

H.E.W., Solid Waste & Veterans Committee
Tentative Minutes
(Remote Attendance due to COVID-19 Crisis)
September 8, 2020

1. Call Meeting to Order: Chairwoman Bowers called the meeting to order at 11:01 a.m. Present: Asp, Droege and Finfrock. Others: Solid Waste Director Steve Rypkema and Ellen Katoll with Veterans Assistance Commission. Others via audio: Animal Control Administrator Dr. Thomas Champley, ROE Superintendent Robert Sondgeroth and Health Dept. Administrator Kyle Auman. Absent: Fox.
2. Approval of Minutes – August 11, 2020: Motion by Finfrock to approve the minutes as presented, 2nd by Droege. Motion carried.
3. Public Comment: None
4. Regional Office of Education
 - Monthly Bills: Motion by Asp to approve the bills totaling \$5,596.38, 2nd by Droege. Motion carried.
 - Department Update: Report was emailed to Committee. ROE Superintendent Sondgeroth stated they have been extremely busy with schools. All are open for in-person learning except one in Lee County. He has been very pleased with all School Administrations for their work on safety precautions.
5. Health Department: Auman gave a brief report on the COVID-19 pandemic; they have started with more of their routine operations. 282 students and 12 employees withheld from schools and 3 active cases linked to schools. Rochelle Community Hospital and KSB are now setup to test students. They are concerned with the increased activity.
6. Solid Waste Department
 - Monthly Bills: Motion by Finfrock to approve the bills totaling \$3,451.24, 2nd by Droege. Motion carried.
 - Department Update: Rypkema gave a brief update; he is busy working on the COVID reimbursement worksheets. EPA violation letters were sent to the landfills. Their Oil/Anti-Freeze/Latex Paint Recycling event was successful; 148 vehicles. The Electronics Recycling event saw 110 vehicles out of the 123 permits issued. 31 vehicles showed up without pre-registering. Next event is September 25th.
 - Grant Applications: None
7. Animal Control
 - Monthly Bills: Motion by Asp to approve the Animal Control bills in the amount of \$11,119.97, 2nd by Droege. Motion carried.
 - Department Update: Dr. Champley stated they remain busy and they are working on the COVID reimbursement worksheets.

8. Veterans Assistance Commission: Report was emailed; Katoll stressed the need for a Veteran's specialty court. Bowers asked if she has a Transportation Coordinator. Katoll stated she does, however, she still receives calls herself. Bowers asked about the Compliance Expenses. Katoll stated that is COVID related and some privacy/security expenses. Finrock asked how her backlog is coming. Katoll stated it is a slow process. Bowers asked if she has any current requests not filed yet; no. Bowers asked if she is behind on new claims or follow-ups. Asp stated that some claims may take longer for approval. Katoll stated the VAC has recently changed the appeals process but still takes time.
9. LOTS (Lee-Ogle Transportation System): None
10. Old Business: None
11. New Business: None
12. Closed Session – Interviews 5 ILCS 120/2(c)(3): Motion by Finrock to go into closed session, 2nd by Droege. Roll call: Yes – Bowers, Finrock, Asp, Droege. Motion carried. Time: 11:38 a.m.

Committee came back into open session at 11:48 a.m.

Motion by Finrock to recommend Emery Harmon for the Mental Health 708 Board vacancy, 2nd by Asp. Bowers voiced her concerns with conflict of interest with Sinnissippi Centers. Motion failed.

Motion by Finrock to recommend Haley Whalen for the Mental Health 708 Board vacancy, 2nd by Droege. Motion carried.

13. Adjournment: With no further business, Chairwoman Bowers adjourned the meeting. Time: 12:02 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Tiffany O'Brien

Regional Office of Education August Committee Report

Opening of Schools

August was an extremely busy month for our office as we worked on plans to get our school districts open in all three counties. All of our school administrators worked with us and the three county health departments on plans for getting back to in-person instruction. All of our districts had the option of offering remote learning, in-person instruction, or a combination of both. We had 23 of our 24 districts open with a combination of in-person and remote learning while Steward School District in Lee County made the decision to start the year with full remote learning. Fulton High School in Whiteside County, also made the decision to start the year with remote learning after having some of their students test positive before the school year started. We continue to work daily with our administrators and health departments to ensure the safety of our teachers and students while trying to help our students get engaged again with learning.

School Inspections

Our office has started coordinating school inspections with those districts that are interested in getting them completed before students and staff return to school. We were able to complete inspections for Sterling, Rock Falls, East Coloma-Nelson, St. Andrews, Montmorency, Newman, St. Mary's, and Christ Luthern. We will continue to work with the other districts to get inspections done in a safe and timely manner.

