

## **Minutes of the Health Committee**

The Health Committee of the McLean County Board met on Wednesday, September 2, 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; Kim Anderson, Maternal and Children Health Program; Corey Tello, Board of Health Member; Tom Barr, Director McLean County Center for Human Services; Sue Pearl, McLean County Center for Human Services

Others Present:

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

Chairman McIntyre presented the minutes of the August 5, 2015 Health Committee meeting for approval.

Motion by Harris/Robustelli to approve the Minutes of the August 5, 2015 Health Committee meeting.  
Motion carried.

Chairman McIntyre confirmed there were no appearances by members of the public.

Chairman McIntyre thanked everyone for being there and stated that he had asked Mr. Howe to come and give an overview of the Programs and the budgeting procedures, etc. for the Department of Public Health.

Mr. Howe briefly discussed the seven divisions under the Public Health Department and the twenty-five programs listed in the attachment he had provided to the Committee including the services they provide and the funding they receive. He also provided the

outcome measures for some of the programs from last year. Mr. Howe then gave a presentation on the Department of Public Health, including its mission statement and definition of public health to promote physical and mental health in community through preventative services and education. He stated that they want the public to be aware that they are responsible for their own health but the Public Health Department is here to assist through education and preventative services. Mr. Howe stated that he sees the difference between Medicine vs. Public Health as Medicine saves lives one at a time and Public Health saves millions at a time. He stated that we make sure that communicable diseases are reported to the Health Department. Mr. Howe stated that McLean County Health Department covers the largest geographical area in the state and was created by Referendum in 1946. He stated that the County Board created the County Board of Health which usually has eight members but we have an eleven member board because we no longer have a TB board. He indicated the County Board can levy the taxes for the County Department of Health and once the Board gets the funds and appropriates the funds to the local Health Department then the Board of Health disperses the funds and makes the rules for the local Health Department.

Mr. Howe also discussed the funding of the Public Health Department including the percentages received from different sources including property taxes; license, permits and fees; intergovernmental revenue; charges for services; transfers; contribution; and miscellaneous funds. He stated that they are also certified by 14 private insurance companies so that those individuals that are covered by private insurance pay through their insurance company. Mr. Howe stated that while they receive approximately 50% of their monies from property taxes only half of that goes to public health the other half is used for contract services for mental health and substance abuse programming and about 16% is used for the developmentally disabled.

Mr. Robustelli asked what the balance currently is in the fund. Mr. Howe responded that he did not have a specific number but they usually keep about 2 million in the health fund and that they also have money in the grant funds but those monies come in through the State.

Mr. Gordon asked about the Intergovernmental revenue from the State at about 37% and how the current budget situation is affecting the Health Department. Mr. Howe replied that they have seen a reduction in the funding they are receiving from the State but the preliminary contract document they received from the State indicated no more than a 10% reduction in some programs to as low as 3-4% in other programs, but overall their programs would not see a great impact because their funding is mainly federal funding that is passed through the State. Mr. Wendt asked what percentage of that funding was Medicaid. Mr. Howe responded that he was not sure of the percentage but it is approximately \$300,000 – \$400,000 in federal Medicaid money. Mr. Howe also discussed their fund balance and how they like to have a healthy fund balance in case funding coming through the State is slowed down. He stated that a lot

of local Health Departments have been cutting back services and cutting back hours and the McLean County Health Department has not had to do that because of our healthy fund balance. Mr. Howe also discussed how they have been aggressive in finding ways they can diversify their funding.

