

**MINUTES OF THE
HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE**

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 7, 2011

At a meeting of the **Health & Human Services Committee**, held Wednesday, December 7, 2011, in the Board Room, on the 9th Floor of the Administration Building, Mount Clemens, the following members were present:

Moceri-Chair, Flynn, Frascchetti, Miller, Tocco and Vosburg (ex-officio)

There being a quorum of the committee present, Chair Moceri called the meeting to order at 9:03 a.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

AGENDA

MOTION

A motion was made by Frascchetti, supported by Flynn, to adopt the agenda, as amended (to include item #7A). **The Motion Carried.**

PRESENTATION BY CLAUDINE GOEDDEKE FROM TURNING POINT

Claudine Goeddeke from Turning Point gave a PowerPoint slide presentation. Key topics covered included:

- Who did Turning Point service in 2011?
- What are the statistics?
- Research partnership with MSU (Community Advocacy Program)
- Turning Point = violence prevention
- New shelter plans

The following commissioner spoke: Flynn.

Claudine Goeddeke spoke about the high demand for Turning Point services. They are working on new shelter plans and construction is scheduled to begin in the spring of 2012. She thanked the Board of Commissioners for approving federal stimulus funds to kick start their capital campaign for this project. So far, \$2 million out of \$3 million has been raised. Another fundraising campaign will be made public shortly. Lastly, she will check with Sue Coats who has specific details on the capital campaign and e-mail the information to Chair Moceri.

MOTION

A motion was made by Frascchetti, supported by Flynn, to receive and file the presentation by Claudine Goeddeke from Turning Point. **The Motion Carried.**

APPROVE BUDGET ADJUSTMENT FOR 2011-12 HEALTH CARE FUND (postponed from 11-08-11 Finance Committee)

Steve Gold gave an overview of the budget adjustment for the 2011-12 Health Care Fund.

The following commissioners spoke: Flynn and Mocerri.

MOTION

A motion was made by Tocco, supported by Frascchetti, to approve increases in budgeted revenues and expenditures in the 2011-12 Health Grant Fund in the net amount of \$152,233 to account for differences between the final amounts awarded and the amounts included in the 2011-2012 budget approved by the Board of Commissioners in September 2011. **Forward to the Finance Committee. The Motion Carried.**

APPROVE BUDGET ADJUSTMENT FOR 2011-12 COMMUNITY SERVICES FUND (postponed from 11-08-11 Finance Committee)

Commissioner Flynn inquired if this grant was previously approved by the Board of Commissioners or if it is a new grant. Frank Taylor said he would have to review their grants in order to provide an accurate answer.

Commissioner Flynn requested for all future grant requests or budget adjustments that the Office of County Executive provide information if the request is for an old grant or a new grant and if it is coming to the Board of Commissioners for their approval.

MOTION

A motion was made by Flynn, supported by Frascchetti, to approve increases in budgeted revenues and expenditures in the 2011-2012 Community Services Fund in the amount of \$78,635 to account for differences between the current amounts awarded and the amounts included in the 2011-2012 budget approved by the Board of Commissioners in September 2011. **Forward to the Finance Committee. The Motion Carried.**

After the vote, Frank Taylor expressed concern about the process in getting federal or state funded grants approved; deadline for accepting funds, per the grantor; timeline for

spending down the additional grant dollars; and the timeliness of the budget adjustment approval process.

Commissioners Flynn, Tocco and Mocerri directed questions to Frank Taylor. Steve Gold was present to answer questions.

During discussion, department heads were informed the Board of Commissioners will be evaluating procedural changes to address their concerns. Commissioners requested the following additional information be provided for all future requests:

- Deadline for accepting funds, per the grantor
- Timeline for spending down the additional grant dollars

Commissioners requested information for distribution at the December 13th Finance Committee meeting pertaining to the two budget adjustments on today's agenda, as follows:

- A history of the grants associated with these adjustments. Specifically, whether they are long-standing or new grant arrangements and if there has been an associated agreement signed this year.

Additionally, commissioners requested the above information be provided for all future requests.

REVIEW OF HEALTH AND COMMUNITY SERVICES 2012 BUDGET

- **Health Department**
- **Macomb County Community Services Agency**
- **Senior Services Department**

Health Department

Steve Gold overviewed the duties and function of the Office of Health and Community Services. He recalled Pete Provenzano previously provided commissioners with a high-level review of the proposed Health Department 2012 budget. He provided figures on the net reduction of positions, operational cost reductions, and overall budget reductions within the department.

Commissioners Mocerri and Flynn directed questions to Steve Gold.

Macomb County Community Services Agency

Frank Taylor was of the understanding that Pete Provenzano previously presented the Macomb County Community Services Agency budget and it was approved by the

Board. He asked if there were any questions that he could answer regarding the budget.

Commissioners Flynn and Mocerri directed questions to Frank Taylor.

