

## **COUNTY INSTITUTIONS COMMITTEE**

Wednesday, December 11, 2019

**PRESENT:** M. Holliday, R. Wesley, L. Dalton, M. Madison, C. Dutton, N. Petrillo, J. Minner  
**ABSENT:** K. Novaich-Koberna  
**OTHERS:** J. Parkin, D. Seest, K. Gamm-Smith, C. Cohan, R. Werden, D. Humphrey, C. Ellis

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

### **EDUCATION:**

R. Werden provided the committee with the Regional Office of Education's monthly report and mentioned that Computer Science Education Week is December 9<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup>. He said that 90% of parents indicated in a recent survey that they would like their child to study computer science but only 45% of Madison County schools are offering such courses. He mentioned there are 500k current job openings pertaining to computer science. Mr. Werden reported they will be making a Substitute Teacher Recruitment Team to help with the substitute teacher shortage; a main focus being on training and instructional resources as well as feed back opportunities for the substitute. Mr. Werden tested the committee's knowledge on several acronyms; ROE, CTE, CEO, STEM/STEAM, ISBE and ESSA. Mr. Werden passed out and presented the 1<sup>st</sup> copy of The Regional Rambler.

### **COUNTY MUSEUM:**

J. Parkin voiced several historical facts and reported the MCHS will be going into the silent phase of fundraising after the new year in hopes it will be a catalyst for larger donations. Mr. Parkin gave an update on the brick work on the exterior of the museum and mentioned the work should be completed shortly after the new year. Mr. Parkin said he applied to be a participant in a traveling exhibit hosted by the Smithsonian Institution in 2021 which will be referred to as Museum on Main Street with a theme of Democracy in America. Mr. Parkin said he should find out in late December if they can proceed to the 2<sup>nd</sup> phase of the process. Mr. Parkin hopes other local museums will participate and expects the exhibit to be an opportunity for school field trips. He concludes his report by briefly speaking about the importance of spending time with and having conversations with senior citizens in nursing homes and retirement facilities to gain knowledge of their history; he's also taking suggestions for individuals who may be interested in historical presentations.

### **MENTAL HEALTH:**

D. Humphrey passed out several documents to the committee and reported that on December 5<sup>th</sup> there were 5 different sessions held from local and federal governments regarding the new cannabis legislation. She highlighted several key notes from the documents and noted that employers should focus on having strict policies in place. She also spoke briefly how cannabis can affect local health care providers. Ms. Humphrey said there was a Round Table held in Madison and St. Clair Counties on mental health and substance abuse/opioids but was unable to attend. Ms. Humphrey goes on to say she has been working on trauma resources at the state and local levels to compile a resource guide which should be finished in January. Ms. Humphrey mentioned she is a gubernatorial appointment to the Illinois Children's Mental Health Partnership and spoke about juvenile legislation regarding competence and fitness to stand trial and how juveniles are being treated the same as adults; she said the advocacy group is preparing fact sheets in hopes of legislation that will cater more to children. Ms. Humphrey spoke about doing some suicide prevention work in Madison County for adults and youth and mentioned the Teen Mental Health First Aid Pilot Program created by Lady Gaga; this program provides training to teens that can reach out to other teens contemplating suicide. This program has entered the U.S. through Lady Gaga and the National Behavior

Council which has currently trained 20 cohorts and the training module will be coming to Illinois. Ms. Humphrey noted a colleague that is willing to become QPR certified through the VA that will provide training free of charge however, Ms. Humphrey would like to support additional trainings if needed. Ms. Humphrey spoke of a Community Assessment and will be hiring a graduate intern student that will help with development and implementation of resources for areas in need. The Sequential Intercept Model was passed around for the committee to view.

