

## COUNTY INSTITUTIONS COMMITTEE

Wednesday, May 13, 2020

**PRESENT:** M. Holliday, N. Petrillo, J. Minner, L. Dalton, C. Dutton, M. Madison, R. Wesley  
**ABSENT:** K. Novacich-Koberna  
**OTHERS:** B. Lavite, B. Cooper, R. Werden, C. Cohan, J. Parkin

Ms. Dalton moved, seconded by Mr. Wesley to approve the minutes from the March meeting as presented. **MOTION CARRIED.**

### **PUBLIC COMMENT:**

None.

### **EDUCATION:**

R. Werden reported the schools will be handling graduation in various ways due to Covid. He will also be filming a message to the seniors. Mr. Werden gave the committee their monthly acronym list – Act of God (AOG), Remote Learning Plan (RLP) and Continued Learning Kits (CLK).

Mr. Minner inquired if school will be starting in September. Discussion was held on the potential continuation of remote learning and Mr. Werden said they are using a wait and see approach.

Ms. Dutton voiced appreciation towards Mr. Werden's letter to the seniors. She also shared sympathy on all the events the students are missing out on due to Covid.

### **COUNTY MUSEUM:**

J. Parkin shared historical facts for the month and noted he has made changes to his written monthly report he provides to the committee. Mr. Parkin said they posted 2 new online exhibits; Edward Coles and A Century of Oil Refining in Wood River and will be posting Centennial of Women's Suffrage next month. Mr. Parkin mentioned they have been working on developing a digital strategy for the County Museum which will allow them to stand independently of the Madison County Historical Society's social media. He noted they are often inadvertently considered a part of the MCHS even though they are not. Mr. Parkin briefly spoke about how Covid may impact the museum world and talked about putting webinars online. He also spoke about how he has been in contact with various groups brainstorming how they will keep their client base up and interactive exhibits ongoing. Mr. Parkin presented a proclamation; Honoring the Sesquicentennial of African-Americans First Voting in Madison County. He briefly spoke about the importance of journaling.

### **CHILD ADVOCACY CENTER:**

C. Cohan reported they have successfully implemented conducting forensic interviews using the HIPAA compliant Zoom platform and praised her staff on a job well done. Ms. Cohan said they are seeing about half the number of kids they would normally but are still managing a full case load for the way they are currently operating. They moved the April Child Abuse Prevention Month outreach to Facebook which received great feedback. Ms. Cohan goes on to say it is grant season and reported the DCFS grant is giving them a 2% increase along with a 12% increase from their VOCA grant. A large donation was secured from Phillips 66 which will cover a majority of the technology costs from the Covid response; the remaining costs will be covered by a new grant. Ms. Cohan mentioned that Simmons cancelled their annual golf tournament but will still be donating in lieu of the cancellation. She said the 1<sup>st</sup> Mid America golf

tournament is still scheduled as of now and also mentioned the trivia night they had a few months back was successful.

Brief discussions were held on the decline of reported cases due to kids not being able to be around mandated reporters along with DCFS struggling to find foster homes.

**MENTAL HEALTH:**

Mr. Holliday read a portion of Ms. Humphrey's written report regarding NACO and the Stepping-Up Initiative.

**VETERANS ASSISTANCE:**

Mr. Lavite reported the Federal Government has identified veterans as one of the most vulnerable populations. He also reported the office is fully operational and they are conducting all meetings remotely through Google Suite and Google Phone. He also reported that the VA has fully transitioned into telehealth; over 93% of their appointments are now telehealth. Mr. Lavite said the VA was notified of the Coronavirus on January 4<sup>th</sup> and spoke of a mission to protect and care for citizens. He reiterated the office is open and is still seeing veterans and encouraged the committee to keep referring veterans to them for services. The VAC Office is exploring locations and is taking suggestions and concerns pertaining to their weekly outreach programs during Covid restrictions. Mr. Lavite mentioned they implemented new software, VetPro, which is a program that processes electronic documents and signatures. There was brief discussion of a lawsuit between the County and the VAC; Mr. Lavite encouraged committee members to reach out to the appropriate people for a discussion to mitigate risks.

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

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

None.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

None.

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

/mds