

League of Women Voters
Kane County Government
Monitoring Committee Report

MEETING: Public Health Reported by: Kim Haag

DATE: 5/22/07

ATTENDING: Jones, de la Isla, Leonberger, R. McConnaughay, Tredup, Wojnicki, Wyatt

ABSENT: All in attendance

WAS PRESS IN ATTENDING: YES

DID PRESS COVER SIGNIFICANT ISSUES: YES—in KC Chronicle and Daily Herald

SUMMARY OF MEETING: The reporting of the monthly financial report was uneventful, with everything reported to be on track. The subject of animal control took up most of the time and discussion and was the issue reported in the newspapers. (See critical issues below). Mary Lou England reported on the 2030 Plan meeting which looked at strategic public health plans for the future. 60 people were in attendance. She also reported on the successful passing of HB732. Although this was passed over quickly in this meeting, it is significant. The summary of this bill is as follows: *Creates the Health Access Network Act. Requires the Department of Public Health to establish a pilot program in Kane County to provide funding for and coordination of specialty health care services, pharmaceutical drug assistance, and diagnostic testing for individuals who are not eligible for medical assistance under the Illinois Public Aid Code and who do not have other health insurance coverage. Provides that an entity that has established consortia of health entities may apply for a grant to administer the pilot program. Provides for operation of a multi-county program. Requires a report by the Department to the General Assembly. Provides that implementation of the pilot program is subject to appropriations. Effective immediately.* This bill came in response to the fact that Kane County residents did not have a public hospital in Kane County were utilizing Cook County-Stroger- Hospital. Because of financial constraints, Stroger did not want to accept these patients any longer. Thus the passage of this bill is significant for Kane County residents. It will be important to monitor the development of this program in Kane County.

MOST CRITICAL ISSUES(S): The most significant conversation centered around the usage of the Kane County animal control facility by municipal governments in Kane County. The organization The Council of Governments, which represents many of the municipalities of central Kane County, would like an extension of the contract that would allow the municipalities to utilize the county's animal control service. They also would like municipalities to be able to sign on at a later date, whereas the County wants municipalities to sign on now or not be allowed to sign on later. The County has said that they would utilize 30% of the facility (for animals picked up in unincorporated parts of the County). The COG organization said that even if other

municipalities were allowed to sign on later, they would agree that the outside municipalities would never use more than 70% of the facility. The unknown factor is Anderson Shelter in South Elgin which contracts with several municipalities now, but Anderson has said they would not take in strays, but then changed that decision. The municipalities' use of the animal control facility comes with a fee per animal. The County has proposed raising the cost of animal tags. The current contracts were extended for 60 days so that negotiations could continue and be resolved. The animal control facility opened earlier this year and is at 4060 Keslinger Road, west of Randall Road, in Geneva.

RECOMMENDED ACTION(S): Monitor the development of the negotiations of the governmental agreements regarding animal control in Kane County. Monitor the progress and implementation of the Health Access Network plan in Kane County and its impact on access to care for targeted Kane County residents.

NEXT MEETING: June 22—a change in time due to Jerry Jones being out of town