

Lake County Illinois

*Lake County Courthouse and Administrative Complex
18 N. County Street
Waukegan, IL 60085-4351*



Meeting Minutes - Final

Tuesday, May 5, 2020

10:30 AM

Live-streamed at <http://lakecounty.tv/>, on Comcast's Channel 18 or 30 (depending on where you live) & AT&T UVerse Channel 99

Health & Community Services Committee

To comply with social distancing requirements and Governor Pritzker's stay-at-home order, this meeting will be live-streamed at <http://lakecounty.tv/> and on Comcast's network, Channel 18 or 30 (depending on where you live) and AT&T Channel 99.

Public comments are welcomed and encouraged. Public comments received by 8:30 a.m., Tuesday, May 5, 2020 will be read at the beginning of the meeting under Public Comment in the order they are received. Comments received during the meeting will be held until the end of the meeting.

Please note: A total of 30 minutes will be permitted for Public Comment and no more than three minutes per public comment pursuant to the County Board Rules of Order and Operational Procedures. All comments received will be included in the Committee's meeting minutes regardless of whether they are read aloud at the meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENTS shall be emailed to CountyBoard@lakecountyil.gov with the following information:

- * Subject Title: Law & Judicial Committee Public Comment
- * Name
- * Street Address (Optional)
- * City, State (Optional)
- * Phone (Optional)
- * Organization, agency, etc. being represented. (If representing yourself, put "Self")
- * Topic or Agenda Item Number followed by Public Comment.

Public with no access to email may leave a message with the County Board Office at 847-377-2300.

1. Call to Order

Chair Carlson called the meeting to order at 10:30 a.m.

Present 7 - Chair Carlson, Vice Chair Simpson, Member Altenberg, Member Barr, Member Cunningham, Member Hewitt and Member Martini

Other's present:

Eric Waggoner, Planning, Building and Development

Mark Pfister, Health Department

Matt Meyers, County Administrator's Office

Gary Gibson, County Administrator's Office

Jim Hawkins, County Administrator's Office

Cassandra Torstenson, County Administrator's Office

Sandy Hart, Board Member

Angelo Kyle, Board Member

Bill Durkin, Board Member

Ann Maine, Board Member

Paul Frank, Board Member

Craig Taylor, Board Member

John Wasik, Board Member

Terry Wilke, Board Member

2. Pledge of Allegiance

Chair Carlson led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. Addenda to the Agenda

There were no additions or amendments to the agenda.

4. Public Comment

There were no comments from the public.

5. Chair's Remarks

There were no remarks from Chair Carlson.

6. Old Business

There was no old business to discuss.

7. New Business

REGULAR AGENDA

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

7.1 20-0597

Joint resolution approving the second amendment to the 2019 United States Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Annual Action Plan (AAP).

Attachments: [AAP Summary.pdf](#)
[2019 AAP 2nd Amendment.pdf](#)

Eric Waggoner, Planning Building and Development Director, presented the amendment. The aid relief and economic security act (CARES act) signed March 27, 2020 to help address emergency needs related to the COVID-19 pandemic. The CARES Act includes up to a \$5 billion community development block grant (CDBG) and \$4 million to be distributed to governments across the United States. Lake County will receive \$1.7 million from CDBG and \$770,000 from ESG funds for the first allotment of funding.

The 211 referral call service saw a 92 percent increase with call volume in March due to COVID-19. The call service is a good barometer of distribution of needs. The top five needs were rental assistance, food pantries, electric service payment assistance, homeless shelters, and gas service payment assistance.

A variety of state and federal funds need to be deployed in the county to help community needs, small businesses, and a variety of issues that we encounter during the COVID-19 pandemic. A large amount of staff time is used to develop an understanding of all the funding available and to match funding with sources to various needs identified now and over the next months.

Director Waggoner stated the assistance is looking at it at both ends of spectrum, assisting the tenants and landlords. Providing help to tenants unable to pay through rental assistance, and also help those going through the eviction process.

The County is partnering with local agencies that provide a continuum of homeless services to maximize resources. This includes the Lake County Housing Authority, local authorities in North Chicago and Waukegan, A Safe Place, and PADS. Substantial discussion ensued.

Chair Carlson stated we will allocate as equitably as we can to address as many of the needs as we can.

A motion was made by Member Simpson, seconded by Member Martini, that this resolution be approved and referred on to the Financial and Administrative Committee. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 6 - Chair Carlson, Vice Chair Simpson, Member Altenberg, Member Cunningham, Member Hewitt and Member Martini

Nay: 1 - Member Barr

7.2 [20-0598](#)

Joint resolution authorizing a contract for Permanent Supportive Housing Expansion HOME Tenant-Based Rental Assistance from Thresholds, Chicago, Illinois, in an amount not to exceed \$260,311.

