, called the Withers Fund that is set up to help individual women 65 years or older that are in need. He stated that he would like to pass along information about the Fund to the Health Department so that if they come across individuals in need they could contact the Fund. Mr. Howe indicated that yes, they had individuals that could use assistance and that Ms. Beavers would be happy to take contact information for the Department to reach out to the Fund.

Mr. Robustelli asked them to clarify the statement about being a provider vs. being a funder and also asked who acted as the behavioral health monitor for the community.

Mr. Howe stated it has fallen on their shoulders to look at behavioral health as it applies to the public health of the community. He stated that a lot of communities have a 708 Board which is designed to monitor, create and establish a behavioral health response system and making sure that all moving parts interrelate together and are funded appropriately, but that we do not have a 708 Board established in this community. He stated that they became involved in behavioral health funding because back in the 80s when state decided they were going to close down state operated facilities and move individuals out into the community where they would have the least restricted environment in order to get treatment. He stated that the intended purpose was that those state dollars would follow the individuals from state operated facilities into the community but that did not occur, so tax payers voted to allow up to a nickel of funding to provide a cushion of support to behavioral health system until the state started to dispense these monies back into the community. He stated that unfortunately that has not happened, so they are still acting as the funder for behavioral health services. He stated that they monitor behavioral health as it relates to the overall public health and welfare of the community. He stated that they have some responsibility to make sure that those individuals that are low income or uninsured have access to mental health and behavioral health services, but they are not designed to monitor and fund the system as a whole.

Mr. Robustelli stated that they monitor cancer in the community and how it relates to smoking and they have someone who puts together promotional materials and goes out in to the community to talk about these things. He asked when behavioral health issues would not be public health issues and how do they decide what you discuss or follow?

Mr. Howe stated that they do not get involved in the treatment and how treatment is provided in the community. He stated that what they do is based on the money that is provided to us.

Mr. Robustelli stated for clarification that public health is not defined by what are real public health issues but by what funding is available for public health agency to address these issues.

Mr. Howe stated that the reason we have a State Mental Health Department and a State Public Health Department is because they have two different responsibilities. We are a preventative entity, so individuals who often have a behavioral health problem often make poor choices about public health including not eating well, smoking, drinking and not exercising and they are the individuals that we are trying to reach with our public health service. He stated that their objective is to see how we can better work with mental health/behavioral health providers so that those individuals not only get psychiatric services for their disease but they are receiving care for the public health component and the providers are not providing that then making sure they are making the referral to correct community provider to make sure that all public health and behavioral health needs are met. Mr. McIntyre thanked him for the explanation and thanked Ms. Aone for her information.

Mr. McIntyre asked Ms. Anderson to explain the services her department provides. Ms. Karen Anderson stated that she worked in the maternal/child health division and discussed the several programs that fall under that division including the WIC program (Women, Infant and Children) that is a nutrition education program where they have to income qualify and have a medical and/or a nutritional risk. She stated that they have another program that promotes and supports breast feeding by holding classes, clinics and going to homes. She stated that the WIC program takes pregnant women until they are one year post-partum and breastfeeding or if not breast feeding then will see her until 6 months post-partum and the child will be seen until up to 5 years of age as long as they continue to qualify for services. She stated that they have a Family Case Management Program that works hand in hand with the WIC Program and in that program they take women as early in the pregnancy as we can and will see them until they deliver and then we will follow the infant until 1 year of age and they makes sure the pregnant women get in to see their doctor and if there are issues including housing, food for the family, paying medical or electric bills we get her assistance through a series of referrals. She stated that if there is any adverse pregnancy outcome including a premature birth or birth defect then they will follow that client and that is not income dependent even though most of our clients are on a medical card. She stated that they medically case manage any child that is with DCFS so that as soon as they come in to care they follow the child so that even if they are going from foster family to foster family they do not miss wellness checks or annual dental appointments. Ms. Anderson also discussed the AOK (all our kids) program that is not income dependent but follows children from age 0-5 and provides medical, nutritional and social services to make sure they are ready for kindergarten. She also indicated the clerical staff works with interpreter services to make sure that all needs are understood and that if an interpreter is needed at an appointment someone is available whether in person or via the telephone.

Mr. McIntyre asked her to confirm that it is outreach and referral services that they provide. Ms. Anderson stated that yes that is what they provide. Mr. McIntyre thanked them for their time.

Chairman McIntyre asked if Mr. Wasson had anything for the Committee.

Mr. Wasson presented information from the employment activities report regarding the one position replaced in the health department.

Ms. Harris asked if the money that was taken from drug court for crisis intervention had been established yet. Mr. Wasson stated that the Board of Health had not acted on it.

Chairman McIntyre presented for approval the transfers for before the Committee in the amounts of \$11,750 and \$47,500 and the bills with a Prepaid Total of \$252,169.49 and a Fund Total that is the same.

MCLEAN COUNTY BOARD COMMITTEE REPORT

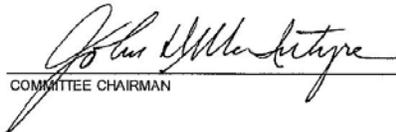
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AS OF 7/30/2015

EXPENDITURE SUMMARY BY FUND

Health Committee

FUND	FUND TITLE	PENDING TOTAL	PREPAID TOTAL	FUND TOTAL
0102	DENTAL SEALANT GRANT		\$30,234.17	\$30,234.17
0103	HEALTH DEPT. - WIC		\$14,661.93	\$14,661.93
0105	PREVENTIVE HEALTH PROGRAM		\$7,909.73	\$7,909.73
0106	FAMILY CASE MANAGEMENT		\$23,585.67	\$23,585.67
0107	AIDS/COMM.DISEASE CONTROL		\$9,622.21	\$9,622.21
0112	HEALTH DEPARTMENT		\$166,155.78	\$166,155.78
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			\$252,169.49	\$252,169.49



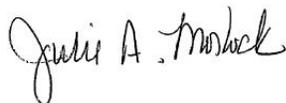
COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN

Motion by Robustelli/Martin to approve the transfers and bills presented.
Motion carried

Chairman McIntyre asked if there were any other business or communication items to come before the Committee.

Meeting adjourned at 8:38 AM

Respectfully Submitted,



Julie A. Morlock
Recording Secretary