

COUNTY OF KENDALL, ILLINOIS
Health & Environment Committee
Monday, March 14, 2022
Meeting Minutes

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Chair Robyn Vickers at 8:30a.m.

ROLL CALL

Attendee	Status	Arrived	Left Meeting
Robyn Vickers	Here		
Ruben Rodriguez	Here		
Elizabeth Flowers	Present		
Scott Gengler	Here		
Judy Gilmour	Here		

With five members present, a quorum was determined for the conducting of committee business.

OTHERS PRESENT: Steve Curatti, Deputy Paul Kubinski, Commander Jason Langston, Alyse Olson

GUESTS PRESENT: Jason Andrade and Eric Ward, Family Counseling Services

APPROVAL OF AGENDA – Member Rodriguez made a motion to approve the agenda, second by Member Gengler. **With five members in agreement, the motion carried by 5-0.**

APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MONTHS MINUTES – Member Gilmour made a motion, second by Member Rodriguez. **With five members in agreement by roll call vote, the motion carried 5-0.**

STATUS REPORTS

- **Board of Health** – No report

- **Health Department** – Ryan Carrie, Assistant Director of Community Action, explained their Point in Time assessment tool for Homeless in Kendall County. Mr. Carrie stated that this tool is primarily used in colder months of the year when good health and safety is an increased concern. The assessment involves observations, interactions, next steps and readily available resources.

Mr. Carrie said that due to covid-19 in 2020, all PADS locations closed. This directly affected 71 of the residents (49 adults and 22 children) of the Hide-Away Lakes campground in Yorkville that were facing eviction due to the sale of the property and new ownership.

At that time, Community Action staff were able to assess individual need for housing, employment, and federal funding to assist these residents. Community Action was able to register each person in the HMIS system, assist with housing vouchers, temporary housing or referral to shelters for 48 residents, assist with employment applications and opportunities, assist with applying for social security benefits, and even assist with finding transportation resources.

Mr. Carrie stated that he will attend a meeting on March 24, 2022 regarding the collaboration of Grundy and Kendall County in forming Grundy Kendall PADS.

- **Kendall County Soil and Water District** – Ms. Olson reminded the committee about the *AG Career Contest 2022* promoting students to learn more about agriculture careers and research ways in which an agriculture career may fit their interests. There will be a \$100 prize for first place in three categories: Elementary School, Middle School, and High School, and a \$25 prize for second place in each category. All essays and videos should specifically address the topic of Agriculture Careers. The contest ends on March 25, 2022.

Ms. Olson reported that order forms are available the SWCD website for the Fish Sale and are due back by April 5th, with a fish pick-up date of April 20th at 11:00a.m.

The Spring Tree Sale order forms are available online, with a due date of April 21st and pick-up on April 28th from 12noon – 4:00p.m.

Ms. Olson said that *Farm Camp* is back in 2022 for students aged 8-12 years! Students can attend the 5-day camp to learn about farm life on the Dickson-Murst Farmstead in Montgomery. The camp is from June 27th through July 1st. This year kids will learn how weather affects our planet in agriculture applications, get their hands dirty learning about soil, animals, tools, and weather. Registration is on the Conservation Foundation registration page at: <https://tcf.givecloud.co/camp-registration>.

- **Water Related Groups** – No report
- **708 Mental Health Board** – No report

OLD BUSINESS – None

NEW BUSINESS

Discussion of a program to address Mental Health Support in the Community – Sheriff's Office Deputy Paul Kubinski began by introducing himself and providing background on his role with senior citizens in Kendall County for the Sheriff's Office. Deputy Kubinski reported that there have been approximately 254 Mental Health crisis incidents or interventions involving the Sheriff's Office since April 2021. Kubinski stated that he has made ongoing efforts to follow-up with family members following each mental health incident if possible.

Kubinski stated that in June or July, he became aware of the need to have Co-Responders available for Patrol Deputies to call on to assist when they believe someone is in a mental health crisis, similar to the Aurora Police Department Co-Responder model. Kubinski said there is also a tremendous need to identify and develop partnerships with other resources or entities in the County that could become resources for those experiencing mental health issues or crisis.

Deputy Kubinski first approached the Kendall County Health Department about this idea, but soon learned that they were overwhelmed and overstretched similarly to other first responders. Kubinski then initiated a conversation with Jason Andrade and Eric Ward that resulted in a contract between the Sheriff's Office and Family Counseling Services that would include training for deputies on how identify and assist someone in mental health crisis, making good assessments and judgements, and possibly assisting the person in finding appropriate treatment.

Commander Jason Langston stated that the Sheriff's Office became aware of the need to ensure that a Co-Responder was available to ride along with patrol, or would be available to all deputies that might have need for a professional in mental health to assist if necessary, and would like to develop that position for their office. That position would be able to supplement patrols, become an outlet for the community, assist caregivers and counselors to implement the goal of keeping those in crisis out of law enforcement and the court system, and to actually get the proper treatment for the issues.

Jason Andrade from Family Counseling Services explained that 1 in 4 male adults with autism will end up with a law enforcement encounter because law enforcement is not aware or adequately trained about mental health behavior, issues, concerns or needs. Mr. Andrade explained that FCS has a contractual agreement with the Sheriff's Office to fill the role of a Co-Responder when called upon to provide crisis intervention assist deputies when needed, and follow-up with counseling for the person in crisis and their families.

There was consensus by the committee that the Sheriff's Office should formulate a job description, financial statistics for the position, and available funding sources, and present to the Finance Committee at a future meeting.

CHAIRMAN’S REPORT – None

PUBLIC COMMENT – None

ITEMS FOR COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE – None

COUNTY BOARD ACTION ITEMS – None

EXECUTIVE SESSION – Not Needed

ADJOURNMENT – Member Rodriguez made a motion to adjourn the meeting, second by Member Gengler. **With five members present in agreement, the motion carried 4-0, and the meeting ended at 9:58a.m.**

Respectfully Submitted,

Valarie McClain
Administrative Assistant and Recording Clerk