

**MADISON COUNTY
COUNTY INSTITUTIONS COMMITTEE**

Wednesday, February 9, 2022

PRESENT: S. Pace, T. Eaker, J. Minner, L. Dalton, A. Messner, V. Doucleff, R. Kneedler, M. Madison
ABSENT: N. Petrillo
OTHERS: C. Cohan, D. Humphrey, C. Ellis, J. Thompson, D. Tanzyus

*S. Pace chaired the meeting.

Ms. Dalton moved, seconded by Mr. Eaker to allow A. Messner, R. Kneedler, and V. Doucleff to attend and participate remotely. **MOTION CARRIED.**

The January 2022 minutes were approved as written.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

None.

CHILD ADVOCACY CENTER:

C. Cohan reported things are going well at the Center and that it has been busy. She said they have received confirmation for prevention education for Bethalto School District, Brighton School District, Alton Middle School, and possibly Alton High School. The 1st MidAmerica check presentation happened a few weeks ago, and the Center was presented with a \$24,000 check from the golf tournament. Ms. Cohen said that prevention education can be provided for pre-k through high school aged kids. She also said that the Center can interview children ages 3-17; the child has to be verbal in order to be interviewed; the Center has interviewed, at the request of law enforcement, adults that are developmentally disabled and function at a lower level. In 2020, there were 406 interviews, down from a typical year of around 550. In 2021, there were 486 interviews.

EDUCATION:

R. Werden reported that some school districts took the 7th Circuit ruling and went to mask optional mode, while other districts chose to wait for the appeal. Mr. Werden said that the Judge's ruling affects named parties in the suit and the 7th Circuit until it is appealed. Once the appeal occurs, it will become statewide. The precedent and fairness of the Judge's ruling was discussed. Mr. Werden focused on the positives being that kids are physically in school and that covid numbers are going down. The Governor announced the mask mandate will be lifted on March 1st for the general public, excluding schools until spring break. At length discussion ensued on multiple topics about protests at schools and school board meetings, about students bullying and being bullied over masks, incidences where students are being separated from their classmates, and how details of stories can be exaggerated.

Mr. Werden reported there was a fire in a breaker box at the Wood River Elementary School. After, a walkthrough was conducted, and damage was surveyed. Mr. Werden said students are being housed at the high school and local churches with a 6-8 week estimated timeline for cleanup. Mr. Werden mentioned that luckily the fire happened on a snow day around 3:40pm.

Further discussion ensued on bullying, and a recent Health Advisory Committee meeting.

MENTAL HEALTH:

D. Humphrey reported that May is Children’s Mental Health Month. She said she has been meeting with people locally and statewide on the long-term effects of children’s mental health because of covid. There is a tentative date of May 7th for a webinar regarding student’s and teacher’s mental health, along with what types of supports and recoveries that need to be put in place. Ms. Humphrey said that during the month of May, a toolkit of resources will also be dispersed to schools. A proclamation to legislation is in the works to endorse Children’s Mental Health Month. Ms. Humphrey said they are going to start heavily using social media for mental health support and recovery. She also spoke about a survey developed by the Children’s Behavioral Health Committee (CBHC) that will be dispersed through Illinois. Ms. Humphrey goes on to speak about how the workforce has been obliterated, how salary incentives are no longer working, and how it will take years to get qualified individuals in certain fields. Promotional material on the Mobile Crisis Teams, Adult Crisis Services, and the 988 suicide prevention telephone number was spoken about. Ms. Humphrey spoke about Pathways to Success through Illinois Department of Human Services, embedding community support workers in communities for families that need mental health support for children. Ms. Humphrey said 1 of their 2 largest providers will not provide these services in Madison County due to the workforce issue. She said they have 1 agency that will, and 1 agency that will not. Ms. Humphrey finished her report by speaking about a survey on gaps in behavioral health services for individuals in crisis.

VETERAN’S ASSISTANCE:

None.

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: T. Eaker, J. Minner, L. Dalton, A. Messner, R. Kneedler, M. Madison NAYS: None. **MOTION CARRIED.**

*V. Doucleff was not present remotely during bill approval.

PURCHASE REQUESTS:

None.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

None.

NEW BUSINESS:

None.

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

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

/mds