

**WILL COUNTY BOARD**  
**PUBLIC HEALTH AND SAFETY**  
**COMMITTEE MEETING**

**MINUTES**

**October 13, 2011**

8:30 a.m.

County Board Committee Room

302 N. Chicago Street

Joliet, IL 60432

**CALL TO ORDER**

Mr. Gould called the meeting to order at 8:33 a.m.

**ROLL CALL**

**Present were Members:** Babich, Argoudelis, Hart, McPhillips, Stewart, Zigrossi and Gould.

**Absent were Members:** None.

**Also Present:** Will County Board Member Ann Dralle, Will County Board Chief of Staff Bruce Friefeld and Will County Board Deputy Chief of Staff Melissa Johannsen.

**Present from State's Attorney's Office:** ASA M. Tatroe.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Ms. Hart led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS BY THE CHAIRMAN**

None.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Due to an oversight, the minutes of August 11, 2011, were not approved.

**OLD BUSINESS**

None.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**Presentation Re: Coast2Coast RX Card**

Mr. Babbitt distributed a packet of information on the Coast2Coast card and a copy of a letter from the chairman of the Rock Island County Board and began a review of the program. Coast2Coast is a free program offering discounts on drug purchases to anyone who has a card. Neither the county nor the residents pay a fee for the card.

Mr. Argoudelis arrived at this juncture.

Mr. Babbitt explained the county currently uses the card from the National Association of Counties through a pharmacy benefit manager called Caremark. Coast2Coast uses WellDyneRx as a

pharmacy benefit manager. Residents do not have to complete any paperwork, and the card can be picked up from a distribution center or downloaded online. In 2009, the Coast2Coast program saved the users about 39 ½% on each drug's retail price. In 2010 and in 2011, the card has saved users about 45% off the retail price of each drug. On some drugs, the savings is minimal but on other drugs it can be as high as 90%. Last year, the average savings per drug was \$29.42. The card is free because Coast2Coast is a pharmacy benefit manager that manages prescription drug plans for large entities, and the company has built a pharmacy benefit network. The company has asked pharmacies to extend the same discounts to the Coast2Coast card. The discount comes from the dispensing fee and the pharmacy. The pharmacists are participating in these programs and relinquishing profits because the card is a marketing tool. If someone with a card comes into the business, that person is likely to buy about three items while there.

Mr. Argoudelis asked if that is the source of the compensation.

Mr. Babbitt answered yes. The card offers a savings on brand name and generic drugs, and there are 60,000 drugs in the formulary. There are 59,000 pharmacies in the network. The card is written in English and Spanish and is designed for several different groups of people: the uninsured; the insured who have high drug co-pays; people who have pre-existing conditions and a drug benefit has been excluded; and Medicare patients. Mail order is available. The card also offers discounts on lab tests, imaging services and vision, hearing and dental services. Prescriptions for pets also are covered. Coast2Coast covers all the program's costs, including the administration of the program and the printing and distribution of the cards. Will County would receive a royalty fee for the use of the card. About 72% of the prescriptions generate a royalty of \$1.25 each.

Ms. Hart asked who paid the royalty.

Mr. Babbitt replied Coast2Coast and WellDyneRx.

Ms. Karton stated the money came from the dispensing fee.

Ms. Hart commented the county would be making money from its constituents.

Ms. Karton stated the money is being generated whether the government receives it or not. If the county does not receive a portion of the dispensing fee, the level of the discount does not change. There is a lot of money made in drugs, and Coast2Coast is willing to share this funding with governmental agencies.

Mr. Babbitt stated the money could be used in the general assistance fund, for example. The county does not have to accept the royalty fees, and that money has no affect on the economics. Lake County has a population of 703,000. Between October of 2010 and August of 2011 there were 24,000 prescriptions filled using the Coast2Coast card. The savings for each customer averaged 23%, and the submitted claims totaled \$1.4 million. The customers paid about \$1.1 million and saved about \$320,000.

During the same period in Will County, there were 12,242 prescriptions filled. The submitted amount using the NACo card was \$513,000. The patients paid \$397,000, saved \$115,000 and had a discount of 22%. Niles Township has been using the Coast2Coast card for a year, and the population is 102,000. During the past year, the users of the Coast2Coast card filled 8,690 prescriptions. The submitted amount was \$569,000 and the patients paid \$306,000. There were savings of \$263,000, or 46.2%, a typical experience. Rock Island County has a population of 147,000 and also participates in the plan. From January to September 2011, there were 36,751 submitted prescriptions totaling \$2 million. The patients paid \$743,000 and saved nearly \$1.3 million. The program is quantifiable and monthly reports are generated. In August, Will County residents filled 964 prescriptions using the NACo card and submitted claims totaling \$37,762. The customers paid \$29,000 and saved approximately \$8,200, or 22%. In Niles Township, an area one-sixth of the size of Will County, there were 1,304 prescriptions filled in August. The amount submitted was more than \$94,000. The patients paid \$47,500 and saved \$46,800, or 49.6%.

