

The Ramsey County Board of Commissioners met with the following members present: Carter, McDonough, Ortega, Rettman and Chair Parker – 5. Absent: - Bennett, Reinhardt – 2. Also present were Julie Kleinschmidt, County Manager, and Harry McPeak, Assistant County Attorney.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

All in attendance recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

AGENDA

Commissioner Ortega moved approval of the Agenda of the May 12, 2009, Board Meeting, seconded by Commissioner Carter. Roll Call: Ayes – McDonough, Ortega, Rettman, Carter, Parker – 5. Nays – 0.

MINUTES

Commissioner Ortega moved approval of the Minutes of the May 5, 2009 Board Meeting, seconded by Commissioner Carter. Roll Call: Ayes – McDonough, Ortega, Rettman, Carter, Parker – 5. Nays – 0.

PROCLAMATION

Chair Parker read a Proclamation declaring May 10-16, 2009, as Police Week in Ramsey County. Deputy Michael Schmid accepted the Proclamation on behalf of the Sheriff's Department. He invited everyone to the State Capitol on Friday evening for a candlelight vigil, part of National Police Week, which honors the service and sacrifice of all officers killed in the line of duty.

COMMUNITY HUMAN SERVICES – Adult Mental Health Services – Grant Application

Commissioner McDonough introduced the following resolution and moved its adoption, seconded by Commissioner Carter. Roll Call: Ayes – McDonough, Ortega, Rettman, Carter, Parker – 5. Nays – 0. (2009-162)

WHEREAS, The Ramsey County Mental Health Center proposes to apply for grant funding from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Administration (SAMSHA) of the United States Department of Health and Human Services to integrate physical and behavioral health services; and

WHEREAS, The specific focus of the grant will be to improve access to primary care services to achieve early identification and intervention for physical health issues and chronic diseases; and

WHEREAS, Individuals with Serious Mental Illness (SMI) die on average 25 years earlier than people without a mental health diagnosis; and

WHEREAS, This comes about due to a combination of three factors. These are lack of access to primary care; increased rates of hypertension, diabetes, obesity, and cardiovascular disease; plus inadequate physical activity and poor nutrition; and

WHEREAS, The grant application will propose a partnership with an existing Federally Qualified Health Clinic (FQHC); and

WHEREAS, The activities will include establishing a "care coordinator" at both the Mental Health Clinic and the FQHC; and

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WHEREAS, Appointments at both facilities will include regular screening of glucose and lipid levels, blood pressure, weight and body mass index; and

WHEREAS, These screenings will be accompanied by patient education about prevention and wellness activities; and

WHEREAS, The grant application will be for up \$500,000 per year for four years; and

WHEREAS, There are no local match requirements; and

WHEREAS, If the proposal is successful, the grant offer will be presented to the Board for acceptance; Now, Therefore, Be It

RESOLVED, The Ramsey County Board of Commissioners approves the submission of a grant application to the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration of the United States Department of Health and Human Services to integrate physical and behavioral health services; and Be It Further

RESOLVED, The Board authorizes the Director of Human Services to sign the application.

PUBLIC WORKS – Support the request for federal funds under the Surface Transportation Program for the Trunk Highway 36/Rice Street Interchange Improvement project

Commissioner McDonough introduced the following resolution and moved its adoption, seconded by Commissioner Carter. Roll Call: Ayes – McDonough, Ortega, Rettman, Carter, Parker – 5. Nays – 0. (2009-163)

WHEREAS, The Ramsey County Board of Commissioners is the official governing body of Ramsey County; and

WHEREAS, This project is consistent with the Ramsey County Capital Improvement Plan and Comprehensive Plan and is believed to be consistent with the policies of the Metropolitan Council's Development Guide, including the Transportation Policy Plan and Regional Development Framework; and

WHEREAS, This project is located on Rice Street (C.S.A.H. 49), a significant high use transportation corridor in the Twin Cities metropolitan area; and

