

**MADISON COUNTY
COUNTY INSTITUTIONS COMMITTEE**

Wednesday, March 9, 2022

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

Ms. Dalton moved, seconded by Ms. Pace to allow Mr. Messner to attend and participate remotely.
MOTION CARRIED.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

None.

The February 2022 minutes were approved as written.

CHILD ADVOCACY CENTER:

C. Cohan reported there are 2 open positions for a Forensic Interviewer and Case Manager at the Center, and spoke about the Center moving to cloud based storage of their forensic interviews. Ms. Cohan said their Erin's Law presentations are coming up, and that they are meeting with the State's Attorney's Office to discuss the parent/family prospective of the court system and process. Ms. Cohan made the committee aware of SB970, which impacts acute medical exams for children who are sexual abuse victims. Further discussion was held on the storage and protection of interviews, and how long they should be kept. Ms. Cohan gave the committee a heads up on an annual subscription coming up next month that will be covered by a \$7k grant. Lastly, April is Child Abuse Prevention Month.

EDUCATION:

R. Werden reported a Career Fair will be held March 18th at the Edwardsville High School, along with a Career Planning Day for students. Mr. Werden said for the first time, there will be 6 medals awarded at the County Board meeting for IHSA girls wrestling. Mr. Werden mentioned they have a County Institute for October that is in the beginning stages of planning, and a School Safety Panel. The Compliance Visits have started back up. An update was given on the Wood River Hartford students returning to in person learning at 3 different locations, with hopes of getting them back into the school as soon as possible. Illinois teaching licensure requirements and incentives were discussed.

MENTAL HEALTH:

D. Humphrey reported they have 1 open position for a Program Manager that will be posted until March 25th. Ms. Humphrey highlighted her annual report and stated that over 26,000 individuals were served. The breakdown is as follows: over 8,000 received mental health services, over 14,000 received substance abuse treatment services, and the rest were developmental disability services. Ms. Humphrey stated there is a 34% increase in opioid deaths, 25% increase in suicides, and 30% increase in agency calls. She also stated that partly due to the behavioral health workforce, patients are now pushed back to 2 weeks or more before receiving services. Chestnut Health System announced that the Light House – Maryville that served children with substance use disorder has closed. Ms. Humphrey is working on 2 upcoming conferences; Impact Suicide that will be held in the Fall and targeting rural communities; and When Mental Health Hits Home that will focus on Living in the Now, Moving from Anxiety and Depression to Recovery and Peace. Ms. Humphrey goes on to say that she met with the City of Collinsville addressing the homelessness issue,

and spoke about the crisis intervention worksheet from the Alton Police Department. May 1st -7th is Children's Mental Health Week. Discussion ensued on opioid deaths and the possible causes.

VETERAN'S ASSISTANCE:

B. Lavite gave a high-level overview of what the VAC does, the services they provide, and how they are associated with the county. He stated that \$4.8M was deferred to the federal government in 2021 for veteran's benefits. He also said for every dollar they received in their tax levy, it represented a \$6.30 impact on the local economy. He gave a breakdown of services provided, which is as follows: 4,415 office visits, 4,591 phone calls, 1,984 other contacts, totaling around 11,000 veterans served. In Madison County, there are 20,000 – 22,000 veterans. Mr. Lavite said for Madison County, the Federal Government via offices such as the VAC, brought in \$165M which further breakdowns to \$90M going directly into veteran's pockets, \$67M for medical care, \$8M for education and training, and \$1M for insurance indemnities. With that influx, for every \$1 spent here in Madison County, represents a return of \$117 back into the local economy. Mr. Lavite spoke about problems due to covid and the struggle to keep veterans active. Mr. Lavite and Mr. Werden spoke about the ROE and the VAC partnering together to provide extra-curricular activities that are non-athletic for students that veterans can attend. Examples of clubs participating are the Hispanic Heritage Club and Renaissance Club. Further discussion was held on types of VAC services.

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

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

None.

NEW BUSINESS:

None.

*Please refer to the audio for details in full.

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

/mds