

COUNTY INSTITUTIONS COMMITTEE

Wednesday, October 9, 2019

PRESENT: M. Holliday, R. Wesley, J. Minner, N. Petrillo, C. Dutton, L. Dalton, M. Madison
ABSENT: K. Novacich-Koberna
OTHERS: D. Humphrey, J. Parkin, T. Corona, C. Ladd, R. Werden, C. Ellis, C. Cohan, B. Lavite, E. Harriss, P. Rudloff

PUBLIC COMMENT:

Pat Rudloff, a member of NAMI as well as a participant in the Taskforce on the Criminalization of People with Mental Illness spoke to the Committee in support of the Stepping Up initiative.

Candace Ladd, a member of the Madison County Historical Society announced they will be having a program on the Under Ground Railroad on Sunday at 2:00pm.

The September minutes were approved by all members present.

EDUCATION:

R. Werden spoke about the growing concern of youth vaping and mentioned he will be a part of a Vaping Prevention Committee meeting at the Edwardsville High School. Mr. Werden mentioned vaping has been an issue in all Madison County schools with reports of kids' vaping as young as 3rd grade. Discussion was held on creating a county-wide ordinance to give teachers/administrators and school districts residing outside of city limits more resources on the issue; a repercussion being considered is community service. Mr. Werden alluded to the idea of Vape Detectors and said they cost around \$1k each with an annual update cost of \$150. From 2016-2018 in Madison County, 50% of 8th graders, 58% of 10th graders and 86% of 12th graders have tried vaping. The legal age to purchase vape products is 21 years old however there is no legal age to possess.

Mr. Madison asked that any limitations placed on vaping products target only the individuals under the legal age to purchase vape products. In nearly all cases to date where someone has died from vaping, it was recently determined that THC oils had been added after the fact, and it was those oils that caused the deaths, not the vapor liquid (or E-liquid) itself. He voiced that some business owners have put their entire livelihoods into shops that supply these products and they should not be penalized in a free market economy, unless they are breaking laws. He also stated that vapor liquid has no flavor unless it is added, including tobacco flavors and sweet type flavors, and that banning one over the other is unreasonable, as none of the flavors are purely natural.

Mr. Lavite mentioned there is a new smoking device that hits the market this week in Atlanta that does not have vapor or smoke that delivers only nicotine.

MUSEUM:

J. Parkin said there is a new exhibit in the Courthouse on Back to School and will soon have a new exhibit in the Admin Building on the American Legion (100th anniversary). Mr. Parkin reported work has resumed at the Weir House and has been in contact with Ms. Cantarino from IMPACT on ADA compliance. Mr. Parkin highlighted several things he would like to do in the future such as expanding Madison County History Week into schools as well as sending out newsletters to teachers regarding resources for Madison County History and various other events pertaining to history. He also noted the old County Jail and Sheriff's residence has been removed from the National Registry of Historic Places and the Alton Gas and

Electric Power House was added. Mr. Parkin said he attended an Illinois History Conference at the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library Museum which was the 21st year of the conference and highlighted some of the topics of discussion.

CHILD ADVOCACY CENTER:

C. Cohan reported the reaccreditation site visit passed but will not be official until January (5 year reaccreditation). She stated they have received their signed DCFS and VOCA Grants for FY2020 which started July 31st and will be able to start moving money into its respected accounts. Also, they will be spending out their Friends Grant so there will be \$25k taken out of the Admin Budget and put into the Friends Grant. The 1st Mid America Golf Tournament was on September 11th and is anticipating somewhere around \$25k. The site visit for the Alton Women's Home Grant application also took place. The Harvest of Hope event is October 10th over the lunch hour and the Domestic Violence Memorial Service at Alton Memorial is October 9th which is hosted by the Family Violence Prevention Council. Ms. Cohan sits on the Southern IL Child Death Investigation Taskforce and are working on a project regarding deaths due to co-sleeping. Ms. Cohan mentioned a case that pled out on Friday involving male and female perpetrators along with another adult sexual trial case happening this week. Ms. Cohan reiterated that since the fees and fines have changed, the CAC will need to be funded differently; she said \$350k is being asked of the County to put towards the CAC's budget.

MENTAL HEALTH:

Debbie Humphrey introduced herself to the Committee as the new Mental Health Director and gave a brief history of her experience in the mental health field. Ms. Humphrey said she is scheduling a Meet and Greet with the providers that are contracted with the Mental Health Board which is 16 different organizations. She said they are currently out of compliance with a 3 and 5 year plan which is mandated by the Community Health Act; Ms. Humphrey will be organizing a Community Needs Assessment and has reached out to SIUE on possibly getting a Graduate Student to help with the Assessment. Ms. Humphrey plans on taking the key informant interviews and prioritizing the needs of the communities; she hopes to be completed with the 3 and 5 year plan by June. Ms. Humphrey voiced her position with the Stepping Up initiative and provided the Committee with information regarding Stepping Up in McHenry County; it was noted that funding is obtained through levies and population. Ms. Humphrey concluded her report by discussing the homeless population in Alton.

VETERAN'S ASSISTANCE:

B. Lavite provided his monthly report to the Committee and mentioned he has submitted the budget for the VAC. Mr. Lavite highlighted certain areas of his budget and explained how his budget usage fluctuates based on Veteran needs and timeliness. Mr. Lavite noted the Federal Government provided around \$70mil for Veterans last year in Madison County. Mr. Lavite shared a story about a special individual he met that is a Veteran and is walking across the Country to bring awareness to veteran suicide; "Walking for Life" is being conducted by Van Booth who is walking 22 miles a day to symbolize the 22 veterans who are committing suicide daily. Mr. Booth also works with Operation Song, a group of non-profit recording artists who will interview a veteran and turn their story into a song.

Mr. Minner moved, seconded by Mr. Wesley to approve the bills for the month. The ayes and nays are being called on the motion to approve resulted in a vote as follows: AYES: R. Wesley, J. Minner, N. Petrillo, C. Dutton, L. Dalton, M. Madison NAYS: None.

NEW BUSINESS:

Mr. Holliday provided the committee with information on Stepping Up and cited a web address to a webinar regarding the initiative. Discussion was held on the number of beds available for individuals with mental illnesses. The largest provider of mental health beds, excluding the Mental Health Hospital, is Gateway Hospital in Granite City (Kettler). Discussion was held on where to keep mentally ill individuals to get them suitable help when jail is not the appropriate location.

Mr. Wesley moved, seconded by Mr. Madison to adjourn the meeting. **MOTION CARRIED.**

/mds