

League of Women Voters

Kane County Government Monitoring Report

MEETING: [Human Services Committee](#)

DATE: November 14, 2008 REPORTING: D Bakk

Members: Chairman R. McConnaughay, Members: Allan, Collins, Frasz, Kunkel. Not present: Fahy, Wyatt

One press in attendance: James Fuller, *Daily Herald*. See article published Nov. 15, *Kane County looks to push employees to HMO as insurance costs rise*. Addressed Issue? Somewhat: one topic--county employees health care coverage. Cost of PPO options vs. cheaper HMO option.

SUMMARY OF MEETING: Monthly reports on: Veterans Assistance Commission; Employment & Education; Human Resources-monthly charts. Kunkel expressed concern over number of resignations, etc. from the health department, especially with hiring freeze in place. She requested that she be provided the titles of those employees. McCraven agreed.

New business:

- Presentation on Bright Start College Savings Program by Rita Miotti (312-814-1287) representative of State of Illinois Treasurer's office, Alexi Giannoulis. This is a Section 529 college savings plan, as a way to set aside money to pay for higher education expenses such as tuition, books, supplies and equipment. Committee Passed: Resolution to have employees participate in program through payroll deduction. Moved to county board Dec. 9, 2008.
- Resolution: Authorizing contracts providing group health, vision and dental plans. Best interest of employees to offer Blue/Cross/Blue Shield of Illinois, Vision Service Plan and Delta Dental plans. Discussion: Kunkel commented she was not given enough time to review documents before she had to take a vote on this. Exec. Dir Sheila McCraven said she does her best to get it out when she is done with it. Not approving plan meant delay resulting in no coverage. Kunkel voted no. Passed committee. Moved to county board December 9, 2008.
- Resolution: Flexible Spending Account 3rd Party Administrator. McCraven explained the current provider has not been a good manager and has offered poor customer service, so she is proposing a change to a new 3rd party administrator to Metropolitan Family Services. Passed: Moved to county board December 9, 2008.

CRITICAL ISSUES: It is worrisome that county board members are not given important documents to review in a timely manner in order to make the best decisions for the sake of county employees as well as the taxpayer. While Kunkel brought up important

questions which should be addressed and which the observers were interested in, there was an air of disdain and impatience from one of the committee members. It was particularly difficult to hear some committee members and McCraven because they were not speaking into their mikes.

FUTURE ACTION: The League should continue to have representatives at public meetings targeting Kane County government in particular.