

Lake County Illinois

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



Minutes Report - Final

Tuesday, July 7, 2015

10:30 AM

Assembly Room, 10th Floor

Law and Judicial Committee

1. Call to Order

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

Present 7 - Chair Nixon, Vice Chair Cunningham, Member Bartels, Member Calabresa, Member Hart, Member Paxton and Member Weber

Others Present:

Amy McEwan, County Administrator's Office

Donna Jo Maki, Executive Justice Counsel

Gary Gordon, Finance and Administrative Services

Joy Gossman, Public Defender's Office

Kathy Gordman, Public Defender's Office

Keith Grant, Public Defender's Office

Adlil Issakoo, County Administrator Office

Valarie Ceckowski, Nineteenth Judicial Circuit

Terri Greenburg, CASA

Claudia Lovelette, CASA

Howard Sell, Information Technology

Michael Knight, CASA

Patrice Sutton, Financial and Administrative Services

Teri White, State Attorney's Office

Chris Creighton, Finance and Administrative Services

Ray Rose, Lake County Sheriff's Office

Mark Curran, Lake County Sheriff's Office

Brandy Schroff, Finance and Administrative Services

RuthAnne Hall, Finance and Administrative Services

Margaret Muller, Nineteenth Judicial Circuit

Barry Burton, County Administrator

Benjamin Gilbertson, County Administrator's Office

Linda Pederson, County Board Member

Steve Carlson, County Board Member

Ryan Waller, County Administrator's Office

John Phillips, Nineteenth Judicial Circuit

2. Pledge of Allegiance

Chair Nixon led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. Approval of Minutes**3.1 [15-0696](#)**

Minutes from March 3, 2015.

A motion was made by Member Weber, seconded by Member Cunningham, that minutes 3.1 through 3.3 be approved. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 6 - Chair Nixon, Vice Chair Cunningham, Member Bartels, Member Calabresa, Member Hart and Member Weber

Not Present: 1 - Member Paxton

3.2 [15-0697](#)

Minutes from April 7, 2015.

A motion was made by Member Weber, seconded by Member Cunningham, that minutes 3.1 through 3.3 be approved. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 6 - Chair Nixon, Vice Chair Cunningham, Member Bartels, Member Calabresa, Member Hart and Member Weber

Not Present: 1 - Member Paxton

3.3 [15-0698](#)

Minutes from May 5, 2015.

A motion was made by Member Weber, seconded by Member Cunningham, that minutes 3.1 through 3.3 be approved. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 6 - Chair Nixon, Vice Chair Cunningham, Member Bartels, Member Calabresa, Member Hart and Member Weber

Not Present: 1 - Member Paxton

4. Added to Agenda

There were no items added to the agenda.

5. Public Comment

There were no public comments.

6. Old Business

There was no old business to conduct.

7. New Business**CORONER****7.1 [15-0658](#)**

Report from Thomas A. Rudd, M.S., M.D., Coroner, for the month of March 2015.

A motion was made by Member Cunningham, seconded by Member Hart, that this item be received and placed on the County Board agenda. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 7 - Chair Nixon, Vice Chair Cunningham, Member Bartels, Member Calabresa, Member Hart, Member Paxton and Member Weber

STATE'S ATTORNEY**7.2 [15-0686](#)**

Joint resolution authorizing the renewal of the State's Attorney's Violent Crime Victims Assistance (VCVA) grant program awarded by the Office of the Illinois Attorney General, including grant funding of \$31,000, and an increase in revenue in the amount of \$2,840.

- This is a request to renew the Violent Crime Victims Assistance Act (VCVA) grant administered through the Office of the Illinois Attorney General, with a grant period from July 1, 2015 through June 30, 2016.
- Funding for this grant began in 1990 and has been renewed each year.
- Grant program goals include the promotion of fairness, accountability and coordination of services for victims and witnesses of domestic violence, and the promotion of policy and procedure for domestic violence cases in order to improve response by law enforcement and court personnel.

- The grant will fund \$31,000 to offset the salary of a Domestic Violence Victim Witness Coordinator (DV Coordinator); funding has increased from the previous year by \$2,840.
- The coordinator position and grant is already included in the State's Attorney's approved fiscal year (FY) 2015 budget.

Teri White, State's Attorney's Office, mentioned the grant will help offset the cost of one of the victim coordinators that helps with domestic violence cases.

A motion was made by Member Calabresa, seconded by Member Bartels, that this resolution be approved and referred on to Financial and Administrative Committee.

Motion carried by voice vote.

Aye: 7 - Chair Nixon, Vice Chair Cunningham, Member Bartels, Member Calabresa, Member Hart, Member Paxton and Member Weber

7.3 [15-0687](#)

Joint resolution authorizing the application, acceptance, and emergency appropriation of a 2015 Justice Assistance Grant (JAG) in the amount of \$8,681 for the purpose of enhancing the State's Attorney's Office's Special Programs/Community Awareness Division's capacity to provide awareness, education, and outreach in Lake County.