### **CHILD ADVOCACY CENTER:**

C. Cohan reported Illinois passed a law that exempts CAC interviews from the Freedom of Information Act, effective January 1<sup>st</sup>, which will require rolling out information to law enforcement and DCFS to help protect children's interviews. She also reported they have been working with the school systems regarding SB456 that will apply to public and private schools. Ms. Cohan, Mr. Werden and a committee of superintendents will be working together to amend their protocol when there is a situation that involves an employee, vendor or volunteer of a school. Ms. Cohan goes on to mention the Sexual Assault Survivor Emergency Treatment Act (SASETA) which pertains to medical exams of acute cases with children that was significantly amended to make it more child friendly; she noted a separate piece of legislation drafted for children is also being worked on. Ms. Cohan spoke about holiday baskets that will be donated to families in need along with monetary donations. The 1<sup>st</sup> Mid America Golf Tournament check presentation will be held next week. The annual CAC Campaign letters went out in the mail. Trivia night will be on Leap Day, February 29<sup>th</sup>. Ms. Cohan mentioned they will come in under budget for 2019 due to equipment that ended up being cheaper than what was expected and a Mental Health Board grant that will not be spent in its entirety.

### **VETERANS ASSISTANCE:**

B. Lavite provided the VAC's annual breakdown and mentioned they are in the process of redeveloping their reports to better track veterans that come through the VAC; the new data will allow them to reevaluate eligibility for different services. Mr. Lavite reported the Compensation and Pension claims are the largest claims they work with throughout the year; a single claim can take 12-18 months. He also mentioned they are developing their own data system so they will no longer need outside sources to manage their software. Mr. Lavite reported he was contacted about medical cannabis for veterans and his opinion is that the VAC will follow FDA guidelines. He mentioned that medical cannabis is believed to be beneficial to veterans with PTSD and other mental illnesses but there is no scientific evidence of that being true. He also noted that cannabis can react with medications and cause psychotic episodes. Mr. Lavite reiterates the importance of participating in the initiative to prevent veteran suicide. The Toys for Tots and gloves and scarves drive will be held on December 20<sup>th</sup> along with the Christmas Open House. Mr. Lavite explained how to request toys from the Toys for Tots organization and where to pick them up at. The United Way hosted the 100 Neediest Families which Devon Neal applied and screened veterans for. Out of the 100 families chosen, 5 were from Madison County and all will receive varying degrees of assistance before and after Christmas.

Mr. Wesley 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: R. Wesley, L. Dalton, M. Madison, C. Dutton, N. Petrillo, J. Minner NAYS: None. **MOTION CARRIED.**

### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

Discussion was held regarding mental illness in jails. Mr. Holliday noted there needs to be a collaboration of groups to determine what the greatest needs are. He mentioned there has been discussion with the Sheriff's Office regarding not being able to afford certain things. Ms. Humphrey mentioned the importance of having law enforcement, mental health and other stakeholders that can improve the system that can work

together and can make reassessments from different viewpoints. Ms. Humphrey noted when a mentally ill person enters the jail, it's not necessarily because they have committed a crime, it's because they have nowhere else to go. A colleague of hers, Michelle Sturm from Gateway Regional Hospital, would like to implement an Emergency Room pertaining solely to behavioral health; NAMI is also included. The ER unit can also be used as an area to allow the individual to deescalate for a period of time if needed. D. Seest and K. Gamm-Smith noted that NAMI can be the voice of experience and will be at the forefront of the initiative. B. Lavite noted the VAC will also be participating from the veteran's perspective. There are currently 7 locations in Illinois that provides space for mentally ill individuals. Nationally, there is a statistic of 16%-33% of people who are in jail that should be treated in a mental health facility. More information is needed to know specifically how many mentally ill individuals are being detained in the Madison County Jail. Mr. Lavite noted the importance of treatment being voluntary and not mandated. Ms. Humphrey inquired where the appropriate place would be to look for funding; it was noted the County Institutions and Finance Committees would be a good start.

Mr. Holliday mentioned there is a vaping meeting on Friday and noted the National Association of County Officials are considering a ban on flavored vape juices. A county ordinance is being drafted that pertains to youth vaping. Mr. Madison noted that if flavors are banned, vaping as a whole will be banned since all vape juices are flavored.

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

/mds