WHEREAS, This project supports and enhances inter-modal transportation uses, including motor vehicle, transit, bicycle, and pedestrian uses; and

WHEREAS, This project implements a solution in the form of continuity, capacity, and safety to a transportation problem and provides upgrade to the regional transportation system; and

WHEREAS, Ramsey County, in conjunction with its partners, accepts responsibility for an amount equal to or greater than 20 percent of the eligible project construction cost, together with costs for design, administration, right-of-way, and peripheral project costs; and

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WHEREAS, Ramsey County is committed to the operation and maintenance of Rice Street (C.S.A.H. 49) for its design life; Now, Therefore, Be It

RESOLVED, The Ramsey County Board of Commissioners adopts this Resolution in support of the request for federal funds under the Surface Transportation Program for the Trunk Highway 36/Rice Street Interchange Improvement project; and Be It Further

RESOLVED, A copy of this Resolution will accompany the Trunk Highway 36/Rice Street Interchange Improvement Project Application being submitted to the Metropolitan Council Transportation Advisory Board and Technical Advisory Commission for funding consideration.

BOARD OF RAMSEY COUNTY COMMISSIONERS – Acceptance of a gift from Northwest Area Foundation to be used toward Commissioner Travel

Commissioner McDonough introduced the following resolution and moved its adoption, seconded by Commissioner Carter. Roll Call: Ayes – McDonough, Ortega, Rettman, Carter, Parker – 5. Nays – 0. (2009-164)

WHEREAS, Commissioners have been invited by Portland, Oregon's Mayor Sam Adams to learn about the Portland Economic Opportunity Initiative on May 28-30; and

WHEREAS, The program began in the fall of 2004 with assistance from the Northwest Area Foundation (Foundation) and is now being replicated in Duluth, Minnesota in partnership with the Foundation; and

WHEREAS, In January, the Economic Opportunity Initiative team made a series of presentations to Twin City stakeholders, and due to interest expressed by the stakeholders, the Foundation offered to pay the travel, food and lodging costs for a twelve person delegation of key Twin Cities government and civic leaders to Portland; and

WHEREAS, Commissioners Carter, Ortega and Parker have indicated their interest in being part of the delegation; and

WHEREAS, The agenda for the visit will include an informal dinner/orientation session with Initiative leaders on Thursday the 28th, project site visits and discussion on Friday, May 29th and a graduation celebration at City Hall for around 350 participants who have completed three years in the Initiative and additionally, a possible meeting with some of Portland's leaders in sustainability efforts; and

WHEREAS, The travel and hotel arrangements will be coordinated by the Oregon Microenterprise Network, and the Foundation will transfer funds directly to the Oregon Microenterprise Network which will pay for the travel costs for the three Commissioners including hotel, airfare and meals and will issue a \$100 check to each Commissioner for per diem costs; and

WHEREAS, The total cost donated by the Foundation per Commissioner will be approximately \$1,000; and

WHEREAS, Ramsey County's Administrative Code addresses the acceptance of gifts and Section 5.40.03A details the types of gifts that can be accepted by the County Manager and Section 5.40.03B outlines those gifts that may only be accepted by the Board; and

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WHEREAS, Subsection 3 of this section states “Only the County Board may accept gifts which will be used to support the operations of the Board and examples include donations toward Commissioner travel, office expenses and other County business related activities”; Now, Therefore, Be It

RESOLVED, The Ramsey County Board of Commissioners approves acceptance of a monetary gift from the Northwest Area Foundation of approximately \$3,000 that will be used to cover travel expenses incurred by Commissioners Toni Carter, Rafael Ortega and Jan Parker for a trip to Portland, Oregon on May 28-30, 2009, to learn about the Portland Economic Opportunity Initiative.

