

League of Women Voters
Kane County Government
Monitoring Committee Report

MEETING: Public Health

DATE: October 23, 2007

REPORTING: Kimberley Haag

ATTENDING: All in attendance: Jones, de la Isla, Leonberger, R. McConnaughy, Tredup, Wojnicki, Wyatt

WAS PRESS IN ATTENDING: Some

DID PRESS COVER SIGNIFICANT ISSUES: Kane County Chronicle did

SUMMARY OF MEETING: Covered the county's initiative for a pilot program for specialty care (see most critical issue). The new public health emergency coordinator, Chris Hoff discussed Lead Prevention month and their activities in the schools. Also discussed were the traps for West Nile Virus. Also discussed: possible influenza epidemic. Department partners with 18 schools who report their absentee numbers. The health dept. has also provided grant money to Kane County municipalities to develop pandemic preparedness. The municipalities who participated are: Aurora, Burlington, Carpentersville, East Dundee, Geneva, Gilberts, Hampshire, Montgomery, Pingree Grove, South Elgin, Wayne and West Dundee. They will work with municipalities who did not participate to be sure everyone is prepared. Report from community health discussed their partnership with 3 school districts to provide dental care for eligible students. They have sent out a RFP to providers to provide this service. Last year they worked with 43 schools and had 11,000 students in this program. They have applied for a grant to expand the program. Theresa Heaton reported on the 4 new agencies in the mental health council. The mental health council members coordinated to provide depression screening at 8 sites this year.

MOST CRITICAL ISSUES(S): Paul Kuehnert reported on an initiative by the Kane County Health Department to provide medical care for the uninsured in Kane County. He stated that there are 60,000 to 90,000 or 100,000 Kane County residents without health insurance in any given month. This initiative was started in light of the public hospital in Chicago stating that they would not take non-Cook County Residents. Kane County asked for \$2.5 million—this amount based on the amount Kane County residents were using in the Cook County Hospital. This was supported by Rep. Munson and Sen. Holmes. The General Assembly authorized \$350,000, which passed both houses, but was vetoed by the Governor and then overridden. So the idea is to establish the program and then resubmit to the General Assembly later for more money. Basically the idea would be to set uninsured clients to a medical home, which would be one of the three Federally Qualified Health Care facilities in Kane County (Aunt Martha's, Greater Elgin Family Care, Visiting Nurse Association). From there the patient could be referred for pharmaceutical assistance or specialty care as needed. The specialty care would consist of a

hospital financial assistance program, diagnostics at a hospital, and an appointment with a physician in a physician network that will be set up by the county. They want to leverage resources within the community to make this work. The planning is in the early stages, but it is a step that is a positive step to not only serve the uninsured citizens in Kane County, but to move persons seeking help in emergency rooms to different venues.

COMMENTS/NOTES: Very positive step for the coordination of care program begun by the county. Also positive actions by the county in regards to dental care, as well as monitoring both the possibility of a flu epidemic and other pandemic emergencies.

RECOMMENDED ACTION(S): Monitor progress of coordination of care initiative.

NEXT MEETING: Tuesday, 11//27/07, 9:00 AM