

COUNTY INSTITUTIONS COMMITTEE

Wednesday, July 10, 2019

PRESENT: M. Holliday, M. Madison, N. Petrillo, J. Minner, L. Dalton

ABSENT: R. Wesley, C. Dutton, K. Novacich-Koberna

OTHERS: C. Cohan, J. Parkin, S. Hansen, C. Ladd, M. Westerholdt, C. Ellis, B. Lavite, D. Podner

Mr. Minner moved, seconded by Mr. Petrillo to approve the June meeting minutes. **MOTION CARRIED.**

EDUCATION:

D. Podner provided the committee with the monthly Services Report. She apologized on Mr. Werden's behalf for not being able to attend.

MUSEUM:

J. Parkin provided documentation on the Great Flood of 1844 and said today is the anniversary of the 1814 Wood River Massacre; he will be doing a presentation on the massacre in a few weeks. Mr. Parkin said at the end of this month is the 200th anniversary of the Kickapoo Treaty of Edwardsville. Mr. Parkin spoke about the upcoming Trivia night and an event being hosted by Dr. Steve Hansen on Sept 21st featuring a modern day Chautauqua.

A Resolution Establishing a Madison County History week was presented:

Mr. Madison moved, seconded by Ms. Dalton to approve the resolution as presented. **MOTION CARRIED.**

CHILD ADVOCACY:

C. Cohan passed out her monthly report and announced the VOCA and DCFS grants will be the same as last year. Ms. Cohan said they have changed the contracted position related to the VOCA Grant. She said the position used to be filled by a support person(in-home) as well as a therapist but due to the demand for additional therapists, the in-home position will be replaced which will result in a second therapist on site. Ms. Cohan said they held their first MDT Mingle which was a team building/networking event for team members and was sponsored by Widman Construction and Annie's Frozen Custard. Ms. Cohan mentioned they updated their protocol which is used by Law Enforcement, DCFS, Prosecution, Mental Health and Medical and the CAC. She spoke of 2 laws that are awaiting the Governor's signature that have passed the House and the Senate that will impact the protocol so they will be updating it again in the near future. One of the laws is related to consent of recording interviews and the CAC interviews will be exempt from FOIA. The other one is related school system investigations that include faculty/staff that are involved in school abuse allegations. Ms. Cohan concluded her monthly report with sharing a story about a family that had a sexual abuse allegation that was unfounded; the story was from the parent's side of an unfounded investigation. Please refer to the audio for Ms. Cohan's full report.

MENTAL HEALTH:

M. Brooks provided the committee with the monthly Mental Health report.

N. Petrillo said on July 16th, a committee will meet to review viable applications for the Director of Mental Health position. Once applications are reviewed, interviews will begin. It was noted that some of the applicants are local and some are not.

VETERANS' ASSISTANCE:

B. Lavite provided the committee with his monthly numbers report. He said as the budget cycle approaches, the VAC's portion has been prepared and presented to their Board. Mr. Lavite shared that starting in March of 2018, the Veterans Choice Program was the Federal Government's first attempt to send Veterans into the community for various services. He explained the VA is a network of hospitals that are co-located within teaching universities i.e. Barnes Jewish Hospital and St. Louis University. Since 2018, the Choice Program has been revamped into the Mission Act which then branches out to Community Care. Mr. Lavite explained that Community Care went into effect on June 6th 2019 and is the largest outpouring of VA dollars into the communities thus far. He said an initiative to collect some of those federal dollars is through a project called PREVENTS (President's Roadmap to Empower Veterans and End a National Tragedy of Suicide). The PREVENTS initiative opened in March and is asking for any information/idea that may help prevent Veteran Suicide. Mr. Lavite mentioned that the Mental Health Board, Public Safety/Health and Veteran's Assistance are perfect agencies to weigh in on this initiative and be at the forefront for Madison County. He mentioned that in order to collect dollars, participation is required and if no proposals are made then Madison County will miss out on potential opportunities related to PREVENTS; the request for information closes August 5th. Mr. Lavite said 20 Veterans a day are committing suicide and every time a Veteran suicide takes place on Federal property, Congress stops and announces the suicide on Congress floor. He also said there is proposed legislation to create a 911 specifically reserved for Veterans with their own exclusive 3 digit number. Lt. Thorp of the Wood River Police Department and Mr. Lavite have been in contact to come up with ways of helping Veterans in need of services. They have designed a perforated card, one half goes to the Veteran and the other half goes to the VAC, which will then allow VAC agencies to do follow ups. Mr. Lavite said \$132 million flowed into Madison County from the Federal Government for 22,000 veterans. The breakdown is \$68mil for compensation and pension, \$54mil for medical care, \$8mil for education, \$2mil for insurance and \$68mil for property tax exemptions. Mr. Lavite concludes his report by speaking about the upcoming 100th Bethalto Homecoming which will feature the traveling Vietnam Wall(August 29-Sept 2) and Vendor(Aug 31) from 10am-4pm. Please refer to the audio for Mr. Lavite's full report.

Ms. Dalton moved, seconded by Mr. Madison, 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: M. Holliday, M. Madison, N. Petrillo, J. Minner, L. Dalton NAYS: None.

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

/mds