WORKFORCE SOLUTIONS – “Recovery Act” Workforce Investment Act American Recovery and Reinvestment Act Funding – DOL

Commissioner McDonough introduced the following resolution and moved its adoption, seconded by Commissioner Carter. Roll Call: Ayes – McDonough, Ortega, Rettman, Carter, Parker – 5. Nays – 0. (2009-165)

WHEREAS, The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (“ARRA”), which was signed into law on February 17, 2009, contains funding targeted for employment and training; and

WHEREAS, These ARRA funds are allocated to the states and on to the local areas under the authority of the PY 2008 (Program Year) Workforce Investment Act; and

WHEREAS, The vehicle for the ARRA employment and training appropriation is a modified PY2008 Workforce Investment Act (“WIA”) Plan; and

WHEREAS, Workforce Solutions has been notified by the Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development (“DEED”) that the following amounts of money have been allocated to Ramsey County:

- \$1,247,316 for WIA Title I Dislocated Workers
- \$ 631,993 for WIA Title I Adult
- \$1,724,980 for year-round WIA Youth including a summer Youth Program
- \$ 91,264 for WIA Youth special projects; and

WHEREAS, The Summer Youth Program funding covers the period from May 1, 2009 – September 30, 2009; the balance of the funds must be obligated no later than June 30, 2010; and

WHEREAS, Workforce Solutions, with the approval of the County Manager, has prepared and submitted to DEED plan modifications explaining how it proposes to spend the ARRA funds; and

WHEREAS, In order to ensure that the ARRA timelines are met, Workforce Solutions intends to utilize some existing program vendors to deliver the services funded through ARRA as follows: Goodwill/EasterSeals will provide job search assistance at Ramsey County Libraries and use a portion of funds as scholarships to their “fast-track” financial services, automotive and construction job training programs under the WIA Adult program; Guadalupe Alternative Program (GAP) and the YWCA of St. Paul will conduct Summer Youth programs that will provide up to five months of short-term employment; HIRED, GAP and YWCA of St. Paul will provide WIA year-round Youth Program services; and HIRED will provide services to youth enrolled in the Special Youth Projects; Now, Therefore, Be It

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RESOLVED, The Ramsey County Board of Commissioners ratifies the Local Plan modifications submitted to DEED on April 10, 2009, and May 1, 2009, for the acceptance and expenditure of the federal American Recovery and Reinvestment Act funds supporting increased services to WIA Title I Adults, Title I Dislocated Workers, and Youth; and Be It Further

RESOLVED, The Ramsey County Board of Commissioners authorizes the County Manager to accept and expend the federal American Recovery and Reinvestment Act funds for WIA Title I Adult, Title I Dislocated Worker and Youth Programs; and Be It Further

RESOLVED, The Ramsey County Board of Commissioners authorizes the County Manager to negotiate and execute any amendments to the existing sub-grantee service agreements with current program vendors consistent with the PY2008 (Program Year) plan modifications approved by DEED, subject to prior approval by the County Attorney's Office and Budgeting and Accounting.

COUNTY MANAGER/BUDGETING & ACCOUNTING – Establishment of the Ramsey County Audit Committee

Commissioner McDonough introduced the following resolution and moved its adoption, seconded by Commissioner Carter.

Commissioner Ortega recognized individuals in the audience from KPMG who will be responsible for the County's internal audit.

Chair Parker said the KPMG representatives have met with the Audit Committee and many of the County's staff.

Commissioner Ortega met with the Audit Committee yesterday and said the invitation is open to any Commissioner to speak with KPMG. For efficiency, a small committee was formed to oversee the audit, and the results would come before the full Board.

