

**MADISON COUNTY
COUNTY INSTITUTIONS COMMITTEE**

Wednesday, September 8, 2021

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

All members present approved the minutes from the August 2021 meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

None.

CHILD ADVOCACY CENTER:

C. Cohan submitted her written report prior to the meeting.

COUNTY MUSEUM:

J. Parkin shared monthly historical facts and thanked the board members for allowing Voices and Votes to use the foyer to display their exhibit. He mentioned an intern from SIUE decided to stay for the summer and that the Edwardsville Fire Department gave them a large collection of artifacts back in the spring. Mr. Parkin expressed gratitude to 2 archivists for their efforts in scanning and digitizing archives. A Chautauqua will be held at City Park on Saturday.

EDUCATION:

R. Werden reported a massive school bus driver shortage. He said Madison County Transit is providing free transportation until the end of the month for the Granite City School District grades 5 and up. Mr. Werden also spoke about how the Governor mandated (to be in place by September 19th) that all teachers be vaccinated or take a weekly covid test. In depth discussion was held on if the frequent testing is feasible, how school nurses are struggling to keep up, and rumors of school being cancelled. Mr. Werden went on to speak about 3 different policies regarding the latest quarantine process and ISBE's take on remote learning. Further discussion about the shortage of school bus drivers, driver's salaries, and possible sign on bonuses was held.

MENTAL HEALTH:

D. Humphrey reported that September 5th started Suicide Prevention Week. She mentioned that there is an Impact Conference on Friday from 8:00am-12:30pm at the Administration Building, followed by an event including prevention information, giveaways, and speakers. She went on to speak about a criminal justice survey and how the Mental Health Board held their Finance meeting to approve the crisis response work group, grant writer, and mental health first aid. Ms. Humphrey shared information she learned about an entire building that is not being utilized at the Alton Mental Health Center. She said there are people in the jail that could be transferred for treatment and will be working with Captain Tharp on the details. Discussion was held regarding various data that will be used for the Step Up program and how the data will be sorted and used. It was mentioned that NAMI may lead the Step Up program and the county will be an active part of it. Gateway Regional Hospital has plans drafted to build a crisis center that will act as an emergency department for mental health; approval by the governor is pending.

VETERAN'S ASSISTANCE:

No report.

Mr. Madison moved, seconded by Mr. Eaker 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, T. Eaker, M. Madison, L. Dalton, S. Pace NAYS: None. **MOTION CARRIED.**

PURCHASE REQUESTS:

None.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

None.

NEW BUSINESS:

None.

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

/mds