



Board of Commissioners of Cook County

Minutes of the Human Relations Committee

Wednesday, May 20, 2015

12:00 PM

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

ATTENDANCE

Present: Chairman Boykin, Commissioners Silvestri, Arroyo, Fritchey, Sims, Steele and Suffredin (7)

PUBLIC TESTIMONY

Chairman Boykin asked the Secretary to the Board to call upon the registered public speakers.

1. Robert Steward, AFSCME
2. Taneka Jennings, Metropolitan Family Services
3. Ginny Trainor, Riverside Hospital
4. Jesse Rosas, Proviso Township Mental Health Commission
5. Susan Doig, Trilogy
6. Diane Adams, STOP
7. Thenesia Stoudemire, Power House Ministries

15-1618

Sponsored by: RICHARD R. BOYKIN

PROPOSED RESOLUTION

RESOLUTION CALLING FOR A HEARING OF THE HUMAN RELATIONS COMMITTEE OF THE COOK COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS ON SERVICE GAPS IN COMMUNITY MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES

WHEREAS, the City of Chicago closed six of its 12 Community Mental Health Clinics in April of 2012; and,

WHEREAS, according to Cook County Sheriff Tom Dart, the reduction in funding for mental health services across multiple levels of government, including the Chicago clinic closures, has resulted in the Cook County Jail being the largest mental health facility in the state and possibly the nation; and,

WHEREAS, according to a joint report authored by the Mental Health Movement of Chicago and AFSCME Council 31, Chicago's closure of half of its mental health clinics resulted in a failure by the City of Chicago to account for hundreds and perhaps thousands of people who had depended on these clinics for mental health treatment services; and,

WHEREAS, that same report, entitled "Abandoning the Most Vulnerable," cites a complete lack of a comprehensive effort to determine how many people lost access to mental health treatment services after the Chicago clinic closures and similar lack of effort to make contact with the individuals who lost access to treatment and connect them with new service providers; and,

WHEREAS, Cook County, which is charged with providing services to the most vulnerable members of our local population, deals every day with the consequences of an inadequate safety net that has stranded too many of our residents without access to care that they urgently need; and,

WHEREAS, we count among those consequences an overcrowded Jail, court system and Juvenile Temporary Detention Center, all of which constitute a significant drain on Cook County's Budget and resources;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Cook County President and Board of Commissioners does hereby request a meeting of the Human Relations Committee of the Cook County Board of Commissioners.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED by the Cook County President and the Board of Commissioners that the above referenced meeting of the Human Relations Committee of the Cook County Board of Commissioners focus exclusively on the service gaps caused by reduction in Community Mental Health Services in the City of Chicago and its impact on the Cook County Budget and the population that the County serves.

A motion was made by Commissioner Suffredin, seconded by Vice Chairman Silvestri, that this Resolution be recommended for approval as amended.

The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: Chairman Boykin, Commissioners Silvestri, Arroyo, Fritchey, Sims, Steele and Suffredin(7)

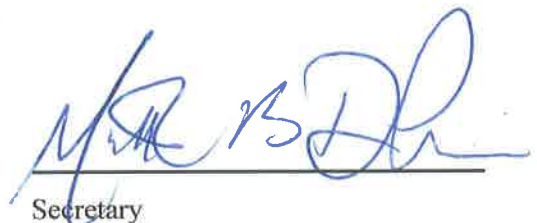
ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Commissioner Suffredin, seconded by Commissioner Arroyo to adjourn the Meeting.

Respectfully submitted,



Chairman


Secretary