Roll Call: Ayes – McDonough, Ortega, Rettman, Carter, Parker – 5. Nays – 0. (2009-166)

WHEREAS, On April 10, 2009, Ramsey County signed a professional services contract with KPMG LLP to provide the County internal audit services; and

WHEREAS, The scope of the engagement is to be provided in two phases. Phase 1 is titled the Pre-Audit phase. In this work, KPMG will develop a county-wide assessment report, determine the internal controls environment, assess internal controls, and develop an audit work plan/budget to be approved by the Audit Committee. Phase 2 is titled the Audit phase. In this phase, based on the approved audit work plan/budget, KPMG will provide internal audit services to the County; and

WHEREAS, One time funding of \$189,000 was approved in the 2008 budget; and

WHEREAS, The establishment of an Audit Committee, as part of the internal audit program, is recommended by KPMG LLP and the Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) best management practices; and

WHEREAS, The Audit Committee will be overseeing the project. The Investment Manager will serve as the day-to-day Staff Coordinator and the Finance Director - Chief Financial Officer (CFO) will serve as the liaison to the Audit Committee; and

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WHEREAS, The Audit Committee will be comprised of the Chair of the Ramsey County Board of Commissioners, Chair of the Budget Committee of the Whole, and Chair of the Finance, Personnel and Management Committee, for the balance of calendar year 2009; and

WHEREAS, Appointments for 2010 and beyond will be made by the County Board at its Annual Organizational Meeting, as is done for other County Board Standing Committees; and

WHEREAS, The purpose of the Audit Committee is two-fold: first, to ensure that the County Board fulfills its responsibilities for the assessment of risk within the County and the adequacy of the County's internal controls, including information system controls and security; and secondly, to provide an avenue of communication between Management, the Internal Auditors and the County Board to appraise the effectiveness of total audit services in accordance with the public interest; and

WHEREAS, The Audit Committee's responsibilities related to the County's internal audit function are oversight of management's internal controls, compliance and risk assessment practices and special investigation and whistleblower policies; Now, Therefore, Be It

RESOLVED, The Ramsey County Board of Commissioners hereby establishes the Ramsey County Audit Committee as a Standing Committee of the County Board; and Be It Further

RESOLVED, The Board hereby appoints the following Commissioners to the Audit Committee for calendar year 2009:

Chair of the Ramsey County Board of Commissioners

Chair of the Budget Committee of the Whole, and

Chair of the Finance, Personnel and Management Committee to the Audit Committee for the calendar year 2009.

COUNTY MANAGER/BUDGETING & ACCOUNTING – Monthly report of contracts and final payments and grant submissions that were approved during the month of March 2009

Commissioner McDonough introduced the following resolution and moved its adoption, seconded by Commissioner Carter. Roll Call: Ayes – McDonough, Ortega, Rettman, Carter, Parker – 5. Nays – 0. (2009-167)

WHEREAS, Administrative Code 3.40.37 authorizes the County Manager to approve contracts, within certain limits; and

WHEREAS, Administrative Code 4.30.50a requires a monthly report on all contracts and final payments approved by the County Manager; and

WHEREAS, Administrative Code 4.30.39d requires the County Manager to report grant submissions, amendments, renewals, and acceptances along with the monthly contract report; Now, Therefore, Be It

RESOLVED, The Ramsey County Board of Commissioners hereby accepts the Report of Contracts and Final Payments and Grants for the month of March 2009.

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UPDATE ON AMERICAN RECOVERY AND REINVESTMENT ACT (Stimulus plan)

Terry Speiker, Director, Intergovernmental Relations and Public Affairs, said she would provide information on the work going on within County departments in regard to the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act.

The Board began looking at this while preparing the Federal Legislative package. Congresswoman McCollum presented ideas to the Board and staff that are believed to stimulate the economy, get the east metro area back on track, and to be part of the historic legislation represented in a 1,000-page bill signed earlier this year by President Obama. There are 23 separate sections in this complicated piece of legislation. A summary from the national legislative group in Washington DC was provided to the Board as a background piece on the Recovery Act in general, and the complexities behind it. Work is going on across the County to try to figure out those complexities.

One of today's agenda items was for funding from the Department of Labor to Workforce Solutions for programs designed specifically to help put people back to work. The entire emphasis of the law is around economic recovery, reinvestment in the United States, and redevelopment. Departments have been well-positioned to begin to take advantage of many of the opportunities available.