Mr. Howe discussed County's authority to levy property tax and the amount that actually means for the Public Health Department. He showed the amount that they levy currently and the amount that they could levy. He discussed the TB levy and the fact that since the TB Board no longer exists the amount they could levy was permanently frozen at the amount it was when the board was disbanded. He stated that the amount it was frozen at was \$273,300 annually and if we would levy the full amount we would receive \$2,761,824 annually if there is a need to fund TB program we need to move to other methods of funding. He stated that the 377 Board allow us to levy another dime, but we are only levying a portion of that and that they can also levy up to a nickel for mental health services. Mr. Robustelli asked if any funds that come from the general health fund for mental health related activities or are the funds that come out of the up to five cent levy the only funds that fund mental health services. Mr. Howe indicated that is hard to answer because they use public funds to serve all of the McLean County population not just those with mental health problems. Mr. Robustelli asked what other counties that do not have the nickel do to provide mental health services. Mr. Howe indicated he thought they would not provide the services and that only 10 health departments out of 99 offer mental health specific services.

Mr. Howe discussed the current critical areas including TB services, dental services and getting the preventative message out to the community. Ms. Harris asked why they went with a Peoria based dentist. Mr. Howe indicated that they had contracted with them regarding sealant program as they have a very limited budget and they provide the sealants and then if they see a child that need dental services they refer them to the Public Health Department. Ms. Harris also asked how they get the message out to people in the public as to the services that they provide. Mr. Howe said that they use, website, social media including Facebook and twitter, radio and post print message on places like buses. He indicated that they are also looking at new ways they can market the services of the Health Department. Ms. Tello indicated that school nurses also are a great resource for the Health Department. Mr. Howe went on to discuss other critical areas including programs for pregnant women and infants. He stated that McLean County offers programs where we go into the homes and assist women by getting them the care and help they need and as a result we have a better birth outcome then a lot of the Counties around us. He stated that another critical area is staffing as we are critically behind in compensation and management support and so we are not able to provide enough attention to critical areas because individuals are trying to cover too many programs.

Mr. Robustelli asked where behavioral health and mental health needs fall in the Health Department's services because they were not on the slide about critical needs, but they are both rapidly changing and a critical area for our community. Mr. Robustelli provided the example of the number of suicides we have had in the last few weeks in the County and that we know that there are services that we can provide that will prevent suicides if we can get people help. Mr. Howe stated that we are making inroads in this community to enhance and expand mental health services. He stated it is a critical need here and across the national. Mr. Howe stated that we need to be able to get out and provide better messaging in the community. Ms. Harris stated that since dental services are specifically mentioned you probably should say specifically mental health services. Mr. Howe stated that we usually refer to public health as a whole and mental health is a part of that and we make sure that there are service providers out there to provide the service. Mr. Howe stated that we are one of the few communities that went out and got the nickel of tax money to help provide the services. Ms. Harris indicated that one in five people have concerns about this area. Ms. Tello indicated that the Board of Health and the Health Department are updating their strategic plan and are making sure that mental health, substance abuse and behavior health are in the new plan because the Board of Health recognizes that this is an important area that needs to be addressed. She stated that they understand that those with mental health needs tend to have more physical health issues. Ms. Tello assured the Committee that they will share that plan when finalized.

Mr. Howe stated that a big part of their programs is communicable diseases and making sure they are kept in control and he showed a list of all reportable communicable disease and the reporting time period. Mr. Howe indicated that Communicable Disease, Environmental Health Programing and Health Promotion are the only ones that are supported through property tax; all other programs are supported through other funding.

He also discussed the organizational chart and the restructuring they are working toward. He indicated that when they get restructured and have an updated chart they will provide the chart to the Committee. Mr. Gordon asked how recent the addition of the FTE's listed under behavioral health were and how many people they represented. Mr. Howe indicated that they added one this year and it represents two people. He also invited any Committee member to come and get a tour of the Health Department.

Mr. McIntyre thanked Mr. Howe for the information and then asked if Mr. Tom Barr, Ms. Megan Moser, Ms. Melinda Roth and Ms. Sue Pearl from the McLean County Center for Human Services could come forward for their presentation.

Mr. Tom Barr explained that the McLean County Center for Human Services is the community mental health center for McLean County. He introduced Sue Pearl, Director of Clinical Services, Melinda Roth the Program Manager over the psychiatric program and Megan Moser the Program Manager over the crisis team. Mr. Barr indicated that they would provide an overview of services they provide and the cuts they have

received. He stated that they appreciated the support the Board has provided to them. He turned things over to Ms. Pearl to discuss overview.

