

THE BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS HELD AN INFORMAL REGULAR SESSION ON MONDAY, APRIL 6, 2015, WITH COMMISSIONERS EDWIN H. HUMPHREY AND ROBERT L. PROUD IN ATTENDANCE. LET THE RECORD SHOW COMMISSIONER DAVID L. UIBLE WAS ABSENT.

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE WERE ANDREW KUCHTA, DIRECTOR OF THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, AND DEBORAH BRITTON, CLERMONT COUNTY COMMISSIONERS' OFFICE. ADDITIONAL ATTENDEES AT THE INFORMAL REGULAR SESSION ARE LISTED ON THE ATTACHED ATTENDANCE SHEET.

LET THE RECORD SHOW THAT THE APRIL 6, 2015 INFORMAL REGULAR SESSION WAS VIDEOTAPED AND IS AVAILABLE FOR PUBLIC INSPECTION MONDAY THROUGH FRIDAY BETWEEN THE HOURS OF 8:00 A.M. TO 4:30 P.M. LOCAL TIME. IN ADDITION, THE INFORMAL REGULAR SESSION IS AVAILABLE FOR PUBLIC VIEWING THROUGH THE COUNTY GOVERNMENT WEBSITE AT <http://www.clermontcountyohio.gov/videos-worksession.aspx>.

LET THE RECORD SHOW INFORMAL REGULAR SESSION STARTED SHORTLY AFTER 10:30 A.M.

THE FOLLOWING ISSUES WERE PRESENTED FOR DISCUSSION:

1. Issue - Levy Presentation: Department of Job & Family Services - Children's Protective Services - Judy Eschmann, Director...08-0228-001

Discussion – Ms. Eschmann provided a PowerPoint presentation providing an overview of Children's Protective Services (CPS) division who they are and the services they provide.

Ms. Eschmann described that the basis of CPS is to investigate allegations of physical and sexual abuse as well as reported neglect of children. The average number of children in care of CPS in Clermont County is 340, 40% of those children are removed from parents because of opiate addictions. Ms. Eschmann stated that every ZIP code in Clermont County had reported abuse cases last year and therefore we must understand that socio-economics has no bearing on child abuse/neglect.

New “differential/alternative response” programs were implemented in 2014 for treatment of neglect cases. This has seen reduced rates of recidivism. The child welfare investigators provide families with resources.

The current funding for CPS at the local level is 51% and is a .80 mil levy. Currently this levy costs the owner of a \$100K home about \$23.67/year.

Conclusion/Follow-Up Action Needed –

Ms. Eschmann indicated this request is for a renewal and not an increase for another 5-year levy to be placed on the ballot in November. To view the entire presentation for CPS click [here](#).

2. Issue - Levy Presentation: Clermont County Board of Developmental Disabilities - Dan Ottke, Superintendent and David Sininger, Director of Business Operations...05-0413-001

Discussion – Dan Ottke provided a PowerPoint presentation describing Developmental Disabilities, which currently serves about 1,200 individuals in Clermont County from infants to adults. The statistics are included in the presentation attached [here](#).

Mr. Ottke stated that due to the number of clients needing services there is a waiting list for

programs such as the Adult Services, Individual Budget and Behavior Support Program that due to funding and staffing, CCDD cannot provide services to all of those in need at this time.

Mr. Ottke provided discussion regarding the projected budget forecast through 2019 at the current tax levy and funding sources. Mr. Ottke stated he felt it was important to note that CCDD reduced the workforce from 189.5 to 159 employees between 2014 and 2015. They also reduced expenses by selling one building. This was an effort to be more fiscally responsible.

Mr. Ottke indicated the CCDD continuing Levies were originally passed in the 70's and 80's and one in 2003 and range from .20 mil to 1.0 mil the sum of all 4 continuing levies is 2.5 mil. The 2003 levy was most recently updated in 2013, which is a 5-year .75 mil levy. Mr. Ottke stated CCDD might need to look at replacing a continuing levy in 2016.

Conclusion/Follow-Up Action Needed – Commissioner Proud asked if they were looking at a replacement levy and if so, which one? Mr. Ottke stated that discussion would take place at the next CCDD Board meeting on April 14, 2015. Mr. Ottke will follow up with the Commissioners after a decision has been made.

3. Issue – Levy Presentation: Mental Health & Recovery Board – Karen Scherra, Executive Director...05-0413-001

Discussion – Ms. Scherra provided the Board with a PowerPoint presentation regarding the Mental Health and Recovery Board (MHRB). The Clermont County MHRB provides planning, monitoring, and funding for mental health and substance abuse services throughout Clermont County. Ms. Scherra noted the following numbers of clients are being served each year through MHRB, mental health services 40K and substance abuse services between 20K and 28.6K.

Commissioner Proud asked if MHRB was fully staffed at this time. Ms. Scherra stated they are currently short staffed by two full time employees.

Ms. Scherra stated that the increases statewide in Opiate and Heroin has become an issue and we are still seeing a large problem here in Clermont County. The treatment for these addictions is more expensive and longer than other addictions.

MHRB applied and received a grant that allowed them to work with and supply the Clermont County Sheriff's office with Narcan. Narcan prevents or reverses the effects of opioids including respiratory depression, sedation and hypotension. Narcan used during an Opiate or Heroin overdose can greatly increase the chances of the patients' survival if administered quickly. Our Sheriff was one of the first in SW Ohio to agree to carry Narcan.