A memo was sent to all Departments that describes a number of processes such as notification and how we would work through the Board requirements about the applications being made for grants. Some application deadlines, especially in the public safety area, have had quick turnaround times. Staff will be distributing a tracking sheet which shows the number of applications already sent in for various projects. The tracking sheet will also show where Ramsey County has already received awards and which items the Board has acted on. One of those was for the HRA to be used for the purchase of foreclosed houses, and to work with communities to try to stabilize housing in Maplewood and Little Canada. Two zip code communities were chosen because of the number of foreclosed properties and because Ramsey County's HRA serves the suburban part of the community, and they qualified under this formula funding.

Input from the Board is welcomed on the developing tracking grid. It will show programs that have either received funds, or that are in the application process. None of the transit or transportation projects are listed on the grid yet because both the Regional Railroad Authority and Public Works Department are finalizing all the paperwork around the applications, and in some instances working with the Met Council for the types of things we will be eligible for.

Financing has been received for Item 12, an environment grant through the Department of Energy -- a formula grant in the amount of \$813,000. Staff leads on this project are Jolly Mangine, Property Management, and Zack Hansen, Environmental Health, using the listing that the Board approved for small projects for retrofitting buildings for energy efficiency. In addition to the formula funds that were awarded, the State also has a pool of competitive money that cities, counties and other entities around the State can apply for to make buildings more energy efficient. There are also opportunities for job training and job placement around energy-type jobs. Patricia Brady and staff in Workforce Solutions are in the process of working with Property Management and Environmental Health to look at what we might apply for in that particular area once the Legislature finishes its work and passes the bill that will allow that money to come out in competitive grant form.

The grid will show a number of things in competitive grants. The first four are formula grants that went to Workforce Solutions. Those have wonderful opportunities for dislocated worker training with the general emphasis of putting people back to work. Staff will be talking with the Commissioners about the specifics of the programs that will be done around workforce development once instructions are received from the Federal government about how to count the number of jobs that this Legislation

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produces. The goal is to report to the Board, the taxpayers and the community what we were able to buy with these funds gained, not only in terms of programs, and the types of services provided in the community, but what it means in terms of economic recovery. Staff are working hard within the Departments to quantify that.

One of the grants the County Manager was instrumental in negotiating around the amount of funds received, is Item 11, a Byrne fund (a public safety fund) for which the County will receive \$370,000 to be split between Community Corrections, the Sheriff, and the County Attorney's Office. That money will be used to retain positions that might be lost through layoffs, at least in the area of the Sheriff's Department. Departments will also be quantifying what kinds of funding they think they will be able to use in the Recovery Act to assist in maintaining programs, not just starting new ones or adding on to ones we have – maintaining programs, maintaining services, and maintaining jobs.

Commissioner McDonough said he is aware that the money is to get out quickly, and asked if there will be more of these applications.

Ms. Speiker responded that there would be many more applications. There is a fast turnaround on many of these things. One example is the medical records IT piece. Ramsey County will not receive the money until 2010 because the rules and regulations are still being written; something has to be published in the Federal Register. They have been working with Congresswoman Betty McCollum's Office around some of those rules and regulations. As the information comes online in the State Offices with responsibility for tracking and dispersing the money, that is when the County will know when the money is available, and when we will begin to apply for things. There are many things the County will be applying for. Much of the human services information has not come out yet. We are also waiting for the Legislature to finish its work. This bill was not set up to design a whole new system for how to do things, but to use an existing system for distribution of money. The Legislature in many instances has to finish their work, and then the State Departments will be able to give local units of governments and interested businesses and others in the community, instructions about what the grant deadlines are. Departments are gearing up for many other applications. The ones that came out most quickly are the ones in the public safety area. They were the first available to us. This will continue to be updated by Janet Guthrie, who is available for quick updates to the Commissioners.

Commissioner Ortega said staff is doing a fantastic job on this. Community Clinics may be applying for grants on their own. If we are using the existing laws, there are avenues by which the Community Clinics will be applying; they are a big part of the County's health delivery system. The County will be dealing with its own budget in the next couple months once the Legislature gets its job done. Without creating more work for staff, is there a way to get a sense for what the Community Clinics have captured from the Federal Stimulus as we work on our budget for where the holes are?

