

THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS HELD A WORK SESSION ON THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 8, 2005, WITH COMMISSIONERS ROBERT L. PROUD AND R. SCOTT CROSWELL III IN ATTENDANCE.

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE WERE DAVID L. SPINNEY, COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR, JUDITH KOCICA, CLERK OF THE BOARD, AND CONNIE TIBBE, CLERMONT COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' OFFICE.

THE FOLLOWING ISSUES WERE PRESENTED FOR DISCUSSION:

1. Issue – Health Insurance

Additional Attendees – Doug Miller and Shelly Hodges of Horan Associates, Inc., and Bob Sander and Yvonne Smith of Human Resources.

Discussion - As requested by the Board at the September 1, 2005 work session, Horan provided a self-funded vs. fully insured cost comparison for the last three years for the Board's review (copy attached). The financial analysis showed a cost savings for the self-funded program, with a total projected savings from 2003 through 2006 of \$1.5 million. Based on this report, Ms. Hodges indicated that Horan's recommendation to the Board is for the county to continue with the self-insured insurance program.

Mr. Spinney indicated that there is a risk for the self-insured program initially but by the end of 2006, the projections show that the savings to the county will have the risk covered. These funds will be segregated and held in reserve to eventually be incorporated into the premiums and assist with the offset of rising insurance costs.

Mr. Sander indicated that the Human Resource's recommendation for the 2006 health insurance program is to stay self-insured and also to keep Humana as the healthcare vendor.

Additional discussion was held with regard to preliminary plan design changes as outlined in Horan's report. The proposed plan design changes total \$375,469 which would meet the shortfall for the projected 2006 claims costs.

The Board questioned if a wavier credit system that could be implemented in the future in order to give employees credit for not utilizing their health insurance (thus keeping the cost of claims down). Utilizing the reserve of funds being generated through the self-insured program was considered. Mr. Sander indicated that this option can/will be explored.

Conclusion/Follow-up Action Needed - The issue was scheduled for discussion in next week's work session (09/14/05). Mr. Sander is to present the Human Resources' final recommendation to the Board along with the recommended plan design changes. **(05-0413-002)**

2. Issue – Hospital Expansion Project

Additional Attendees – Mark Shugarman of Mercy Hospital Clermont.

Discussion – Mr. Shugarman reported to the Board that Mercy Hospital Clermont is planning a significant expansion of their facility. The project will include:

- A new 3 story medical office building attached to the hospital.
- A new Intensive Care Unit, expanded from 12 to 16 beds.
- Increased acute care bed capacity from 92 to 115 beds.
- Increased private inpatient rooms to 30%.
- Separate visitor elevators.

Pictures of the new facility were provided and reviewed. In addition, a list of the hospital's 2005 accomplishments were provided and discussed (copy attached).

Mr. Shugarman further indicated that the cost of the expansion is \$18 million, which is being shared between Mercy Hospital Clermont and the developer. The project has no affect on the county's refinancing of the bonds for the hospital.

In addition, Mr. Shugarman stated that the new facility will be an asset to the county. It will improve physician access and enhance programs and services to the citizens of Clermont County.

Conclusion/Follow-up Action Needed - The Board indicated their support for hospital expansion. (05-1122-008)

3. **Issue – Jail Alternative**

Additional Attendees – Doug Brothers of Juvenile Court.

Discussion - Mr. Brothers met with the Board to discuss the proposed Alternative Treatment Program for inmates of the County Jail. The purpose of the program would be to provide treatment services as an alternative to incarceration by reducing jail commitments and the number of jail days individuals are serving. Eligible candidates would be those individuals with drug and/or alcohol related offenses. The program would also assist in helping to reduce the current jail waiting list.

Mr. Brothers reported that it was initially thought by the Jail Committee members, upon the opening of the jail addition, that a portion of the space of the old jail (the south unit) could be utilized for an Alternative Treatment Program. However, recent indications from the Jail Committee members are that the population of inmates eligible to utilize the proposed Alternative Treatment Program is not high enough to justify the program.

Mr. Brothers further indicated that he had been reviewing the inmate population (via the Sheriff's on-line report) for the last three weeks. He stated that the jail processes approximately 100 admissions each week. A detailed report was provided outlining the current jail inmate statistics for the Board's review (copy attached). Mr. Brothers stated that the report shows that the long term inmates are being managed correctly. Additionally, he reported that the statistics on the report supports the analysis that there is a lack of population for an Alternative Treatment Program. It would cost more to operate the treatment services program than the county would save by eliminating jail time for inmates.

The possibility of utilizing the old jail space for inmates with non-mandatory sentences was also discussed (similar to Wayne County's minimum security work release facility). The Board indicated the need to explore how Wayne County is operating this program. Mr. Spinney and the Board members all indicated their desire to visit Wayne County's facility to see first hand how their minimum security work release program is implemented in an effort to duplicate these efforts in Clermont County, if feasible. Potential problems of a facility of this nature were also discussed (i.e., violation of state law, liability issues and legal issues).

Numerous alternatives for utilizing the old jail space were considered as follows:

- Use for day treatment services.
- Lease the space (and increase the county's revenues).
- Use the space for the Grailville Retreat Center.
- Use for the forensic program.
- Use for a work release program.

Conclusion/Follow-up Action Needed - The Board directed the administration to coordinate a trip to Wayne County to view their facility as discussed. Mr. Brothers is to speak to the Municipal Court and Common Pleas Court Judges to discuss which of the proposed alternatives for the old jail space they will support. **(04-0713-002)**

4. **Issue – “Jobs for Ohio” Campaign**

Additional Attendees – N/A

Discussion - Mr. Spinney distributed a copy of the August 26, 2005 transmittal package from the County Commissioners' Association of Ohio (CCAO) requesting the Board's support for State Issue I (“Jobs for Ohio” Campaign).

Conclusion/Follow-up Action Needed - The Board indicated their support for State Issue I and directed the Administration to prepare a resolution for their approval in regular session. **(05-0928-001)**

Adjournment

Work Session was adjourned.

**BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
CLERMONT COUNTY, OHIO**

ROBERT L. PROUD, PRESIDENT

MARY C. WALKER, VICE PRESIDENT

R. SCOTT CROSWELL III, MEMBER

DAVID L. SPINNEY, COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

DATE APPROVED