

League of Women Voters
Kane County Government
Monitoring Committee Report

MEETING: Public Health

DATE: Tues. August 28, 2007

REPORTING: Kimberley Haag

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

ABSENT: Leonberger

WAS PRESS IN ATTENDING: YES

DID PRESS COVER SIGNIFICANT ISSUES: For the most part

SUMMARY OF MEETING: The meeting did not follow the agenda exactly as Theresa Heaton, the head of Community Health, had a group there from Kane Kares, the nurse/family partnership, which was celebrating its 500th client. This group reaches out to first time, low income mothers and works with them from pregnancy through age 2 of the child. The average age of the mother is 17. It is the only project of this kind in Illinois. The other interesting part of the meeting was the announcement by director Paul Kuehnert that the organizational structure of the Public Health Dept. has been rearranged. Division of Community Services was renamed Family Health, with Theresa Heaton still the head; Environmental, Emergency Response and Communicable Disease were merged into one department; Community Health, with a focus on community partnerships and prevention is a new department with Michael Isaacson as the head, a promotion from within; and Resources and Support was created, which includes finance and administration. The rearrangement is to streamline the department. Kuehnert also noted that the health department is hoping to find a building to buy in the Elgin area instead of renting to house some health department offices in the northern part of the county in order to provide services in both ends of the county. In other news, one human from Elburn has been reported to have been infected with West Nile Virus. Five positive mosquito pools have been discovered to contain mosquitoes with the West Nile Virus strain in Kane County.

MOST CRITICAL ISSUES(S): The most critical issue, which made the Daily Herald and the Kane County Chronicle, is that there have been 4 rabid bats found in the county; 3 of 4 were in Aurora. They have captured 11 more bats and are testing them for rabies. There was discussion about what to do if one has a bat in one's house and two telephone numbers were given—one in Aurora and one for Kane County in general. The other critical issue covered, which was in the Kane County Chronicle was the results of the flooding. Over 600 homes and businesses were badly affected with flooding. The health department has given out at least 100 tetanus shots. The office of emergency management is said to have been on top of procedures that needed to be done. The Herald had a nice article on the Kane Kares program on Sunday, the 2nd.

COMMENTS/NOTES: It seems the county handled flood issues appropriately. They have also been acting proactively regarding the possibility of rabies infection in the county.

RECOMMENDED ACTION(S): Monitor the spending of tax dollars for a building in Elgin. The county is hoping to use some of Sherman Hospital once the new Sherman is built and moves to its new location.

NEXT MEETING: 9/25/07. 9AM