

CHAMPAIGN COUNTY BOARD OF HEALTH

STUDY SESSION

Tuesday, January 16, 2007

The Board of Health of Champaign County held a Study Session meeting on January 16, 2007 in meeting room 2 at Brookens Administrative Center at 1776 East Washington, Urbana. The meeting was called to order at 6:05 p.m. Upon roll call, the following board members were found to be present: Kim Winston, Susan Maurer, Carrie Storrs, Dr. Peterson, Stan James and Dr. Rappaport. Dr. Kassem and Dr. O'Rourke were absent. Others present were Susan McGrath, Claudia Lenhoff, Deb Fruitt, Julie Pride and Deb Busey.

Correspondence and Communications

Ms. McGrath explained that Peter Tracy was not available to attend the meeting on this date, but would provide a letter and information for the next regular meeting of the Board of Health, and would also attend the next meeting on January 30, 2007.

Study Session Discussion Items

1. **2006 Champaign County Community Health Plan** – The board engaged in a discussion of the report, focusing on the key findings of the report, and the impact of those findings on the initiatives and plans to be adopted by the County Board of Health (hereinafter BOH). One item not mentioned in the report but believed to be critical by the BOH members was the lack of access to health care as a cause of health problems. BOH members discussed the need to identify the best use of the limited dollars to provide the most extensive level of services. Issues identified: focus on options for the delivery of services to those receiving home health care – coordination with the Mental Health Board, RPC and Senior Services could relieve some of the burden on the BOH.
2. **Community Nursing Program** - Deb Fruitt and Julie Pride from CUPHD joined the BOH in its discussion at this point. Ms. Fruitt explained that there are a total of about 120 home health care recipients, and that 19 of those are in the County. The home nursing services is not currently accepting new clients, and is currently being assessed and re-evaluated; however current clients continue to receive the status quo in services – no county residents have had their services discontinued.

The consensus of the BOH members is that the home nursing services program is a priority, but they lack necessary information regarding the

program. There was also agreement that if CUPHD were not to continue the home nursing services program, the BOH would continue the program through another provider. Susan Maurer stated that the BOH budgeted for a position for this program, which is something Deb Fruitt indicated is under consideration. The concept of using the BOH new position in a case coordinator capacity, to work towards an appropriate needs assessment and coordination of services to be provided to the residents of this program was discussed. The goal of the program is to take a comprehensive view of the needs of the clients, with the objective of avoiding or delaying institutional placement for those individuals.

Claudia Lenhoff was recognized and provided information about the Robert Wood Foundation and a model for setting up programs where the public health nurse trains lay people to look for health issues as they conduct home visits, and then call in health professionals when required.

As a result of the discussion, the BOH determined the following information would be requested from Vito Palazzolo for their next regularly scheduled meeting:

- a. Written report of the status of the Home Nursing Services Program for the period from October 2006 to December 2006, including:
(a) number of clients served; (b) description of services provided, including a description of the staff time and position titles/qualifications of those providing the services; and (c) cost of the services provided.
- b. Short term plan for the County Board of Health's Home Nursing Services Program through the end of the 1st quarter of 2007, said report to include the current protocol for admission/discharge criteria for service.

BOH members agreed to Kim Winston sending a letter documenting this request to Vita Palazzolo, and to request he also attend the next BOH meeting. The members also agreed that Kim Winston should send a letter to Carol Elliott, Chair of the CUPHD Board, to request information regarding the CUPHD Board's sense of what issues exist between the two boards.

3. **Potential Joint Efforts with Champaign County Mental Health Board –** Board members discussed the value of working with the Mental Health Board, particularly as it might relate to the possibility of the development of a grant writing position to be jointly assigned to both the Mental Health Board and the BOH. The BOH agreed this item would be deferred until the regularly scheduled

January 30, 2007 BOH meeting so that Peter Tracy, Executive Director Champaign County Mental Health Board, could be present for the discussion.

4. **Agency Staffing Needs & Potential Referendum November 2008** – These two items were discussed together as the issue of staffing is directly tied to the issue of funding which might be addressed by a November 2008 Referendum. One of the first steps in both processes is to document exactly where the BOH currently stands in terms of programming, and needs.

Claudia Lenhoff was asked to comment on the issue of a referendum. Ms. Lenhoff indicated that the Friends of Public Health would be in support of the general concept of a referendum regarding the funding of the BOH. She shared information regarding the work done by Illinois Health Care Consumers in the months leading up to the first referendum establishing the County Board of Health. She reminded members that coordinated leadership from both the County Board of Health and CUPHD Board would be instrumental in promoting and passing whatever referendum is deemed the most appropriate to be placed before the voters.

There was discussion about the approaches that could be taken – combining the two health districts into one with one property tax rate for all citizens of Champaign County; or increasing the property tax rate for the County Board of Health to be increased above the rate allowed currently under PTELL (tax caps). There was consensus among the members that regardless of which question is placed on the ballot, there is a substantial amount of work to be done to get the word out to the voters.

There was also discussion focusing on the administrative services required by the BOH, and the fact that currently the BOH does not really have an Administrator to rely on. The BOH currently uses Champaign County Administrative Services support staff for support functions – agendas, minutes, action reports, calendaring, etc., but in the long term will have a need for an Administrator to assist in the planning and development of programs to be offered by the BOH. This discussion led back to the earlier discussion of obtaining more documentation from the CUPHD Board regarding the relationship between the two boards.

Upcoming Meeting

The next regular, monthly meeting will be held on January 30, 2007 at 6:00 p.m. in Meeting Room 2, Brookens Administrative Center, 1776 East Washington, Urbana, IL.

Adjournment

Ms. Winston declared the meeting adjourned at 8:07 p.m.