

## COUNTY INSTITUTIONS COMMITTEE

Wednesday, February 12, 2020

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

Mr. Minner moved, seconded by Mr. Wesley to approve the minutes from the January meeting. **MOTION CARRIED.**

### **EDUCATION:**

R. Werden reported the school inspections were completed in November and December in which Mr. Werden invited the members to; he also extended the invitation to tour any of the schools or meet any of the instructors. Mr. Werden spoke briefly about the various alternative facilities the school districts have and SB100 which pertains to discipline in schools. The U.S. Department of Homeland Security recently launched schoolsafety.gov that was created to provide actionable recommendations for safer environments within the schools when a threat arises e.g. active shooter. Mr. Werden also mentioned they have been working with the Health Department on getting word out to schools about the Corona Virus and the Anti-Vaping Campaign. He has also been busy updating the school calendar with snow days. A Teacher Recruitment Program is in the works to help on the shortage of full-time and substitute teachers. Mr. Werden reported they met with the Laborers Local to discuss continuing the program for Juniors and Seniors that are interested in manual labor careers; the Edwardsville, Highland, Collinsville, Triad and Granite City School Districts are involved. Mr. Werden concluded his report with the Committee's monthly acronym quiz; PPS (private and parochial schools), IEP (individualized education program), SEL (social emotional learning) and PTA (parent teacher association).

### **COUNTY MUSEUM:**

J. Parkin provided the Committee with February historical facts and reported most of the scaffolding at the museum has come down. He said the south side of the building's remaining scaffolding is for removing as much paint as possible from the brick once the temperature reaches 50 degrees or warmer. Mr. Parkin and his team are researching and designing exhibits for the interior as well as the exterior of the museum. Mr. Parkin mentioned the Smithsonian Institute will be having a traveling exhibit on "Voices and Votes – Democracy in America" that will be hosted at the Madison County Museum on the first floor of the Museum in the spring of 2021. Mr. Parkin noted that if the museum is not ready, plans have been made to host it in the lobby of the Administration Building. Lastly, Mary Westerhold retired and will not be replaced in the near future.

### **CHILD ADVOCACY CENTER:**

C. Cohan reported they have had a busy January and voiced they will be doing the Erin's Law presentations (child sexual abuse prevention education) in Bethalto School District again along with Alton Middle School which will reach over 1500 kids. Ms. Cohan also reported there will be 2 licensed therapists on site at the CAC through the Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) Grant. The Facilities Department is renovating the therapy wing which will also allow for proper security and monitoring of that area. Trivia Night will be held on February 29<sup>th</sup>.

Discussion was held between Mr. Madison and Ms. Cohan on the amount time a case takes from start to finish. Please refer to the audio for the discussion in detail.

Ms. Cohan stated the 2 therapists have been staffed with various cases and have really provided support and a change in trajectory for the kids at the center who are nationally certified in trauma focused cognitive behavioral therapy. Before the 2<sup>nd</sup> therapist came on board, there was a back log of 15 kids which is a full case load.

### **MENTAL HEALTH:**

D. Humphrey reported they are now embarking upon the Community Behavioral Health Assessment in which the intern has started and has developed the interview questions. The individuals who will be interviewed will be apart of county departments that interface with mental health along with community providers totaling around 40 individuals. The interviews will cover substance use, suicide, mental health education, training and criminal justice issues. Ms. Humphrey provided a report that covered substance and opioid abuse; she said 298 lives were saved by Narcan. The report also highlighted Narcan training, medication assisted treatment, recovery and drug court. Ms. Humphrey said on February 27<sup>th</sup>, there will be a conference on suicide prevention that will include physicians and health care professionals along with the National Association of Suicide Prevention to provide trainings. In Madison County, there have been 361 suicides over the last 10 years; in St. Clair County, there has been 264 suicides in the same time period. Ms. Humphrey spoke briefly of a federal grant that was written and applied for regarding mental health education training for trauma in the schools.

\*R. Wesley left the meeting.

Ms. Humphrey spoke about the Redeploy Illinois Grant and mentioned that there will be a meeting in March for the renewal application. She mentioned there will be 2 grants that will help expand the mental health budget and noted there was over \$200k in requests over what was budgeted this year.

Kris Gamm-Smith and AJ French continue to work on the Stepping-Up Initiative. Ms. Gamm-Smith reiterated the importance of getting individuals involved who are directly impacted by criminalization and the criminally ill. She also said that the entire view of the system will be discussed to strengthen and change areas that need attention per the intercept model.

Mr. Holliday and Mr. Madison both voiced their concerns on funding and the desire to see the state take a proactive position in opening up state facilities. Ms. Gamm-Smith stated that Wood River and Alton are working within their cities to try and strengthen their mental health resources with jails.

Ms. Humphrey noted the Department of Mental Health is almost non-existent; she said Health and Family Services (HFS) is the source of payment for services but is not active as the Department of Mental Health once was.

### **VETERANS ASSISTANCE:**

B. Lavite voiced his opinion on building new facilities for the mentally ill. Discussion was held regarding the funding for institutions. P. Rudloff from NAMI along with the committee discussed the importance and lack of data in Madison County.

Mr. Lavite voiced his concerns about an instance that was in the news and on social media that made fun of an individual's mental illness.

Mr. Lavite reported the Blue Water Navy Act was passed and spoke about the responded burdens for each veteran's appointment. He also noted a lot of veterans are being seen to reapply for their property tax

exemptions. Mr. Lavite spoke of how the Department of Defense opened up military bases to veterans who are 100% service connected and about Space Available Travel.

Mr. Lavite mentioned they have a new staff member, Brad Yunt, since Tim Alexander took a position with the Disabled American Veterans at the national level in Chicago.

Ms. Dutton inquired if Stephen Meyer, the veteran walking for PTSD has been in contact in which he has not.

Mr. Madison reiterated that there are certain circumstances where buildings are needed for individuals with mental illnesses. Mr. Lavite stated the average crisis time is 72hrs. Further discussion was held on different types of crises that call for different health care environments and medication. It was noted more data is needed and Ms. Humphrey said she will include related interview questions in the Community Assessment. Mr. Lavite spoke of 2 main treatments for veterans regarding PTSD.

Mr. Minner moved, seconded by Mr. Madison to approve the bills for the month. The ayes and nays being called upon the motion to approve resulted in a vote as follows: AYES: M. Holliday, M. Madison, J. Minner, C. Dutton, L. Dalton NAYS: None **MOTION CARRIED.**

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

None.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

None.

Ms. Dutton moved, seconded by Ms. Dalton to adjourn the meeting. **MOTION CARRIED.**

/mds