



DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES BOARD

PUBLIC HEARING MINUTES

July 13, 2011

The Rock County Developmental Disabilities Board's Public Hearing was called to order at 6:30 P.M. by Chair Jensen.

Board Members introduced themselves to the attendants of the Public Hearing.

The following were speaker's comments:

Jeanne Lee, Epilepsy Foundation:

Ms. Lee thanked the Board for support of the Epilepsy Foundation. She also explained how the current unemployment rates and economy reflect an increase in services while funds decreased. Ms. Lee reported that the Medication Program was tweaked a bit. Attorney Donald Becker stepped forward to offer financial assistance to Epilepsy clients. This program allows clients to enter into an interest free low payment loan contract so that they might still be able to receive services that they might otherwise have to discontinue due to lack of funds. Ms. Lee also said that though the original funds for Kids Pop Night are now gone the Kids Pop Nights will continue. Kids Pop Night provides a night of respite for kids and their siblings with activities to include movies and snacks. She also reported that volunteers for the Epilepsy Foundation worked a vendor tent at the Airfest and were able to raise money.

Gary Bersell, Kandu Industries:

Mr. Bersell thanked the Board for its continued support. Mr. Bersell explained how funding from the DD Board has gone from 80% in the 1980's to about 37% today. Kandu Ind. has been able to cut administration costs by 37% in the 1st 6 months of 2011. Kandu is partnering with the Veteran's Foundation Services to expand the Adult Day Services Program. The Adult Day Services Program is an area of extreme growth for Kandu with 40% of our DD population at 50 yrs. old and older. Kandu is currently licensed for 40 individuals in the Adult Day Services Program. Mr. Bersell was happy to report that a recent fund raiser with Diane Hendricks has netted \$79,000.

Jennifer Pelz, CESA 2 VOA:

Ms. Pelz thanked the Board for their support. Ms. Pelz spoke briefly of the programs provided by CESA 2 VOA and the importance of funding for these programs.

Anna Fuller, CESA 2 TLC, Birth to Three Program:

Ms. Fuller thanked the Board for its continued support. Ms. Fuller talked about the need to educate consumers about the upcoming State Directive to convert to a Primary Coaching Model. Ms. Fuller explained the implications of what a 0% increase or a 2.5% decrease in the Birth to Three Program budget would mean. Such as further loss of direct care staff positions, loss of case management medical assistance revenue, an 83% reduction in marketing/publications, eliminate the equipment line item from the budget and or the reduction in supplies.

Sue Lethlean, Rehab Resources:

Ms. Lethlean explained that Rehab Resources is the Therapeutic arm of the Birth to Three Program. She also expressed her thanks to the DD Board for funding. Ms. Lethlean further explained that Rehab resources gets 60% of their financing from Medical Assistance, 23% from Commercial Insurance and 17% from Rock County. Funding continues to be an issue as funding goes down the needs rise. Every effort is being made to contain costs but some costs are out of her control. Such as the need for a new electronic billing provider when the current billing provider gave notice that they will end their service to Rehab Resources as of 12-31-2011 and in order to retain quality employees they need to remain competitive with other providers in terms of employee benefits. Ms. Lethlean asked for consideration for an increase in funding for the therapy component of their program. They have not asked for an increase since 2007.

Chair Jensen thanked everyone for coming and reminded everyone the County Board Public Hearing is Wednesday, November 9, 2011 at the courthouse.

The Public Hearing was adjourned at 7:27 P.M. on Motion By Lynda Olson, Seconded By Nancy Lannert. Motion Carried.

**Respectfully Submitted,
Tahirih Carr
DD Financial Worker**