



WASHTENAW COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

WORKING SESSION

November 17, 2011

The meeting was called to order by Chair Rabhi at 6:30 p.m. in the Board Room, Administration Building, 220 North Main Street, Ann Arbor, Michigan.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Comms. Brabec, Gunn, Prater, Rabhi, Conan Smith, Dan Smith, Turner

MEMBERS ABSENT: Comms. Bergman, Peterson, Ping, Sizemore

OTHERS PRESENT: Verna McDaniel, County Administrator; Kelly Belknap, Interim Deputy County Administrator; Brian Mackie, Prosecuting Attorney; Tina Gavalier, Finance; Ken Schrader, ITS; Cheryl Perry, County Administration; Jason Brooks, Clerk's Office; various citizens; and members of the press.

Roll Call

Citizen Participation

None

Commissioner Follow-Up to Citizen Participation

None

Discussion Items:

HIP Survey Findings – Richard Fleece, Public Health Director, Richard Fleece gave the presentation (on file in the County Clerk's office).

Comm. Brabec asked whether poor mental health days were self-diagnosed evaluations by the survey respondents. The presenter responded that all of the health evaluations were self-diagnosed by the survey participants. Comm. Brabec asked how the questions were phrased. The presenter reported that there were no open-ended questions.

Comm. Turner asked whether the survey specifically addressed the abuse of prescription medications especially in mothers and newborns. The presenter responded that that information was available from some state studies.

Comm. Brabec asked if it would be possible to pull some of the data sets behind the question. The presenter reported that that would be possible and that they are working to get this information up online.

Comm. Dan Smith asked about stress levels at higher income levels. The presenter responded that above a certain income level people were less stressed.

Comm. Rabhi noted that he was working to set up a Working Session in the new year with the Local Food Policy organization.

Comm. Brabec asked the presenters what programs the County should focus on to improve health. The presenter responded that expanding the use of food stamps so that they could be used to purchase fresh foods would have a huge impact. The presenter went on to say that they were addressing ordinances in an effort to increase the local food supply. Comm. Brabec asked what health problems the proposed solutions would target. The presenter responded that improved access to fresh food would help to lower diabetes rates. The presenter identified tobacco use and depression as two key problems to focus on.

Comm. Dan Smith stated that the data presented was very intriguing. He added that he would be interested to see a more detailed breakdown of the data. He asked how the survey had been funded. The presenter listed the organizations that had funded the survey. She went on to say that the survey cost \$100,000.

Comm. Gunn stated that she was at the very first meeting of the Food Systems Economic Partnership. She thanked the representatives of that program for attending the meeting and their work.

Prisoner Re-entry / Prisoner Mental Illness, Dr. Christine Negendank, Rick Kaledas

Dr. Christine Negendank and Rick Kaledas gave the presentation (on file in the County Clerk's office).

Comm. Brabec asked Dr. Negendank if consultations were done with community providers who may be providing treatments to people who enter the prison population. Dr. Negendank responded that that was something that was done. Comm. Brabec asked how many people came into prison who were already in treatment. Dr. Negendank estimated that number at 10%. Comm. Brabec asked Dr. Negendank to elaborate on prisoners who went into Bootcamp. Dr. Negendank stated that people were going off their medication in an effort to get into Bootcamp.

Comm. Dan Smith noted that even preventative measures cost money.

County Administrator's Report

Verna McDaniel stated that the office of Community and Economic Development received a grant for over 3 million dollars. She added that she will provide a program outline for the board. She invited the commissioners to a meeting to receive the grant. Comm. Gunn noted that the staff of Community and Economic Development were elated about receiving the grant.

Items for Current/Future Discussion

Comm. Dan Smith thanked Mary Jo Callan for her work securing grant funding that will be used to improve a facade on Whitmore Lake.

Comm. Rabhi noted that this was the last Working Session of the year and he invited his fellow commissioners to suggest future working session topics.

Pending

None

Citizen Participation

None

Commissioners Follow-up to Citizen Participation

None

Adjournment

Comm. Gunn seconded by Comm. Prater moved that the meeting be adjourned until the new year. Motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Yousef Rabhi, Chair

Lawrence Kestenbaum, Clerk/Register

By: Peter Simms, Deputy Clerk

APPROVED: December 7, 2011