Ms. Zigrossi asked if there was information available on what Will County residents would have saved in August if they had been using the Coast2Coast program.

Ms. Karton replied no. The program conforms to federal HIPPA laws, so the only available information is that a prescription was filled at a particular cost. Historically, when the Coast2Coast card replaces the NACo card, the utilization increases and typically doubles over a 12-month period. The savings increase by the same amount.

Ms. McPhillips noted that Coast2Coast seemed to have been in Illinois since 2009. Have any other governments been approached since then?

Ms. Karton replied Coast2Coast primarily focuses on municipalities including counties, townships, cities and villages. During the past year, about 35 collar county townships have joined the program.

Ms. Hart asked for a list of the DuPage County townships in the Coast2Coast program.

Ms. Karton replied there were five including Downers Grove, Winfield, Naperville and Lisle.

Ms. Hart asked if the royalty proposed for the county could instead be passed along to the residents as a savings.

Ms. Karton replied no. The negotiated costs are the negotiated costs. The county is not required to collect the royalties. It is a HIPPA compliant card, so the users can't be tracked. Governmental agencies often use the royalties to fund programs devoted to health and human services, for example.

Mr. Argoudelis asked for the length of the term of the contract.

Ms. Karton replied one year.

Mr. Argoudelis asked for an explanation of the transition between the cards. How would it be handled?

Ms. Karton answered Coast2Coast would publicize the new card. Pharmacies and social service agencies would distribute it, among others.

Mr. Babich asked if Will County had a contract with NACo.

Ms. Tatroe replied yes.

Mr. Babbitt stated pharmacies might continue to accept the NACo card during a transition.

Ms. McPhillips asked for information about similar programs.

**Sunny Hill Replacement Hires**

A motion was made by Mr. Stewart, second by Ms. McPhillips, to place a Resolution on the County Board agenda requesting the replacement hires for the Sunny Hill Nursing Home on the County Board agenda. All in favor. MOTION CARRIES.

**Request for Transfer of Funds Within the Health Department Budget**

Mr. Cicero explained the request involved a transfer of funds from salaries to medical services to pay contractual obligations for medical services.

A motion was made by Mr. Babich, second by Mr. Stewart, to place a Resolution on the County Board agenda requesting a transfer of funds within the Health Department budget. All in favor.

MOTION CARRIES.

**Request to Place Regional Superintendent of School's Annual Report on File at October County Board**

A motion was made by Ms. McPhillips, second by Ms. Zigrossi, to place the Regional Superintendent of School's Annual Report on file at the October County Board meeting. All in favor.

MOTION CARRIES.

**Request to Renew Contract for Disposable Washcloths at Sunny Hill**

Ms. Weiss explained there would be a 2% increase in the new contract.

A motion was made by Mr. Stewart, second by Ms. McPhillips, to place a Resolution on the County Board agenda requesting the renewal of the contract for disposable washcloths. All in favor.

MOTION CARRIES.

**Request to Renew Contract for Exam Gloves for Sunny Hill**

Ms. Weiss explained there would be a 2% increase in the new contract.

A motion was made by Ms. McPhillips, second by Mr. Babich, to place a Resolution on the County Board agenda requesting the renewal of the contract for exam gloves at Sunny Hill Nursing Home. All in favor. MOTION CARRIES.

**Request to Renew Disposable Products for Sunny Hill**

Ms. Weiss explained there would be a 2% increase in the new contract.

A motion was made by Mr. Stewart, second by Ms. Zigrossi, to place a Resolution on the County Board agenda requesting the renewal of the contract for disposable products for Sunny Hill. All in favor.

MOTION CARRIES.

**Request to Renew Security Services for Sunny Hill**

Ms. Weiss stated the price will remain at the original level.

A motion was made by Ms. McPhillips, second by Ms. Zigrossi, to place a Resolution on the County Board agenda requesting the renewal of the contract for security services for Sunny Hill Nursing Home. All in favor.

MOTION CARRIES.

**Request for Approval of License Agreement for the Coroner's Office with Silver Cross**

**Hospital**

Mr. Gould stated that he would probably table the issue to give the State's Attorney more time to consider it.

Mr. Palmer explained Silver Cross Hospital would like pay for the use of space as needed in the county's morgue. Because the hospital is not a public agency, there are some questions about the type of agreement that might be used to formalize the relationship.

Mr. Babich asked for an explanation of how often the hospital might use the space.

Mr. Palmer replied perhaps a dozen times a year.

Ms. Tatroe suggested that the item should be removed from the agenda.

A motion was made by Mr. Stewart, second by Mr. Babich, to remove the request from the agenda. All in favor.

MOTION CARRIES.

Ms. Traynere arrived at this juncture.

**Other New Business**

None.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION**

None.

**ADJOURNMENT**

A motion was made by Mr. Babich, second by Ms. Zigrossi, to adjourn the meeting at 9:08 a.m. All in favor.

MOTION CARRIES.