

COUNTY INSTITUTIONS COMMITTEE

Wednesday, September 9, 2020

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

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

PUBLIC COMMENT:

None.

EDUCATION:

R. Werden reported that school districts across the county are operating in various ways, he said some students are in class anywhere from 2-5 days a week as well as remote and hybrid options. Mr. Werden said that superintendents have been working closely with the Health Department as well as the state on school age metrics that can be broken down by school district. He stated that due to local control, school boards are taking into account parental wants and wishes and are acting accordingly throughout the county. Mr. Werden mentioned that the Collinsville school district had an outbreak in their staff but reported there has been no covid transmissions at school; he stated various screening precautions schools are taking. Mr. Werden gave the committee their monthly acronym list – Preschool For All (PFA), American College Test (ACT), Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT).

J. Parkin inquired if there would be interest in activities and resources targeted for teachers.

COUNTY MUSEUM:

J. Parkin provided the committee with historical facts for September and reported they are making slow progress on the Weir House. He said he hopes the exterior of the house will be completed by the fall and hopes to open the museum doors by the 1st of October. Mr. Parkin stated they were asked to remove exhibits from the courthouse due to covid-19 to make room for social distancing requirements. Mr. Parkin also said they will try to open their doors to researchers next wednesday, September 16th. He said a total of 4 people will be allowed inside at once due to covid. Mr. Parkin said he is trying to put together various committees associated with the touring exhibit, Voices and Votes: Democracy in America. A reception to kick off the exhibit on June 5th is in the works.

CHILD ADVOCACY CENTER:

C. Cohan reported the annual charity golf tournament for 1st Mid America will be held next week. She said things at the Center are going well and mentioned the budget packet received incorporates all the CAC grants and that the spend-out will reflect more accurate numbers for the fiscal year.

VETERANS ASSISTANCE:

B. Lavite reported it is Suicide Awareness Month and thanked Deborah Humphrey and the Mental Health Board for reading an article in efforts to bring order to mental health crises and suicide. He said he has attended 2 meetings regarding the PREVENTS Presentation and will be attending another tomorrow that will be co-hosted by Toni Corona at the SIUE Suicide Conference. Mr. Lavite spoke about the virtual weeklong Crisis Intervention International Conference he attended with over 65 hours of training which

provided insight from various agencies and providers across the world. Mr. Lavite goes on to report the VAC has been working with google on becoming HIPAA compliant to share information with law enforcement and also spoke about the PREVENTS survey in which he encouraged the committee members to take. The VAC continues to take active crises calls throughout Madison County for veterans in need. The office remodel is about 75% complete. Mr. Lavite made the committee aware of a case where an Iraq Veteran died by suicide that was aired live on social media on August 31st.

MENTAL HEALTH:

D. Humphrey reported that September 6th through September 12th is Suicide Prevention Week and September 10th is National Suicide Prevention Awareness Day. Ms. Humphrey said she was part of an editorial with the Intelligencer on mental health as well as suicide prevention. She also did a radio interview with WBGZ in support of the PREVENTS program and attended the United Congregation of the Metro-East to share suicide prevention information. The statistics for Madison County from 2001-2019 show 361 deaths by suicide. Ms. Humphrey said the Mental Health Board planning meeting will be held tonight and that they finished funding applications for 16 agencies for the next fiscal year. A SIUE intern is working on compiling resources into a directory to help individuals navigate and get the help they need as well as ways to market available resources.

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

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

*H. Mueller-Jones entered the meeting.

The following resolution was considered:

1. Resolution Supporting ‘Stepping Up’, a National Initiative to Reduce the Number of People with Mental Illnesses in Jail.

Mr. Holliday noted the subcommittee that was discussed last month will be made up of Kristopher Tharp, Madison County Jail Administrator; John Harvey, NAMI; John Rekowski, Madison County Public Defender; Patricia Rudloff, NAMI Southwest Illinois; Kris Gamm-Smith, Director of NAMI Southwest Illinois; Brad Wells, Wood River Chief of Police; and Belinda Gunning, Wood River Behavioral Health. Also in support is Chief Judge Mudge, Alton Police Department, Edwardsville Police Department and the Probation Department. Discussion was held regarding the Stepping Up resolution where members of the committee expressed their concerns and questions at length. Please refer to the audio for discussion details.

Ms. Dalton moved, seconded by Mr. Petrillo to approve the resolution as presented. The ayes and nays being called on the motion to approve resulted in a vote as follows: AYES: Mr. Petrillo, Ms. Mueller-Jones, Ms. Dalton NAYS: Mr. Madison, Mr. Wesley **MOTION CARRIED.**

NEW BUSINESS:

None.

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

/mds