Ms. Pearl handed out a summary and gave a brief overview of the services provided by the McLean County Center for Human Services including 24-hour Crises Services; Medical Services; Recovery Services to adults including Partnership in Support of Recovery, Case Management and Residential Services; Outpatient Counseling; Outreach Counseling; and Mental Health Juvenile Justice.

Ms. Harris stated that she was very impressed with the housing that they have and the hands services you provide as well as the information that you know about each resident. She asked if they have a lot of communication with the Board of Health. Ms. Pearl indicated that yes they are in communication with the Board of Health. Ms. Harris asked if they help with referrals and Ms. Pearl indicated that yes they get referrals from the Board of Health but also get them from many other service providers.

Mr. McIntyre asked about juvenile services. Ms. Pearl indicated that yes they work with several groups to make sure that youth needs are met. Mr. McIntyre indicated that he was happy to see the housing that they offer, but would like to have more if they could find the funding. He asked if there are other organizations that provide housing to the mentally ill. Mr. Barr indicated that there is not.

Mr. Gordon stated that Ms. Pearl had mentioned that they help individuals get access to over \$600,000 worth of medications and asked what is their fiscal year was. Mr. Barr indicated July 1 to June 30 was their fiscal year. Mr. Gordon stated that they had listed eight categories and four of the eight are Medicaid funded and others are grant funded. Mr. Gordon asked how they are impacted with grant availability under the budget circumstances. Mr. Barr handed out a document that outlines programs that will be effected by state budget cuts. Mr. Barr discussed some of the cuts that they will be receiving from the State. He indicated that they received a contract that indicated that two of their programs the crisis and psychiatric programs, would have significant cuts. He stated that these cuts will lead to cascading issues in other areas in our community, such as increases in jail and hospital activity. He stated that for FY 2016 the Department of Human Services was cutting our capacity grant for psychiatric funding by 26% consequently we are going to be serving fewer people. He stated that they thought they were going to be able to serve a minimum of 1,500 clients, but based on these cuts we are projecting that we will be serving 1,100 clients at any point and time. Mr. Barr stated that they will continue to prioritize to serve those with the greatest needs and fewest resources because serving those who have nowhere else to go has always been their goal as they will have greatest impact on the community. He indicated that there will be a negative impact on the community with so few getting medications this could result in increased calls to emergency rooms and hospitalizations and may result in increased contact with law enforcement and they are working closely with hospitals and law enforcement to try and anticipate these increases. He stated that they also

anticipate that calls to crisis team will increase. He stated that the second cut was to the fee for service funding non-Medicaid clients through our crisis team. He stated that historically as the State has had more funding problems than funding to the non-Medicaid population, the working poor and underinsured has been cut because the State does not have a legislative mandate to serve the non-Medicaid population as they do the Medicaid population. Mr. Barr indicated that they have been told that they are going to receive a 23% cut to our crisis team and while they have reduced the number of crisis staff by 1.5 FTE and using our reserves to cover costs this does not begin to cover the cut.

Mr. Gordon stated that they are using cash reserves until there becomes a budget but how long will that last. Mr. Barr stated that they are prepared to sustain positions until the first of the year and then reassess at that time. Mr. Barr stated that the number of Medicaid clients that we serve will also determine how long we can go because we can get federal funding for that.

Mr. McIntyre asked for clarification on the FTE. Ms. Pearl indicated that we had 13 people and now we are at 11.5 people. Ms. Pearl also wanted to clarify that we are currently serving about 1100 in the psychiatric program, so we are not denying services to anyone that is currently being served.

