

**HEALTH COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
December 17, 2010**

County Board Members in attendance: Millie Dyer, Frank Halpin, David Welter, Dick Steele, Ron Severson

County Employees in attendance: Dan Duffy, Susan Bates

Public Health Members in attendance: Kay Lynn Shoemaker, Barb Thetard, Susan Hudson, Chris Donley

Guests: Ellen Hanson

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Call to Order: D. Steele called the meeting to order at 8:30 am

Approval of Agenda: F. Halpin made a motion to accept the agenda as presented. M. Dyer seconded. Motion carried.

Review of Minutes: The Health Committee minutes from October 22, 2010 were presented to be put on file for the January's 2011 County Board meeting. The approved Board of Health minutes of October 22, 2010 and November 17, 2010 were reviewed.

M. Dyer motioned to accept the Health Committee minutes of October 22, 2010. F. Halpin seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Public Comment: Ellen Hanson, of Hanson & Hanson Law Firm, and representing the local affiliate of NAMI (National Alliance on Mental Illness) presented a letter to the Health Committee outlining her concerns for limited mental health resources for people with mental illness due to state budget cuts among other things. She recommended several "simple" and "immediate" solutions including increasing secretarial coverage to full time for the Mental Health Division, and implementing electronic medical records to expedite the amount of time staff spends in grant-required documentation. She sought to raise awareness on several community issues. One was the increase in the county suicide rate, and its effects on the community, further noting that mental health counseling is needed for family members when there has been a suicide, often extending beyond three, six, or nine months. Another focus was on the needs of the homeless currently served through PADS and its 300 volunteers and 7 churches, noting the need for employment and mental health care for PADS guests. Another issue for the Mental Health Department is space. Mrs. Hanson encouraged private/public collaboration to address these needs and appealed to newly elected members of the County

Board to add their support to enhance services currently offered to Grundy County residents with mental illness. Mrs. Hanson and committee board members engaged in discussion as to how to best meet these needs as well as the need to involve the Board of Health who has the authority to hire (and fire) Health Department employees, and Personnel and Finance Committees regarding these matters.

Staff Update: B. Thetard informed the Health Committee that she is currently interviewing to fill two nurses' positions. K. Shoemaker also noted that the well and septic coordinator position in Environmental Health is open, and applicants are being sought.

Administrator's Report: K. Shoemaker gave the Public Health Administrator's report for November 2010. Motion to approve the report was made by M. Dyer, and seconded by D. Welter. Motion carried.

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Cash Receipts/Financial Report: K. Shoemaker reviewed the cash receipts for October and November 2010. Motion to approve the cash receipt reports was made by D. Welter, and seconded by M. Dyer. Motion carried. K. Shoemaker reviewed the expenses for the months of October and November 2010. Motion to approve the expense report was made by M. Dyer and seconded by D. Welter. Motion carried.

Approval of Claims: K. Shoemaker distributed the prior approval of claims by the Board of Health for November 2010 and December 2010 claims for review and signing. M. Dyer made the motion to pay the claims as presented. D. Welter seconded the motion. Motion approved.

Division Reports:

Environmental Health: K. Shoemaker reported in M. Boyle's absence that the division had met its self-appointed deadline of completing all restaurant inspections by December 15th, so as to not create more distractions during the especially busy holiday season for these food establishments.

Mental Health: S. Hudson reviewed several new developments in the division, including the need to pursue a contract with a toxicology laboratory that will meet federal and DASA (Department of Alcohol and Substance Abuse) guidelines, and several new opportunities. One opportunity is to provide treatment for a portion of the 30 – 60 children a year who will now be screened at Morris PD's new facility as victims of alleged abuse. Another is to provide mental illness sensitive training for 15 members of the Illinois State Police Swat Team. A third opportunity is to work with Dr. Wuest at IPD on implementing electronic medical records. The last development for the department is to announce the pending resignation of our psychiatrist, Dr. James Smedegard, at the end of January after nearly 15 years of psychiatric service to our clients. Those in attendance discussed the importance of being able to continue to provide psychiatric care, and the arduous task of finding a suitable replacement.

Nursing: Barb asked for the boards opinion of whether Medicaid should be accepted for immunizations. Medicaid pays less than the cost of the vaccine for some vaccine given. Discussion was held. This will be placed on January agenda for a motion. Barb also reported flu vaccines given this year were~400 verses ~800 given in 2009.

B. Thetard stated she also has concerns regarding lack of full time secretarial coverage in the nursing division as well.

Seniors Programs: Senior Programs has completed all 18 screenings for Money Follows the Person. There weren't any appropriate for de-institution. The division has been working on developing a group for grandparents raising grandchildren which will begin in January. Lack of full time secretarial coverage was also noted as a problem in the Seniors Division.

Other Business: B. Thetard reviewed the chart listing vaccine costs, Medicaid reimbursement, and the Board of Health's recommendation that we continue to provide these vaccines billing Medicaid as a service to indigent people in our community.

K. Shoemaker reported that the Board of Health had approved the Volunteer Handbook for PODS volunteers. She suggested that due to time constraints, The Road Not Traveled information be tabled till next month since it is planned for the spring.

R. Severson expressed concern over the IPLAN listing "Interventions for Geriatrics" as a priority concern, taking the place, he felt, of alcohol abuse. He noted that in the last County Board Meeting several officers had been awarded certificates for issuing thousands of tickets for DUI's, and made a strong recommendation that alcohol abuse continue to be addressed as a major concern for Grundy County and one of the IPLAN needs.

Adjournment: Motion made by D. Welter and seconded by M. Dyer to adjourn. The meeting adjourned at 9:35 am.

Minutes taken by: S. Hudson

Edited by: K. Shoemaker