



Board of Commissioners of Cook County

Minutes of the Legislation and Intergovernmental Relations Committee

Wednesday, April 29, 2015

12:00 PM

**Cook County Building, Board Room, Rm. 569
118 North Clark Street, Chicago, Illinois**

ATTENDANCE

Ayes: Chairman Suffredin, Commissioners Arroyo, Boykin, Butler, Daley, García, Gorman, Moore, Murphy, Schneider, Silvestri and Sims (12)

Absent: Vice Chairman Fritchey, Commissioners Gainer, Goslin, Steele and Tobolski (5)

PUBLIC TESTIMONY

Chairman Suffredin asked the Secretary to the Board to call upon the registered public speakers, in accordance with Cook County Code.

1. Timothy P. Condon, PhD Chief Science Advisor Center for Health and Justice at TASC
2. Tom Dart, Cook County Sheriff
3. Dr. Connie C. Mennella, MD Internal Medicine Correctional Health, Cermak Hospital
4. Honorable Charles P. Burns, Circuit Judge Criminal Division
5. Dr. Terry Mason from Cook County Department of Public Health
6. Dr. Steven E. Aks, DO Emergency Medicine Medical Toxicology
7. Alicia M. Kusiak Director of Operations, Cook County TASC, Inc.
8. Sally, Thoren, Executive Director - Gateway Foundation
9. Joel K. Johnson, M.Ed., President and Chief Executive Officer Human Resources Development Institute
10. Dr. Carol DesLaurier's, PharmD, DABAT Director, Illinois Poison Center
11. Dr. Nneka Jones, 1st Assistant Executive Director of the Cook County Department of Corrections
12. Michael Schofield, Battalion Chief, Orland Fire Protection District
13. Dr. Dan Lustig, Vice President of Clinical Services, Haymarket Center
14. FPD Chief Roberts, Heroin Epidemic Relief Organization
15. Mary Hartsfield, Vice President – Warriors on the Watch, Inc.

15-2114

Sponsored by: LARRY SUFFREDIN and ELIZABETH "LIZ" DOODY GORMAN, JOHN P. DALEY, and PETER N. SILVESTRI, County Commissioner

PROPOSED RESOLUTION

REQUESTING A HEARING OF THE LEGISLATION AND INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE TO DISCUSS OPIATE/HEROIN ADDICTION AND ITS IMPACT ON THE COOK COUNTY CRIMINAL JUSTICE AND HEALTH SYSTEMS

WHEREAS, the opiate/heroin crisis in Illinois calls for practical public health and public safety solutions, including broad-based and coordinated prevention, intervention, and treatment strategies, and

WHEREAS, Cook County, as with the whole region, has a growing opiate/heroin addiction problem;

WHEREAS, opiate/heroin addiction costs Cook County millions of dollars in healthcare and public safety spending yearly; and

WHEREAS, the Cook County Department of Corrections processes 200-300 individuals per day, houses over 8,000 detainees at any given time, and sees more than 100,000 admissions per year; and

WHEREAS, seventy-four percent (74%) of these detainees screen positive for various types of drug use, and

WHEREAS, the Cermak Health Services manages over 500 opiate/heroin detoxes a month; and

WHEREAS, many detainees have multiple opiate/heroin detoxes in a year after multiple admissions; and

WHEREAS, the Cook County Health and Hospital System treats opiate/heroin addiction cases on a daily bases; and

WHEREAS, Cook County as a leader in healthcare and public safety can establish cost effective treatments for opiate addiction; and

WHEREAS, House Bill 1, which was recently introduced in the Illinois General Assembly, is the result of a statewide legislative task force that has studied opiate/heroin addiction and treatment options; and

WHEREAS, House Bill 1 would require increased resources and training for responding to opiate/heroin overdoses and addiction; and

WHEREAS, there are a number of methods to treat opiate/heroin addiction including FDA-approved medications to those with opiate/heroin addiction; and

WHEREAS, a variety of behavioral therapies can be effective at treating opiate/heroin addiction when combined with appropriate medications, and

WHEREAS, it is critical to understand that opiate/heroin addiction is a treatable disease.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Cook County Board of Commissioners does hereby request that a meeting of the Legislation and Intergovernmental Relations Committee be convened to discuss the cost of opiate/heroin abuse on the health and well-being of Cook County Citizens and the impact on the Cook County Criminal Justice System and Cook County Health and Hospital System; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Cook County Board of Commissioners does hereby request that a representative of the Cook County Sheriff and the Cook County Health and Hospital System present testimony on the cost and treatment options for opiate/heroin addiction at the Cook County Jail and the John Stroger Hospital Emergency Room; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that testimony should be presented at the Committee hearing in regard to the manner in which opiate/heroin affects the brain and the resultant behavior and the role that pharmacological interventions play in the treatment of opiate/heroin addiction and cost effective treatment.

Legislative History: 3/11/15 Board of Commissioners referred to the Legislation and Intergovernmental Relations Committee

There was no motion was made on File #15-2114

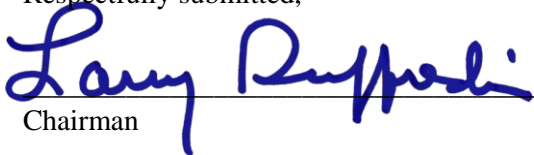
ADJOURNMENT

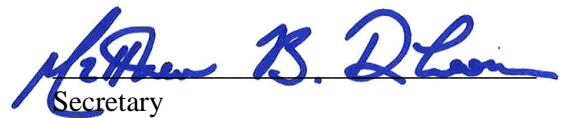
A motion was made by Commissioner Daley, seconded by Commissioner Silvestri, that this committee was to adjourned. The motion carried by the following vote:

Ayes: Chairman Suffredin, Commissioners Arroyo, Boykin, Butler, Daley, García, Gorman, Moore, Murphy, Schneider, Silvestri and Sims (12)

Absent: Vice Chairman Fritchey, Commissioners Gainer, Goslin, Steele and Tobolski (5)

Respectfully submitted,


Chairman


Secretary

*A video recording of this meeting is available at <https://cook-county.legistar.com>