Professional Development

The Office of Professional Learning has cancelled or postponed face-to-face sessions for the month of May, June, July & August and continue to migrate as much training and support as possible to a digital distance format. School improvement meetings, teacher coaching, career pathway endorsement work, and transitional math & ELA work also continue on a virtual basis. All summer learning is in response to the Needs Assessment survey data collected by the office in May 2020.

The Office of Professional Learning has been working diligently to support teachers, administrators, and educational support staff as they transition their teaching and learning to a remote format. We have provided opportunities for teachers to network, collaborate, and connect through Zoom. Sessions have been well received by educators, who appreciate the support and opportunity to come together.

August Participants – 165

During the month of August our Guest Facilitators were: Whiteside County Health Department, Karen Mayberry and Karla Belzer

Monday, August 3

New Teacher Welcome & Orientation @ 9 a.m.

Wednesday, August 5

Preparing for Fall: School Nurses – Health & Safety Protocols @ 9 a.m.

Librarians Networking @ 10 a.m.

Preparing for Fall: Custodial, Maintenance, and Buildings & Grounds Personnel – Health & Safety Protocols @ 10:05 a.m.

Thursday, August 6

Improving Digital Learning @ 10:30 a.m.

Return to Learn: K-12 Math & Literacy Interventionists @ 12:30 p.m.

Monday, August 11

Return to Learn: Special Ed K-12 @ 9 a.m.

Wednesday, August 12

Preschool Family Support Specialist Networking @ 10 a.m.

Friday, August 14

Play Every Day: Offering Outdoor Play & Brain Breaks in Your Classroom @ 9 a.m.

Friday, August 28

Superintendents and Health Department Networking @ 9 a.m.

ROE #47 is proud to announce the hiring of our Pathway Navigators, Heather Waninger and Chanda McDonnell, for our Education Pathway Grant. The Education Pathway Grant partnership is with Sauk Valley College, Rock Falls High School, Dixon Public Schools, Riverbend School District, Morrison School District, and WACC. The Pathway Navigators will connect 6-12 grade students with essential resources such as interest inventories, college and career exploration opportunities, financial literacy tools including financial aid resources, career services, degree planning, and other services. This is a 4 year grant to invest in our students and communities to grow our education pipeline!

Family Educators in the department maintain close contact with their at-risk preschool families in Rock Falls & Amboy. Family Educators have identified and communicated community resources during this uncertain time. They are also working to develop family engagement opportunities for families and young children using platforms such as facebook and zoom.

Regional Center for Change

C4C is starting the school year with in-person learning. The vast majority of students enrolled at C4C are coming into the building! We realize the importance of in-person learning and we believe the family atmosphere we have created allows students the opportunity to take a deep breath - even if that breath comes wearing a mask:) Students have picked up where they left off academically and we have many students already successfully completing courses in Health, Science 7th grade, and Algebra 1 just to name a few. I have also made 3 positive phone calls home this week to students and families. What's a positive phone call? Glad you asked. Not many parents think they are going to get a positive phone call about their child in an alternative school and that's why we love doing it! We have TYCFBA cards (Thank You For Being Awesome). These cards are given to random students by staff members. The student brings the card down and I get to call home. To parents' surprise I get to inform them of how awesome their child is doing at C4C and it brightens everyone's day. We have some pretty tough kids at C4C but seeing the smile on their face when they get to hear a PRINCIPAL tell their parents how awesome they are doing...priceless. Just a few of many great things going on at C4C. #flightofthephoenix

Mission Statement

At C4C we are dedicated to student achievement in school and life, instilling HOPE for a future, self-confidence NOW, and RESILIENCE forever!



Education Outreach Program

The Education Outreach Program resumed in-person GED classes at Wallace Educational Center and the Rock River Center on 8/25/20. In addition to in-person classes, we continue to provide remote learning options such as Zoom, Facebook Video lessons, GED practice tests, i-Pathways, Khan Academy and GED study packets.

In addition to GED instruction, we provide transportation assistance, free vouchers for GED testing, financial stipends, job shadows, job search and resume assistance, paid work experience opportunities, and tuition assistance for certain post-secondary training programs.

We are in the process of enrolling new students. Any young adult aged 17-24 who resides in Lee, Ogle, or Whiteside County and is in need of their HSE Certificate is eligible for enrollment.

To enroll, or for additional information, individuals may contact Beth Hubbard at 815/622-4950.

Parents as Teachers First Years

We are continuing to recruit new families to fill our available slots. It has been challenging to recruit and enroll new families without face-to-face contact. Virtual home visits and group meetings are continuing. We are focusing our group meetings on “adulting” topics such as teaching cooking basics, budgeting and comparison shopping, designing an outdoor play space for your children, etc.

