

WILL COUNTY BOARD
HEALTH, AGING AND EDUCATION
COMMITTEE MEETING
MINUTES

December 11, 2008

8:30 a.m.

302 North Chicago Street
County Board Committee Room
Joliet IL 60432

CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Gould called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m.

ROLL CALL

Present were Members: Blackburn, Babich, May, Riley, Seiler and Gould.

Absent were Members: Konicki.

Also Present: Bilotta, Stewart and Friefeld.

Present from State's Attorney's Office: Mary Tatroe.

PLEDGE ALLEGIANCE

Mr. Babich led the Pledge of Allegiance.

ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE CHAIRMAN

Mr. Gould stated in the past this committee had 5 members and now will have 7. He introduced the new members. We will be taking the meeting on the road so all the members will be able to see the various departments.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

No minutes were presented for approval.

OLD BUSINESS

Sunny Hill Operation Audit- Tabled at November Health Aging & Ed Committee

Meeting

Ms. Sorbero stated we are in agreement that the new capacity should be 238. We are currently licensed for 300 but we have not filled 300 beds in quite a few years. Our average is 222 to 224 per month. If agreed with 238 beds, that number would drive the report. We took our recommendations and incorporated them into that report.

Mr. Gould indicated regarding staffing for Housekeeping, the recommendation is to decrease staff by 13; that will take some time to implement. Has there been any progress?

Ms. Sorbero answered not in that department; there will be no more hires in that department

Mr. Gould questioned the recommendation for the financial and payroll system.

Mr. Rafac replied this all ties into the issue of the financial system. We are in the process of going out for bid on a new financial/hr system. Any new system we have will afford us much more flexibility in accounting and tracking. This is not only an issue at Sunny Hill but also at the Health Center. We are looking at whether there are things to do in the interim – there were other things recommended by Virchow Krause.

Mr. Gould asked if there is anything budgeted.

Mr. Rafac answered there is \$225,000 in the capital improvements budget to move forward with a financial system. We will do a comprehensive review of all departments and then we will be ready to bid out; but we are a long ways away.

Mrs. Riley questioned how old the system is that they are currently using.

Mr. Rafac replied it was purchased in 1996; it is the same one the whole county is using.

Mr. Babich asked if the number of 238 is maintained during the course of remodeling or is it decreased.

Ms. Sorbero answered it is maintained. She has 238 beds that can be doubled or private, which allows for flexibility. Private rooms will be one of the biggest draws that we can provide to compete.

Mr. Gould commented that was recommended in the report.

Mr. Rafac stated one of the recommendations was about continuing to subsidize the nursing home at the prior level; for the last several years we have subsidized the nursing home at about a \$7 million level. The preliminary number for FY2008 is closer to \$4 million. We will continue to monitor that. The report recommends that money be reinvested back into remodeling. At the finance committee on Tuesday we discussed shifting \$1.6 million toward continuing to remodel Sunny Hill. We are trying to do things to move forward with the renovation.

Ms. Seiler asked what accounts for the \$3 million difference.

Ms. Sorbero answered the main reason is increased revenues. In the last year we have certified all beds as Medicare. Also the renovations have attracted more private pay residents. Our expenses have come down as well – all department heads are responsible for their budget codes

Mr. Rafac indicated there has been a \$1.2 million increase in medical insurance reimbursements.

Ms. Seiler stated there is a very big mix with operation versus employment. Is there a timeline in addressing those issues?

Ms. Sorbero replied the time frame depends on the negotiation process for county contracts; many issues with the staff are allowed by contract. We have taken those issues and are ready to address them with the negotiating committee.

Mr. Rafac commented we are in the third year of the contract; we will be starting contract negotiations this spring.

Mr. Gould asked if there were any objections to setting the number of beds at 238.

Mr. Babich questioned if they will be able to increase that number.

Ms. Sorbero replied county board would have to pass a new resolution and we would have to repetition to the state to be re-licensed for a new number.

Mr. Rafac stated we would have to expand the facility because the remodeling will only allow for 238 beds.

Ms. May asked if they turn people away.

Ms. Sorbero answered only if we are not able to meet their medical needs.

Mr. Gould indicated we will have a resolution at the meeting next month setting the number of beds at 238 and will move that forward to county board.

Discussion Re: Leaf Burning

A motion was made by Mrs. Riley, second by Mr. Blackburn, to table this issue until the next meeting. All in favor. MOTION CARRIES.

Other Old Business

NEW BUSINESS

Health Department Financial Update

Mr. Bilotta arrived at this juncture.

Mr. Cicero distributed a one-page summary. He wanted to show the scope of outstanding payments owed to the Health Department for services provided. It is not simply reimbursements with Medicaid; some of the grants and contracts are also in arrears. We are owed \$1.1 million; most of these claims are from August to November; normally these payments come in about 30 days; we are about 3 to 4 months behind. The fee reimbursements total about \$1.7 million in arrears. So the total is \$2.9 million for a combination of grants and fees outstanding. That has an impact on cash flow; we were maintaining a \$5.7 million cash balance. For FY 08 it is about \$4 million. The impact could be that as we continue to go forward in the first quarter - waiting for tax disbursements, we may run a little short. He will work with Mr. Rafac to provide an estimate on a possible inter-fund transfer to be paid back once the tax dollars are received. If the state borrows some dollars, it will not pay us off completely. He felt it

important to let everyone know early on in the fiscal period where we stand. Regarding the drug card program, all documentation has been submitted; we are waiting for some proofs to be sent to us so we see what the cards will look like. Hopefully by the next meeting he will come back to talk about the strategy for marketing. We are on target and moving forward.

Request for Resolution for Will County EMA Citizens Corps Program and FY2009

Citizen Corps Grant Agreement

A motion was made by Mr. Babich, second by Mrs. Riley, to place a resolution on the County Board Agenda for the Will County EMA Citizens Corps Program and authorizing the execution of the FY2009 Citizen Corps Grant Agreement. All in favor. MOTION CARRIES.

Mr. Damron advised the committee about the serious flooding in September. The county was declared a federal disaster area by the President. Initially we were approved for what is known as individual assistance so residents would be eligible to apply. The deadline was extended to December 16, 2008; we have had about 1200 applications from Will County, which was the second largest number of applicants. We have received \$1.3 million in total funds through those applications of individuals that applied. In mid-November we were approved for public assistance which is to help non profit and governmental entities recover some of their costs related to the emergency response or damage to infrastructure. Based on our assessment, we have about \$1.8 million in eligible costs; that is subject to being reviewed and approved.

Request for Electronic & Recycling Drop-Off Application between Reed-Custer

High School and Reed Township

A motion was made by Mrs. Riley, second by Mr. Blackburn, to place a resolution on the County Board Agenda authorizing the electronic & recycling drop-off application between Reed-Custer High School, Reed Township and Will County. All in favor. MOTION CARRIES.

Other New Business

Ms. Seiler suggested that the Will Grundy Center for Independent Living provide some demographic information for the committee.

Mr. Gould requested they submit some information for the meeting in February.

Mr. Friefeld advised the committee that next month 9-1-1 will provide a report; also the interim director for the Eastern Will County Senior Services made a request to appear before the committee at the January meeting as well.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Mr. Blackburn, second by Mrs. Riley, to adjourn the meeting at 9:12 a.m. All in favor. MOTION CARRIES.