

LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

Monday, June 11, 2012

Room 3220, Administrative Center, 400 4th St. N.

11:30 a.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Bill Brockmiller, Thomas Downer (excused at 12:19 p.m.), Sharon Hampson, Dave Holtze, Monica Kruse, Don Meyer, Roger Plesha

MEMBERS EXCUSED: None

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

OTHERS PRESENT: Steve O'Malley, Ron Chamberlain, Doug Mormann, Al Graewin, Lorie Graff, Jason Witt, Ginny Dankmeyer

CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

Chair Brockmiller called the meeting to order at 11:30 a.m.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None requested.

APPROVE MINUTES OF MARCH 5, 2012

MOTION by Plesha/Kruse to approve the minutes of the March 5, 2012 meeting. **Motion carried unanimously.**

SELECTION OF NEW VICE CHAIR

Monica Kruse was selected to be the Vice-Chair of the Legislative Committee. Chair Brockmiller noted that this committee meets on average of six times per year.

DISCUSSION: HOW CAN LOCAL ELECTED OFFICIALS IMPROVE COMMUNICATIONS WITH OUR LEGISLATORS

Supervisor Kruse was a member of a legislative committee for years and said meeting regularly with legislators so they know what we are about and to continue to let them know what is important to us. Chair Brockmiller indicated a more formal invitation than the normal invitation and before the summer months when they will be hitting the campaign trail. Supervisor Hampson noted that our local legislators are very accessible and understand what we do since they all started on the County Board. Supervisor Holtze suggested preparing a list of legislative roles of what we want to see passed and then get together with them and go over our agenda and what we are in favor of. Wisconsin Counties Association (WCA) does sponsor resolutions. WCA does try to narrow down the issues to four or five priorities. Supervisors will learn more about those in September when the WCA conference will be in La Crosse. If WCA does not think one issue is as important as others, the county can lobby separately for that. Health Department Director Doug Mormann sends a note to Legislators inviting them or their staff members to come tour the Health Department. Supervisor Downer used some of these approaches to deal with legislators and started the Veterans Court and the law it follows. They took it one step further by testifying before each committee in Madison.

RESOLUTION RE: SUPPORT OF POLICY OF TAX EQUITY ON OTHER TOBACCO PRODUCTS

The Resolution addresses the tax imposed on tobacco products very similar to cigarettes, such as little cigars and cigarillos and supports the policy of tax equity on these tobacco products. La Crosse County is the first county to do this in Wisconsin. A copy of this resolution will be mailed to Governor Walker, Senator Shilling, Representatives Doyle and Billings, and the Wisconsin Counties Association. **MOTION** by Hampson/Downer to approve. **Motion carried unanimously.**

DISCUSS THE RESOLUTION RE: REQUEST WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SERVICES TO DO A HEALTH IMPACT ASSESSMENT OF FRAC SAND MINING ON PUBLIC HEALTH TO WCA

Chair Brockmiller asked for this to be put on the agenda to find out what the next step is. Administrator O'Malley wants to make sure this will get into the resolution cycle for WCA and will send with a cover letter from either his office or the County Clerk's Office. **MOTION** by

Kruse/Meyer to make a formal letter and pass this resolution on to the WCA platform of positions. **Motion carried unanimously.** La Crosse County was one of the first counties to pass this. Health Boards and associations across the state have supported similar efforts. 17 counties are aware of the resolution and are seeking discussion very similar to this one.

RESOLUTION RE: REQUESTING THE STATE OF WISCONSIN SUSPEND THE CURRENT REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP) FOR WISCONSIN WORKS (W2)

This resolution requests that the State of Wisconsin suspend the current RFP for W-2 and develop a new RFP based on input from all stakeholders involved in the W-2 program. RFP puts counties at a competitive disadvantage in the selection process and appears to be deliberately designed to privatize W-2. La Crosse has over 15 years of experience operating the W-2 program for the State of Wisconsin and successfully competing for past W-2 contracts due to a history of strong performance, cost effectiveness and a dedication to excellence. The Department of Children and Family is pushing for this and the feeling is that the private agencies will come from out of state. The RFP process is happening now and if we waited to go through the WCA platform process, it would be too late. Supervisor Hampson suggested adding a comma after systems in the Fiscal note. **MOTION** by Plesha/Downer to approve. **Motion carried unanimously.**

RESOLUTION RE: REQUESTING THAT THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SERVICES INCENTIVIZE MORE EFFECTIVE REGIONAL COLLABORATION, COST SAVINGS AND EFFICIENCY IN INCOME MAINTENANCE (IM) ADMINISTRATION BY BRINGING MORE EQUITY TO CALENDAR YEAR 2013 CONSORTIA FUNDING ALLOCATIONS

The resolution addresses how the Wisconsin County Human Services Association (WCHSA) distributed CY 2012 State IM funding by adopting a formula that continued to assign funding to individual counties instead of consortia, failed to consider legislatively mandated maintenance of effort (MOE) levels, distributed the 17 percent State funding reduction in a widely disparate fashion and continued to subsidize duplication and inefficiency. WREA and Northern consortia were impacted most negatively, absorbing reductions exceeding 30 percent at the same time some of the other consortia saw funding reductions of only 7 percent and some individual counties actually received funding increase. They are asking that DHS adopt for CY 2013 a new funding methodology that considers MOE levels, better equalizes funding resources among consortia, rewards collaboration and gives regional IM systems to leverage the efficiencies intended by the Legislature. **MOTION** by Hampson/Kruse to approve. **Motion carried unanimously.**

REPORT ON WISCONSIN HIGHWAY ASSOCIATION CAPITAL DAYS 2012

Several topics were discussed at Capital Days; Heavy Loads / Protecting our Infrastructure Investment, Local Road Improvement Program (LRIP), State Trunk Highway Maintenance Funding Levels, Constitutional Amendment Establishing Segregated Transportation Fund, and General Transportation Aids (GTA).

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Start time at 11:00 a.m. instead of 11:30 a.m.

NEXT MEETING: TO BE DETERMINED

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION by Hampson/Holtze to adjourn. **Motion carried unanimously.** The meeting adjourned at 12:51 p.m.

Disclaimer: The above minutes may be approved, amended or corrected at the next committee meeting. Ginny Dankmeyer, Recorder