During discussion, Frank Taylor reported they reduced their budget by approximately \$81,000. He felt any further requests for reductions will lead to a significant level of reduction of services to vulnerable citizens in the county.

Senior Services Department

Rhonda Powell overviewed the proposed changes reflected in the Senior Services Department 2012 budget:

- Reduction of clerical staff within the department
- Counseling Program and Prescription Resource Network Program being affected by the Macomb Health Plan
- Reduction of an attorney in Legal Services
- Closure of the Adult Day Center (south) and staffing changes

Commissioners Flynn and Tocco directed questions to Rhonda Powell and Steve Gold in regards to the proposed plan.

Chair Mocerri indicated at board meetings of the Area Agency on Aging (AAA) there has been ongoing discussion in regards to revenue diversification, potential opportunities for fee for service, and using the expertise of AAA on issues of aging to find new revenue sources.

MOTION

A motion was made by Tocco, supported by Frascchetti, to receive and file the review of the Health and Community Services 2012 budget for the Health Department, Macomb County Community Services Agency, and Senior Services Department. **The Motion Carried.**

REVIEW OF VETERANS' SERVICES DEPARTMENT 2012 BUDGET

Kermit Harris overviewed the proposed Veterans' Services Department 2012 budget. He then spoke about new initiatives being undertaken and the need for two additional positions in the department.

Commissioners Tocco, Mocerri and Frascchetti directed questions to Kermit Harris and Pat Daniels from the Veterans' Affairs Commission.

MOTION

A motion was made by Miller, supported by Flynn, to receive and file the review of the Veterans' Services Department 2012 budget. **The Motion Carried.**

VETERANS' SERVICES DEPARTMENT MONTHLY REPORT

Kermit Harris reported on a statistic that was not available in time for his October report: \$533,000 in retro payments was brought in Macomb County from V.A. for the month of October 2011. He figured \$40,000 a month in recurring pay.

He further reported \$396,584 in retro payments and \$37,003 in recurring pay was brought in Macomb County from V.A. for the month of November 2011. He noted 548 people came through the department and there were three casualty announcements.

He expressed concern on statistics showing out of the 50 states, including D.C., Puerto Rico, and Guam, of those 53 areas, Michigan is 53rd in per capita benefits paid to their veterans. He noted Michigan is No. 11 in the United States in total number of veterans.

Commissioner Flynn asked Kermit Harris if he could research and look at some of the best practices or best models of what other states are doing in terms of getting people to sign up for the benefits they rightfully should have.

Commissioner Flynn hoped the Board, through the committee chair, could pass a resolution and the county as a whole can lobby the State of Michigan to enact some of the policies, in order to increase the amount of people per capita that receive benefits.

Kermit Harris noted their national organization and all counties are asking the same questions. He spoke about the start up of the Macomb County Veterans' Treatment Court as being a best practice. He will find out what others are doing differently and is not being done here. He believes it is all about getting the word out.

Chair Mocerri suggested contacting Mattie Hatchett, President of Michigan Association of Counties who may be able to coordinate activities and initiatives. Kermit Harris said he would look into the suggestion.

MOTION

A motion was made by Miller, supported by Flynn, to receive and file the monthly Status Report for October and November 2011, as submitted by Kermit Harris, Director of Veterans' Services Department. **The Motion Carried.**

FOLLOW-UP ON EDUCATIONAL PUBLIC HEARING ON FOOD SYSTEMS AND POLICY

A two-page draft "White Paper" from Forgotten Harvest was distributed.

Commissioner Mocerri asked commissioners for their thoughts on what activities they could move forward and promote through this committee. She suggested challenging commissioners to take an active role in finding sites and establishing relationships, so Forgotten Harvest will be able to collect additional donated food.

Commissioner Vosburg spoke about her recent visit to Forgotten Harvest and was very impressed. She recommended a resolution be passed or for commissioners to get involved in helping get the message out to businesses and schools in our communities; basically, anywhere food is being served. She noted there are laws protecting the donor from any liability issues when food is donated.

Commissioner Mocerri spoke about her visit to Forgotten Harvest in September. She was amazed at the quality and quantity of food being processed.

NEW BUSINESS

Commissioner Miller said he and Commissioner Tocco will be hosting their 5th annual holiday pancake breakfast this Sunday at the Fraser Lions Club. The event is free. There will be a canned food drive and donation drive to help support the Vietnam Veteran's of America, Chapter 154, Veterans Support Center.

Commissioner Frascchetti acknowledged Ted Confer who was in the audience. He recalled Ted attended the food policy hearing last month.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

The following individual addressed the Board:

Ted Confer, 12957 Pearl, Shelby Township

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION

A motion was made by Frascchetti, supported by Miller, to adjourn the meeting at 10:56 a.m. **The Motion Carried.**



Denise M. Jacks
Committee Reporter