

COMMITTEE REPORT

COMMITTEE: Social and Environmental Committee

CHAIRPERSON: Dianne Allendorf, Chairperson

DATE/TIME: July 18, 2024 at 6:30 p.m.

PRESENT:

☒ Dianne Allendorf

☒ Tina Brandel

☐ Michael Dittmar

☒ Lynn Gallagher

☒ Joseph Heitkamp

☐ Bob Heuerman

☐ LaDon Trost

A quorum was established.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: None.

OTHERS PRESENT: Laura Moyer and Cindy Foley from The Workshop. Colleen Farrell, Nicole Hermesen and Scott Toot.

1. Minutes Approval:

- a) Minutes of the June 20, 2024 Social & Environmental Committee Meeting – **Joseph Heitkamp made a motion to approve the minutes of the June 20, 2024 Social & Environmental Committee meeting. Seconded by Lynn Gallagher and motion carried following a voice vote resulting in all Ayes.**

- 2. Citizens' Comments:** Laura Moyer, Retail Director, and Cindy Foley from The Workshop gave a presentation about the Workshop and a couple of their programs. The Workshop began in 1961 and their mission is to enhance the lives and families of adults with disabilities in Jo Daviess County by creating opportunities for independence. The 708 Mental Health Board helps twelve people attend The Workshop. Foley spoke about the events that they will be sponsoring. If there is anything that we can do together to grow the program, whether it be a grant or contract, they would be grateful.

3. Unfinished Business:

- a) FY2023/FY2024 Strategic Goals and Plans – The committee did not have anything new to review on their strategic goals and plans however, they will be discussing mental health a little later on the agenda..

4. New Business:

- a) Discussion and possible action on a Contract with Jo Daviess County Transit and The Galena United Methodist Church with a rate of \$1.00 per passenger per trip – Nicole Hermesen informed the committee that the reason the rate is only \$1 is because they are only going from Gear Street to the Methodist Church. It is not far. It is within the city and is for children attending Sunday school. **Lynn Gallagher made a motion to approve a Contract with Jo Daviess County Transit and The Galena United Methodist Church with a rate of \$1.00 per passenger per trip. Seconded by Tina Brandel and motion carried following a voice vote resulting in all Ayes.**
- b) Discussion and possible action on a Contract with Jo Daviess County Transit and Rosecrance with a rate of \$6.00 per hour per passenger per trip – **Joseph Heitkamp made a motion to approve a Contract with Jo Daviess County Transit and Rosecrance with a rate of \$6.00 per hour per passenger per trip. Seconded by Tina Brandel and motion carried following a voice vote resulting in all Ayes.**
- c) Discussion and possible action regarding transportation via Transit for The Workshop clients working in the community – We have talked to them numerous times about this particular situation and obviously we are very supportive. We pick them up Monday through Friday every morning, noon and night. And we do that all over the County routinely. This came up

and was brought to the committee because Hermesen told them that at this point her hands are tied. We have operating hours from 6 am to 6 pm. Some of these individuals are working after 6 pm. It's not fiscally responsible for Hermesen to extend their operating hours for one individual. They fully understand that.

- d) Discussion on recommendations for further study in pursuing additional opportunities to provide mental health support to residents of the county – Lynn Gallagher commented that this actually started at our board retreat last year. There were over sixty votes from everyone there saying mental health is an issue in the county. Gallagher is on the 708 Mental Health Board and they are great. They provide funding to organizations in the County to provide some services for mental health but given what she knows from personal experience plus what we discussed at the retreat there are big gaps. It warrants more discussion and perhaps study into what the actual needs of the County are and what can we do. The 24/7 Crisis Support is a worthy goal, but there are other things we could pursue. Gallagher's suggestion would be for the board chair to appoint an ad-hoc committee to do a needs assessment of the County. Gallagher is willing to chair that committee. She believes we should do something. If there is something that we can do she would really like for us to pursue it

5. Staff Reports

- a) Jo Daviess County Transit Director/PCOM – Nicole Hermesen reported that FY25 started for them this month. Once we get the Treasurer's reports we will be finishing up FY24. They were interviewed as a key stakeholder for the 2026 State-wide Public Transportation Plan Next Move Illinois. They are working with the Northwestern Illinois Economic development for a proposed pilot program which is going to feed into our comprehensive analysis technical study. They are looking at doing more park and ride, share ride throughout the County. And doing a fixed ride system where the bus always comes at this time every day at this particular shelter. Soon several people will be getting a survey to have the kick-off meeting for the Technical Advisory Committee that was established
- b) Public Health – Sandra Schleicher, Public Health Administrator, was not in attendance.
- c) Mental Health Board – Colleen Farrell gave a brief update on 708 Mental Health Board activities.

6. Citizens' Comments: None.

7. Board Member Concerns: None.

8. Adjourn: Motion to adjourn was made at 7:33 p.m. by Joseph Heitkamp and seconded by Tina Brandel. Motion passed following a voice vote resulting in all Ayes.

Next regular meeting will be on Thursday, August 15, 2024 at 6:30 p.m.