

Meeting Minutes
Board of Health for Madison and Dane County
BUDGET COMMITTEE

July 18, 2008

10:30 a.m.

City County Building
210 MLK Jr. Blvd.,
Room 356

CALL TO ORDER – The meeting was called to order at 10:33 a.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT – Judy Wilcox, Chair, Lauren Cnare, Donna Vogel

OTHERS PRESENT - Susan Zahner, Tommye Schneider, David Caes, Ron Hudson, Pamela Abel, Joel Plant, Tom Schlenker, Patricia Frazak

Public Comment - None

Discussion of 2009 Budget

Caes distributed a budget document updated since the last distribution at the board meeting. He cautioned the figure listed in the budget for next year under salary and benefits is based on the assumption that all employees will transfer to the county. The controller's office advised that it is best to assume the maximum. There are very few other changes since this document was seen.

The department capital budget was submitted to the city and the county. The city comptroller has moved the projects forward with the exception of replacing the dental equipment and remodeling the front desk reception. It was recommended those items be moved to the operating budget.

The second document is a review of budget by area. There are no significant changes from what was distributed at the board meeting. There is a reclassification of expenses related to property rental and maintenance fees with zero impact. A correction should be made to the Komen Foundation grant, change to \$90,000 for the treatment access fund.

Schlenker reviewed the process to this point. What we now need is joint guidance for a budget target. We have prepared a continuation budget and submitted it to the executives based on the directive by the board. In response to the Mayor's budget instruction, a list of cuts in expenses or increase in revenue, which equals 5%, has been completed for your review. If SEIU and AFSCME negotiated salary and benefits have to be absorbed within our budget, layoffs will be required. The issue of where the transition funds will come from has yet to be resolved. The following eight (8) strategies have been identified to close in on the 5% budget cut. This amount of saving is close \$400,000.

- 1 – Raise lab fees
- 2 – Use emergency preparedness funds to support more current staff involvement with these activities
- 3 – Re-evaluate direct subsidy of health care services
- 4 – Monitor and enforcement of surface water county wide through the Lakes and Watershed Commission
- 5 – Develop and implement student fees to charge academic institutions for interns placed in the department
- 6 – Evaluate space needs and lease agreements for possible renegotiation of fees closer to market rate
- 7 – Replace computers only when they die, not on a replacement schedule
- 8 – Review vacant positions to determine if job needs to be modified and are classified appropriately

If we need to go beyond the strategies presented, program elimination is next. One possibility is Well Child Clinics. One reason is there are other agencies/health care systems that do that kind of work. We will need to gather more information on our clinics such as who and how many are served, where is the trend going, and what kind of services are needed and provided. Committee members asked that staff prepare a comprehensive report and look at non-mandated programs. The mandate for this program is

referral to care. This program cost is about \$80,000. This does not mean a decrease of jobs but a shift in duties.

Motion by Cnare/Vogel to approve the report on possible savings and potential for program elimination as presented by Schlenker. Discussion included a conflict of interest by Zahner in regard to a possible fee charge to academic institutions to place interns. Vogel recommended moving ahead with items 1, 4 6 8 regardless of the target. After discussion, Cnare withdrew the motion, passed unanimously.

The committee decided to hold their next meeting on July 24, at 4:30, prior to the Board meeting. This meeting will be held only if we have the information about our adjusted base budget. If there is not a need to meet on July 24, a meeting will be called in the next 2-3 weeks to determine a recommendation to the full board.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:35 a.m.