Ms. Scherra pointed out that for several years they have been operating at a deficit due to reductions in funding and they are striving to do more with less. The MHRB policy is to keep \$1M in "required" reserve to cover all responsibilities since most state funding does not come in until one year in arrears; MHRB financial projection included in the presentation shows that at the end of fiscal year 2016 these funds will be needed to meet Continuum of Care requirements for services. Ms. Scherra also noted, that requirements for Continuum of Care by the State Department for State and Federal fund mandates require items that we do not have in place at this time.

Statistics and additional resource and services details are included in the presentation attached; [here](#)

Commissioner Proud asked if they do any type of longitudinal studies on the CRC Treatment programs. Ms. Scherra stated they did previously however, they do not have funding or staffing currently available to do additional studies at this time. They found in the past it is

fairly time consuming due to clients receiving these services, who often change phone numbers and address and it makes it more difficult to track as well.

Commissioner Proud wanted to thank MHRB for the after prom programs that they fund/support at all of the local high schools.

Ms. Scherra provided the Board with several options from renewal of the .5 mil to a renewal with .25 mil increase. She stated MHRB has done three town hall meetings and have been receiving community support especially when it comes to Opiate treatment and outreach issues. The community is asking for additional resources and options for family members. Ms. Scherra stated if there was ever a time to ask for an increase, now is the time.

Conclusion/Follow-Up Action Needed – Ms. Scherra will be requesting the Board support MHRB placement of a renewal of the .5 mil levy with a .25 mil increase on the November 2015 Ballot.

Commissioner Humphrey asked if they could receive the carry over numbers from previous years. Ms. Scherra will provide that to the Commissioners.

LET THE RECORD SHOW COMMISSIONER HUMPHREY ASKED TO TAKE A FIVE MINUTE RECESS.

4. **Issue – Levy Presentation: Clermont Senior Services – Cindy Jenkins Gramke, Executive Director/CEO, Greg Carson, Chief Financial Officer and Mick McLaughlin, Chairman of the Board, Connie Bare, Secretary, and Sam DeBonis, Board of Trustees Member, Clermont Senior Services...10-0316-001**

Discussion – Mr. McLaughlin, provided the Board with some history of Clermont Senior Services (CSS) and introduced Ms. Gramke who provided the Board with a PowerPoint presentation giving an overview of Clermont Senior Services and their mission; to improve the quality of life and keep our elderly living as independently as possible in their own home for as long as possible. The average client for CSS is female, is age 75, lives alone and has an income of approx. \$1200/mo. The youngest a client can be is 60 and Ms. Gramke stated the oldest senior they provide services to just turned 105.

Ms. Gramke stated they have 20 buses transporting clients to and from appointments and adult day services. The transportation services include appointments such as dialysis, medical appointments or Veterans Administration treatments/services.

CSS also offers home repair and home care such as installation of grab bars, gutter cleaning, and shower chairs, or light homemaking or assistance with bathing, etc. Volunteer support has been building especially in the home repair area and meals on wheels area of CSS. Ms. Gramke stated 73% of meals on wheels is provided through volunteer support. Ms. Gramke stated they have been making great strides in growing the volunteer support program in all aspects to allow CSS more leverage of the levy dollars they do receive.

Ms. Gramke stated the anticipated 60+ population between 2010-2020 would grow at 110%, noting that Clermont County has been the third fastest growing population in the State of Ohio for the 60+ age group. Although CCS has taken steps to make cost reductions in recent years such as consolidating senior centers, eliminating four director positions, and converting to Home Options Program (HOP) which allows CSS to contract with home care agencies to delivery home care services to levy funded clients, and lastly by doing software upgrades for increased efficiency.

See slides 15-30 for details regarding the percentage of the funding being used for each service, where that percentage of funding is coming from, the additional sources of funding CSS receives as well as the eligibility requirements to receive services from CCS

and requirements for each specific program CSS offers. A copy of the entire presentation is provided [here](#).

Mr. DeBonis provided the Board with three scenarios attached in the package for the levy renewal options regarding the 1.3 mil Levy in effect since 2002. If CSS renewed the current levy and had no increase in customer base they would run at a deficit. If CSS asked for an increase with the 1.3 mil renewal and a .2 mil increase over a 5 year period with an estimated 5% customer increase.

Commissioner Proud asked what the current 60+ population numbers are in Clermont County. Ms. Gramke stated she does not have that information with her today, and will forward that information by the end of the week.

Conclusion/Follow-Up Action Needed – Ms. Gramke and the CSS is asking that the Board support CSS in being placed on the ballot in 2016 primary for a 5 year renewal of the 1.3 mil levy with an increase of .2 mil.

Commissioner Humphrey summarized by saying all four groups would like to be on the ballot and CPS as of now is the only group not asking for an increase. CCDD should let the Commissioners know after the CCDD Board meeting on April 14 the decision as to the amount they will be asking for on the levy. CPS and MHRB would like to be on the November 2015 ballot and CCDD and CSS are asking to be added to the March 2016 ballot.

Adjournment... Approved

Moved by Mr. Proud, seconded by Mr. Humphrey, that the Board of County Commissioners approve the following recommendation:

Informal Regular Session was adjourned.

Upon roll call on the foregoing motion, the vote was as follows:

Mr. Proud, Yea; Mr. Humphrey, Aye; Mr. Uible, Absent.

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

EDWIN H. HUMPHREY, PRESIDENT

ROBERT L. PROUD, VICE PRESIDENT

Absent

DAVID H. UIBLE, MEMBER

**ANDREW KUCHTA, DIRECTOR,
DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITY AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

04-22-15
DATE APPROVED