In early September, our staff will be participating in an online conference offered by Mental Health America. The focus is on COVID-19, Mental Health, and the Need for Equity. Since the beginning of the COVID crisis, we have noticed an increase in loneliness, isolation, anxiety, and depression in our participants. Some also have significant trauma histories and/or have been impacted by racism, which also impacts mental health and wellness. We know that parents who are dealing with mental health challenges have a harder time bonding and attaching to their babies, which in turn can lead to social and emotional difficulties as the children grow older. We hope to gain a better understanding of the impacts that this crisis, the “new normal”, and the challenges of accessing care has had on families so that we can be more effective in our work.

McKinney-Vento Homeless Education

McKinney Vento identification has added difficulty with not all students being physically in the school buildings. Despite that fact, efforts are being made to still locate the students that are affected by being displaced from their regular, fixed, adequate nighttime housing. This is a population of very vulnerable students. We continue to use the grant funding in the most creative ways possible to try and meet the needs of these students. Our office acts as the Lead Liaison for Area 2 with this program therefore work is done in the entire area for reaching these students.

Ogle County Animal Control Warden Activity Record August 2020			
<i>Month of August</i>	<i>Monthly Total</i>	<i>Misc. Notes</i>	<i>2020 Year to Date</i>
Miles Driven	2512	Regular duties - Check complaints Stray pick up - Tag Doors for Non-Vac	22501 7393
Bites Reported	15	12 Dogs Cats 3 Bats	85
Strays	7	7 Ogle Co.	33
Notices To Comply Given	22	21 No Current Vac / Registration 1 Dogs Running At Large	158
Citations Issued		Dogs Running @ Large No Rabies Shot and Tag	
Welfare Calls	7	6 Dogs - No proper shelter -No water 1 Dog In Hot Car	28
Animal Bites on Animals	7	6 Dog on Dog 1 Dog on Cat	35
Assist Other Agencies	2	2 Ogle County Sheriff	14
Dogs Deemed Dangerous			
Dogs Deemed Vicious			
Other Complaints			1

Submitted by:
Kevin G. Christensen - Warden
Ogle County Animal Control

Veterans Assistance Commission of Ogle County
 Statistical & Financial Report
 September 8, 2020 Meeting of Ogle County H.E.W. Committee

Superintendent Comments:

- Assisted veterans in getting food, housing, and clothing after the derecho came through in August
- Referred several clients to IDVA. Certain requests have to be handled by them, i.e. certified copy of discharge, hunting and fishing license for disabled veterans, and IDVA-filed claims follow-up.
- At least weekly I check the status of claims as letters from Veterans Benefits Administration can get delayed.
- Transportation is picking up as the VA is seeing more people in person and scheduling non-emergent appointments.
- There is a need to establish a Veterans Treatment Court in Ogle County. It can help reduce the recidivism rate of veteran offenders.
- I'll be attending the Illinois Association of County Veteran Assistance Commissions meeting this month. Included will be my continuing education training.

VACOC Activity	
Communication	
Emails	127
Calls	181
U.S. Mail Sent	6
Client Office Visits	13
Financial Aid	
Number of Approved	0
Number of Declined	1
Rent Assistance	-
Gas Assistance	-
Electric Assistance	-
Water Assistance	-
Food/Hygiene	-
Veteran Funeral Expense	-
Total Veteran Financial Aid	-
Transportation	
Number of Requests Fulfilled	25
Number of VA Facilities	6
Number of Veterans	10
Miles Driven	3,581.9
Volunteer Drivers' Hours	140.5
VSO	
Total Number of Forms Completed	11
Monthly Claims Money Received	532.74
Monthly Pension Received	-
Back pay Received	-
Open Clients	19

Balance Sheet

As of August 31, 2020

◇ Aug 31, 20 ◇

ASSETS

Current Assets

Checking/Savings

VAC Discretionary Fund ▶ 193.69 ◀

VAC Operating Fund 32,897.16

Total Checking/Savings 33,090.85

Total Current Assets 33,090.85

TOTAL ASSETS 33,090.85

Profit & Loss

August 2020

◇ Aug 20 ◇

Ordinary Income/Expense

Expense

Category 100 - Administration

101 - Supt/Accredited VSO Salary ▶ 2,000.00 ◀

103 - Trans. Coordinator Salary 350.00

104 - VAC Office Rent 75.00

105 - VAC Cell Phones 77.22

109 - VAC Office Supplies 6.87

123 - Compliance 38.05

Total Category 100 - Administration 2,547.14

Category 200 - Veteran Support

201-Driver Mileage Reimbursemnt 2,113.07

202 - Driver Toll Fees 29.35

Total Category 200 - Veteran Support 2,142.42

Total Expense 4,689.56

Net Ordinary Income -4,689.56

Net Income -4,689.56