

DRAFT
HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
MINUTES
January 5, 2009

The Health and Human Services Committee of the DeKalb County Board met on Monday, January 5, 2009 @ 6:30p.m. in the Administration Building's Conference Room East. Chairman Jeffery L. Metzger, Sr., called the meeting to order. Members present were John Emerson, Pat LaVigne, Richard Osborne and Paul Stoddard. Ms. Dubin was absent. Others present were Karen Grush, DeKalb County Public Health Director and Mr. Dennis Miller, DeKalb County Coroner and ESDA Director. A quorum was present.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

Moved by Ms. LaVigne, seconded by Mr. Emerson, and it was carried unanimously to approve the minutes from December 2008.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Moved by Mr. Stoddard, seconded by Mr. Osborne, and it was carried unanimously to approve the agenda as presented.

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT INTRODUCTION – MS. KAREN GRUSH

Ms. Karen Grush, DeKalb County Public Health Director, introduced herself to the new members of the committee. She said that the county has employed her for 38 years now. Her home health care unit will be moving into the new Outreach Building this week sometime. She said that the board of health paid about \$2 million towards this new building.

She explained to the committee that state law established the public health department. The County Board appoints members to the board of health. Her revenues involve about 50 line items of which 25% of the revenue comes from state grants. She was informed recently that all Illinois grants have been reduced by 4 to 5% for this year. Public Aid is not paying them and about \$300,000.00 is outstanding yet from Public Aid to be paid to the Health Department.

There are about 92 employees at the health department. They have recently unionized in her department. The union contract is good for 4 years and they just signed it in 2008.

EMERGENCY SERVICES INTRODUCTION – MS. KAREN GRUSH AND MR. DENNIS MILLER

Ms. Karen Grush and Mr. Dennis Miller, DeKalb County Coroner and ESDA Director then informed the committee about emergency services in the

county. They both feel that the county is much better prepared for these emergency services than they were five years ago. They feel that the entities that they have brought together three years ago, from all over the county, works very well together.

Mr. Miller then explained to the committee that he also is the Coroner for DeKalb County. He explained that last year there were 490 deaths, which is more than the 2007 figure. His office handles between 40 to 50 autopsies a year and over 300 cremations. He will be introducing legislation this spring in Springfield to help raise the permit fee on cremations from \$10.00 to \$25.00 or higher.

The committee thanked Ms. Grush and Mr. Miller for their very informative reports and for their fine work.

ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Mr. Emerson, seconded by Mr. Stoddard, and it was carried unanimously to adjourn the meeting.

Respectively submitted,

Chairman Jeffery L. Metzger, Sr.

Mary C. Supple, Secretary