Eric Waggoner, Planning Building and Development Director, stated that Community Development worked to develop innovative funding approaches to accommodate

permanent supportive housing units for county residents experiencing homelessness.

In February 2020, a request for partners for the permanent housing expansion was put out to establish contracts to provide rental subsidy and supportive services for those experiencing homelessness. Community developers asked qualified providers to provide supportive services to sustain housing, fund rental assistance through HUD, fund administrative costs through the Community Block Program and performance payments through County Affordable Housing Program. The Made for Success Program is a way to encourage an entity to do well in achieving outcomes.

HUD shifted before COVID-19 to a traditional shelter model that increasingly provides permanent housing solutions for the homeless population. The costs for emergency sheltering is very expensive. We have to look at this as continuum of options that work together. We will never be in a position where shelters are not needed but we will need to have other housing solutions. There will be a real emphasis on increasing resources to both ends of that spectrum. Discussion ensued.

A motion was made by Member Martini, seconded by Member Altenberg, that this resolution be approved and referred on to the Financial and Administrative Committee. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 7 - Chair Carlson, Vice Chair Simpson, Member Altenberg, Member Barr, Member Cunningham, Member Hewitt and Member Martini

7.3 [20-0623](#)

Joint resolution amending County Board resolution 20-0503 (adopted on April 7, 2020) to allow the County's \$100,000 agency unreimbursed novel coronavirus (COVID-19) emergency shelter funds (derived from 2020 Video Gaming Revenue) to be utilized for Alternate Housing Sites.

Eric Waggoner, Planning Building and Developer Director, gave an overview of the resolution. The County Board in April adopted a resolution authorizing \$100,000 of video gaming revenue to fund COVID-19 related emergency responses, specifically agencies set up for emergency shelter for people who are homeless during the crisis.

There has been an increase and growing need identified to provide non-congregate emergency sheltering within the county's alternate housing site program, administered by the health department. These sites are hotels and motels, set up to provide quarantine and isolation for individuals who tested positive for COVID-19 with no imminent need of hospitalization, individuals who are asymptomatic and high risk individuals with underlying health issues. The sites assist not only first responders but also homeless individuals who are COVID-19 positive or exposed and need shelter.

Director Waggoner stated there is no single entity that is unaffected by the pandemic. Businesses dramatically decreased revenue due to low economic activity, individuals who have lost means of employment, landlords who have tenants not able to pay rent, and

there is a huge need for food services. It's a large impact to the county. Every county across the country will face economic and social costs of the pandemic this year, next year and beyond. The funding needed is daunting and impossible to predict with any degree of certainty.

A motion was made by Member Barr, seconded by Member Hewitt, that this resolution be approved and referred on to the Financial and Administrative Committee. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 7 - Chair Carlson, Vice Chair Simpson, Member Altenberg, Member Barr, Member Cunningham, Member Hewitt and Member Martini

8. Executive Session

The Committee did not enter into Executive Session.

9. Public Comment

There were no comments from the public.

10. County Administrator's Report

Cassandra Torstenson, Assistant County Administrator, stated the County staff are working with the Health Department to look at the needs to match up with resources.

11. Members' Remarks

Member Martini spoke about the number of COVID-19 cases in long term care facilities and questioned Mark Pfister, Health Department Executive Director, to further clarify numbers in long term care facilities. Director Pfister stated many of the cases are related to staff bringing it into the building and a majority of deaths are residents.

Member Simpson asked Director Pfister about COVID-19 testing, including the new testing facility in Waukegan and the turnaround for test results.

Member Pedersen asked Director Pfister about the Health Department update and asked to include the ages of those who died. We may be doing disservice by including the age but there are individuals that want that information, including more demographics, such as race and ethnicity.

Member Hewitt asked with testing in Waukegan, how many tests are conducted daily, and is there is a set rate? Director Pfister explained they are conducting 500 samples per day and 55 percent of individuals tested have been positive for COVID-19 within the Waukegan zip code. The goal is to expand testing in Lake County to get a positivity rate lower than 10 percent.

Member Cunningham asked Mr. Pfister for a clarification regarding how the numbers are being calculated in regards to counting COVID-19 deaths.

12. Adjournment

Vice Chair Simpson called the meeting to be adjourned at 11:53 a.m.

Chair Carlson left the meeting at 11:51 a.m.

Next Meeting: June 2, 2020

Meeting minutes prepared by Abby Scalf and Kristy Cechini.

Respectfully submitted,

Chairman

Vice Chairman

Health and Community Services Committee