

COMMITTEE REPORT

COMMITTEE: Social & Environmental
CHAIRPERSON: Marvin Schultz
DATE/TIME: May 17, 2006. 12:30 p.m.

PRESENT:

Baranski
 Berlage
 Montelius

Potter
 Schubert
 Schultz

Zillig

Other Board Members:

Others: Peg Murphy, Rich Machala, Heather Miller

MINUTES

Chairperson Marvin Schultz called the meeting to order at 12:32 p.m.

1. Minutes

Jack Zillig made a motion to approve the committee minutes of April 19, 2006. Margie Montelius seconded and the motion passed.

2. Citizens' Comments - none

3. Old Business

- a) Zillig asked about dog licenses and if the reminder notices should be sent via certified mail. Domer Schubert stated that the topic was discussed at Public Works and that committee felt the procedure should remain the same.

4. Staff Reports

- a) **Health Department.** Peg Murphy reported that there are now 6 probable and 24 confirmed mumps cases. She is ordering mumps vaccines for employees. The number of new cases does seem to be going down. She also reported that the pandemic flu grant award is actually \$9,500 to be disbursed by August 31st. The situation will be severe if there is a pandemic flu; public services will not be readily available. There is a template for what families should do on the Red Cross website under "family emergency preparedness". The last epidemic was in 1818 – we are due for one.
- b) **Transit**
- i. **Transit rate and possible fare increase.** Rich Machala presented a written analysis to the committee. He believes that grouping riders is a key to reducing expenses and the May report shows the success of this approach with 90-100% funding of costs. He also suggested a \$0.05/mile fuel surcharge. Schubert will check on rides from Freeport to Madison being run now that could reduce the transit trips to Madison which are expensive. Machala is working with Bonnie Cox to combine Jane Addams client trips with Transit trips to Freeport. Beth Baranski made a motion to recommend instituting a \$0.05/mile fuel surcharge for medical transportation transit. Montelius seconded and the motion passed.

- ii. Machala also reported that the tardiness in receiving public aid payments requires that he request the next quarterly payment from the County. He will bring the forms into the County Administrator's Office to be processed.
- iii. The committee discussed the Workshop purchase of fuel from the IDOT tanks used by Transit. The committee discussion seemed to support the idea and they decided to have a special meeting at 6:45 p.m. on May 23 to vote on the item as a committee and pass a recommendation to the County Board. Machala will check with the County Engineer Steve Keeffer to see if this affects the gas bid.

5. New Business

- a) **708 agency presentation – Freeport Health Network Counseling Center.**

Rick Walters, Director of Operations, and Kim Shird from the Galena office were present to speak with the committee. There is a Galena site office, the only one in Jo Daviess County. It has case management, a psychiatrist 2 days/month, part-time Big Brother/Big Sister program and has conducted child safety seat checks. There are two full-time counselors, Shird, and two full-time support staff. The office has approximately 20 intakes per month; a number that remains pretty steady. They work with the police department to assist people with problems. Screening Assessment & Support services (SASS) respond to youth who are in a situation and try to work with the youth and family. They try to keep individuals out of institutions. Continue to promote awareness of services and reduce stigma – encourage people to get help. Try to decrease amount of time psychiatric patients spend in emergency departments and have decreased the average from 6 hours down to 5 hours. Montelius suggested that stigma is throughout society more than just the individuals in need. Walters agreed, but feels that progress has been made. Shird said there has been a change in the field that is helping clients to be more self-reliant. They struggle with intoxicated individuals who may also be suicidal and are working with the State's Attorney and the Sheriff's Office on this. There is a shortage of psychiatrists, especially child psychiatrists. Schultz asked about state payments and 708 Board payments. The State is going to a fee for services basis which is tougher. They are determining a rate structure that will allow for services to continue. May be short \$300-350,000. The 708 Board funding is for Big Brother/Big Sister, crisis for youth and SASS programs. They also use that money to pay for services that the state won't pay for, such as transit to a household for assessment.
- b) Peg Murphy noted that alcohol abuse is a priority in the needs assessment and that the FHN has been a great resource for that group.

6. Citizens' Comments - none

7. Board Member Concerns

- a) Schultz will check with the County Administrator's Office regarding some form of recognition from the County Board for Helen Kilgore's 27 years of service on the Board of Health to be presented at the next Board of Health meeting on June 15.

8. New Business – tour of Health Department

The meeting adjourned at 2:04 p.m. following a motion by Zillig and seconded by Schubert and the committee proceeded to tour the Health Department.