Mr. Robustelli stated that at times he has been outspoken in a critical way about some of the things he has heard from residents, but he wanted to say, on the record, that he has been impressed with the amount of outreach and time McLean County Human Services has spent on this very difficult challenge. He stated that he was impressed with the mental first aid program, the outreach in terms of the amount of sessions that you are holding, the new web page and increased transparency. He stated that he wanted to just wanted to say thank you very much for the work that you are doing and responding to this and seeing it as an opportunity to get better and that we are all better for it. He also thanked them for putting together this document regarding the State's divestment for mental health care. He stated that this is not new this year as it has been 30+ years that the state and federal government has divested in providing funding. Mr. Robustelli stated that we need more local funding to support behavior health services. He stated that the cuts to these two programs will result in increased contact with law enforcement and increased contact with hospitals so we are going to pay. He stated that if something does not happen soon in terms of providing funding especially in these two target areas that came out of the 18 plus months of work that we did, the community is going to end up spending more money than these two cuts and we will not get our desired outcome which is taking care of the people in the community. He stated that he appreciates the information provided and to see that you are doing all that you can to sustain these programs.

Mr. Barr stated that we appreciate your comments and wanted to state that Laura Beavers has been instrumental in helping us get this up and going and to coordinating

those services. We have the services set up to help those with mental illness and there will be a higher cost down the road both to the human aspect of it as well as the financial aspect.

Ms. Harris asked about possible grants. Mr. Barr stated that there are very limited opportunities out there as these cuts are not unique to us. He stated that the environment now is such that everyone is experiencing financial problems and the opportunities for grants to help sustain the critical core services that make a community strong are non-existent. Ms. Pearl also stated that there is not just one thing that is going to solve this. There are many small things that need to play into this to help. She stated that the work is going to get done because we need to get it done for the community but how we do it may look a little different.

Mr. McIntyre thanked everyone for coming and the work that they provide to the community.

Mr. McIntyre indicated that there was nothing to report from Administration except for the positions filled statement that the Committee can review.

Chairman McIntyre presented for approval bills with a Prepaid Total of \$300,151.95 and a Fund Total that is the same and a Developmental Disability Board amount of \$111,766.64.

**MCLEAN COUNTY BOARD COMMITTEE REPORT**

PAGE 1 OF 15

AS OF 8/31/2015

**EXPENDITURE SUMMARY BY FUND**

**Health Committee**

<b>FUND</b>	<b>FUND TITLE</b>	<b>PENDING TOTAL</b>	<b>PREPAID TOTAL</b>	<b>FUND TOTAL</b>
0102	DENTAL SEALANT GRANT		\$25,879.53	\$25,879.53
0103	HEALTH DEPT. - WIC		\$10,723.39	\$10,723.39
0105	PREVENTIVE HEALTH PROGRAM		\$3,313.91	\$3,313.91
0106	FAMILY CASE MANAGEMENT		\$24,863.63	\$24,863.63
0107	AIDS/COMM.DISEASE CONTROL		\$9,437.53	\$9,437.53
0112	HEALTH DEPARTMENT		\$225,933.96	\$225,933.96
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			\$300,151.95	\$300,151.95

  
 COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN

**MCLEAN COUNTY BOARD COMMITTEE REPORT**

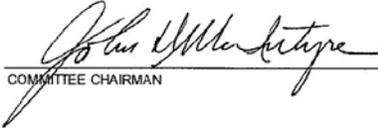
PAGE 1 OF 2

AS OF 8/31/2015

**EXPENDITURE SUMMARY BY FUND**

**Health Committee - Dev. Disability Board**

<b>FUND</b>	<b>FUND TITLE</b>	<b>PENDING TOTAL</b>	<b>PREPAID TOTAL</b>	<b>FUND TOTAL</b>
0110	PERSONS/DEV.DISABILITY		\$111,766.64	\$111,766.64
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			\$111,766.64	\$111,766.64

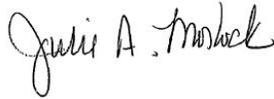
  
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COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN

Motion by Gordon/Harris to approve the bills presented.  
Motion carried

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

Meeting adjourned at 9:01 AM

Respectfully Submitted,



Julie A. Morlock  
Recording Secretary