

COUNTY INSTITUTIONS COMMITTEE

Wednesday, December 9, 2020

PRESENT: R. Kneedler, M. Madison, N. Petrillo, S. Pace, J. Minner, L. Dalton, A. Messner

ABSENT: None.

OTHERS: J. Parkin, B. Lavite, D. Humphrey, R. Werden

The minutes from the November meeting were approved by all members present.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

None.

*A. Messner entered the meeting.

COUNTY MUSEUM:

J. Parkin provided the committee with historical facts for December and reported the Museum plans to switch their focus to online resources in a virtual setting. Mr. Parkin noted that up to half of museums most likely will not survive covid 19 due to being closed and that they are dependent on their consumers. The idea of having a touchless museum of briefly discussed.

EDUCATION:

R. Werden reported there are currently 3 school districts that are teaching in person. Remote learning is anticipated to go through January, 2021 and noted that the Alternative School will too be going to a remote setting tomorrow. Mr. Werden expressed the stress and pressure that school administrators, teachers and school nurses are under. He touched on the staffing issue that schools are experiencing and that media coverage has been a good tool to increase the number of substitute teachers. Mr. Werden gave the committee their monthly acronym list – Early Childhood Development Center (ECDC), Career Technical Education (CTE), Family Support Plan (FSP).

Ms. Dalton inquired about school compliance visits. It was noted several visits have been conducted but due to covid 19 regulations, it has been difficult. A list of scheduled visits will be provided to the committee.

Mr. Minner inquired about the qualifications of a substitute teacher. It was noted that due to the shortage of subs, the qualifications were reduced to 60 college hours along with the normal background check.

Mr. Madison inquired what the process is when a student shows covid 19 symptoms. It was noted the student is sent home regardless of the symptom/complaint. The student is not required to take a covid test, however if a negative test is received, the student is allowed back at school 48 hours after being symptom free; if a positive test is received, the student must obtain a release letter from the Health Department. Mr. Werden also said siblings or members of the same household are sent home as well. CDC and Health Department guidelines are being followed.

Ms. Pace inquired if the committee members could get a copy of the press release regarding substitute teachers to send out to their personal friends and family. Also, if it could be posted on the ROE's Facebook page.

CHILD ADVOCACY CENTER:

C. Cohan gave the new committee members an overview of what the Child Advocacy Center does and how they are conducting interviews via the Zoom platform. She said the Center has had about half the normal number of interviews but have risen since kids have gone back to school. Ms. Cohan went on to report that the CAC's team members, law enforcement and child protection partners have been affected by covid but have been fortunate to be able to maintain services throughout the pandemic. Ms. Cohan said the CAC has a fairly difficult budget with various grant timelines which will be detailed out and explained when the committee members receive their budget packet. She said the annual 1st Mid America Golf Tournament raised over \$24,000 for the Center and that the CAC is currently collecting supplies for holiday baskets. The annual fundraising campaign information is out and Trivia Night will be held in February or March virtually. Ms. Cohan concluded her report by mentioning the 2nd therapist for the Center has completed the initial part of their training and will be moving on to the supervision stage.

MENTAL HEALTH

D. Humphrey explained in detail the county's 708 Mental Health Board, what services they provide and how they're funded. She also spoke about the 16 different service providers/agencies, grant requests along with the creation of community plans based off of assessed needs. Ms. Humphrey went on to speak about conferences that were funded and cancelled due to covid; she noted those conferences will not have to be funded again which will allow their budget to cover other areas. A beneficial service that was implemented this year through county funds was an online reporting system which helps with applications, reports and data. Ms. Humphrey said they are seeing similar mental health side effects from covid as they are medically with increased numbers of social isolation and suicide. She also mentioned that Chestnut Health Systems have increased the number of practitioners in psychiatry and has started providing covid testing to their staff, clients and the public. Ms. Humphrey was asked by Probation to take over and restart their Juvenile Justice Council; she formed an Executive Board which includes community stakeholders; in January, there will be a community meeting. She also touched on Redeploy and Truancy programs; quarterly meetings will start in March.

Mr. Kneeder inquired where the Mental Health and Child Advocacy Office's are located.

VETERAN'S ASSISTANCE:

B. Lavite gave the new committee members an overview of what the VAC does and how they are governed by the Military Veterans Assistance Act. Mr. Lavite shared a brief history of the VAC and mentioned they are required to report to the Illinois Governor once a year (January 1st) to provide their annual report. Mr. Lavite highlighted and explained various services they offer to veterans and their families such as benefits processing, military veteran assistance, and the transition center. Mr. Lavite noted they also work with the Assessor's Office to help veterans apply for property tax exemptions as well. Mr. Lavite shared an estimate of 22,000 vets in Madison County and are serviced by 2 main hospital facilities, John Cochran and Jefferson Barracks along with 7 outpatient clinics. He touched base on the office remodel and how they are conducting meetings virtually on Google as well as in person. Mr. Lavite concluded his report by speaking about an ongoing VAC lawsuit.

Ms. Dalton moved, seconded by Mr. Madison to approve the bills for the month. The ayes and nays being called on the motion to approve resulted in a vote as follows: AYES: M. Madison, N. Petrillo, S. Pace, J. Minner, L. Dalton, A. Messner NAYS: None. **MOTION CARRIED.**

PURCHASE REQUESTS:

None.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

None.

NEW BUSINESS:

Brief discussion took place regarding the committee schedule. It was noted the County Institutions Committee dates and times will stay the same for now.

Mr. Madison welcomed new board members.

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

*Please refer to the audio for report and discussion details in full.

/mds