- This is an application for the federal Justice Assistant Grant Program in which funding supports a broad range of activities to prevent and control crime and to improve the criminal justice system.
- Under this program, the City of Waukegan, the City of Zion, and Lake County on behalf of the Lake County State's Attorney's Office, are eligible for a joint award of \$43,405 in fiscal year (FY) 2015 grant funds.
- The potential allocation of the eligible funds is \$8,681 to Lake County on behalf of the State's Attorney's Office, \$26,043 to the City of Waukegan, and \$8,681 to the City of Zion.
- The State's Attorney's Office will use the \$8,681 to improve community outreach in Lake County by supporting the purchase of brochures, handbills, printed materials, posters and outreach supplies.
- The source of program funding is 100% federal JAG; no match is required.

Teri White, State's Attorney's Office, explained every year the County partners with the City of Waukegan for the JAG fund, and uses the funding to print brochures and produce educational documents for several campaigns to help reach out to the community.

A motion was made by Member Hart, seconded by Member Weber, that this resolution be approved and referred on to Financial and Administrative Committee.

The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 7 - Chair Nixon, Vice Chair Cunningham, Member Bartels, Member Calabresa, Member Hart, Member Paxton and Member Weber

PUBLIC DEFENDER

7.4 [15-0702](#)

Report from Joy Gossman, Public Defender, for the month of May 2015.

A motion was made by Member Cunningham, seconded by Member Weber, that this communication or report be received and placed on the County Board agenda.

The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 7 - Chair Nixon, Vice Chair Cunningham, Member Bartels, Member Calabresa, Member Hart, Member Paxton and Member Weber

8. Executive Session

There was no Executive Session.

9. County Administrator's Report**9.1 [15-0718](#)**

Report on the impact of juror legislation.

Gary Gordon, Finance and Administrative Services, reported that new legislation has passed, increasing the fee paid to jurors and was also coupled with a reduction in the number of jurors needed for civil trials.

There is an amendment to the legislation that was created by the County to reduce the rates paid to the jurors and receive credit for certain expenses paid for the jurors, such as meals and parking, however; the amendment has not yet passed.

Mr. Gordon added the reduction of jurors in the original legislation will require the County Board to approve an alternate juror fee. If the amendment to the original legislation does not pass, the County Board will have to look at increasing the fee for an alternate juror. The Finance and Administrative Services Department and other departments will continue to look into what amount is an appropriate fee for the alternate juror.

Discussion ensued regarding the different fees paid for jurors.

A motion was made that this communication or report be presented.

9.2 [15-0703](#)

Presentation and update on juvenile cases, the Guardian ad Litem (GAL), and Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA) services.

Donna Jo Maki, Executive Justice Council, presented an update on juvenile court cases. The majority of the juvenile cases last year include adoption, delinquency, truancy, and abuse and neglect.

Ms. Maki expounded on the Juvenile Court process for abused or neglected children. A child enters Juvenile Court when someone reports the abuse or neglect to the Department of Child and Family Services (DCFS), after the report is investigated by DCFS and abuse is suspected, the case is referred to the Lake County State's Attorney's Office who also conducts an investigation. The child is represented in Juvenile Court by a Guardian ad Litem (GAL). A GAL is an attorney appointed to provide independent legal counsel for the children.

Keith Grant, Public Defender's Office, introduced Kathy Gordon, Public Defender's Office, who gave a description of the GAL division's duties. There are two court rooms that handle the cases of child abuse and neglect. A GAL is appointed to each courtroom and supervised by Mr. Grant. Under the Juvenile Court Act, the first time a child enters Juvenile Court, a GAL must be appointed, and are required to represent the child for as long as the case is in the system. Under the Juvenile Court Act if the GAL is also an Attorney one person can serve as both the GAL advocate and an attorney who can file motions, make arguments to the courts, and call witnesses on behalf of the child.

Ms. Gordon added when she interviews a child she describes her two roles as the attorney she represents to the court what the child wants and what their wishes are, and as the GAL she gives the court a recommendation on what she believes is in the child's

best interest.

Ms. Maki, reported on a presentation comparing CASA Lake County with CASA programs in nearby counties on case filings, ages of children served, population and the amount of staff including volunteers. Other comparisons were what the CASA organizations receive from the counties such as funds, office space, and parking spaces.

Currently there are several counties that have imposed the 2013 legislations allowing for CASA fees between \$10 and \$30. At this moment the Lake County State's Attorney's office is looking into appropriate cases that can be charged the CASA fees. Lake County provides CASA Lake County, with 200 square feet of office space for the CASA supervisors, Office Manager, and active case reports. The office is located adjacent to the hearing rooms at Depke Juvenile Court Complex. In addition CASA Lake County applies and receives CDBG funding.

Discussion ensued regarding assessing CASA fees.

Terri Greenburg, CASA Lake County, added throughout the country CASA programs receive state funding, and Illinois is one of six states that does not fund CASA. Legislation was passed in 2013 by the governor to help CASA programs with in the state of Illinois.

A motion was made that this item be presented.

10. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 12:20 p.m.

A motion was made by Member Bartels, seconded by Member Cunningham, to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried unanimously.

Aye: 6 - Chair Nixon, Vice Chair Cunningham, Member Bartels, Member Calabresa, Member Hart and Member Weber

Not Present: 1 - Member Paxton

Meeting minutes prepared by Heidie Hernandez.

Respectfully submitted,

Chairman

Vice-Chairman

Law and Judicial Committee