Ms. Speiker said Rob Fulton, Public Health Department, has been talking specifically with the Community Clinics, and is prepared to get a handle on that and to help us understand that particular area. Community Clinics are interesting because a number of them are on the path for having the electronic records system up and running as everyone has to have by 2015, and they have already made some investments in that. Mr. Fulton is also talking with Regions Hospital around the health IT piece. Mr. Fulton; Mary Mahoney, Information Services; Don Jones, Community Human Services, are all looking at this health IT piece and in relation with the Community Clinics, will be working with them and be able to give staff and the Board what they might be applying for.

Item 8 is an application the County worked on with the St. Paul Children's Collaborative. The County would serve as their fiscal agent if they get the grant for the work of the Collaborative to support their work. Mr. Fulton does not know yet what the Community Clinics might be looking for, except for their interest in the health IT piece. Some things might be brought to the Board more as a partner and

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in collaboration rather than in being an applicant. Once the human services bill is passed at the Capitol and once the regulations are known, the Human Services Department is prepared to figure out what that might mean for human service programs as well as where there might be contract opportunities; other businesses that might be able to make use of the funds.

The requirements of the law are that we have to be very clear about where we are partnering, where we are looking for money, where we have received money, and what the outcomes are. Ms. Speiker said this could be called a financial development plan that cuts across a number of organizations. The County Manager has asked Departments and everyone to think about this opportunity in relation to budget planning and in how to create program services across the community, and for the Departments to report on that through the budget process.

Commissioner Carter said this started out with a list of potential requests, organized at the beginning of the year as to whether or not they would be stimulus requests that could qualify as formula or competitive grants, or if some of the things might fit better in our appropriations for Federal requests. Based on that long list, will it be shown which are being pursued, which may not be eligible for any of those areas this year, knowing where the gaps are based on that list?

Ms. Speiker said that could be done. For us to apply for any of this, permission and direction are needed from the County Board. In looking at things, she has gone back to her sheets to see whether the Board has provided the approval, or does something new need to be brought forward. This discussion has been mostly about the Recovery Act. She can't thank Congresswoman McCollum or her office and staff enough because they have been wonderful as partners in helping us think about all the opportunities that might be available, not just in the Recovery Act, but in the appropriations area, and in other kinds of grant funding. Staff receive calls from them on a regular basis. Recently, she received a call from one staff member who asked for a package of material quickly on the build-out for the Union Depot and the Trails proposal -- both in the County's Federal Legislative package -- so they could be put forward to Representative Oberstar for possible consideration in the Reauthorization Bill/ Surface Transportation Act -- that is a huge deal. That doesn't show up yet on this tracking sheet, and doesn't qualify for Recovery Act funding. It is a broad piece about economic recovery and community development and infrastructure. Something can easily be put together to give the Board a sense of what is going on.

Commissioner Carter said discussions have taken place with the Community Action Partnership of Ramsey and Washington Counties (CAPRW) regarding their plans for Recovery Act funding. They shared that there will be a format for assessment and evaluations. While putting these plans together, not knowing exactly what that assessment would look like, being careful to match the best outcome for the community, and she is certain that is what we are doing here as well, is there a formatted assessment or evaluation process that will be occurring that will be more detailed than matching the number of jobs, services or layoff preventives?

Ms. Speiker said that is an excellent question, but they do not know yet. Because this bill was 23 separate bills, and all the individual Federal departments got the assignment to write their portion of it and to use their existing guidelines, criteria, evaluation and formulas, we know we will see at a minimum, 23 different sets of how we are to evaluate, what the criteria are, and how we count and report. All the Departments, as they have put their grant applications together, are thinking about how they will evaluate, monitor, report back, and we will see that as awards start coming. It will probably be individualized, depending on which department it comes from and what grants are awarded. Staff will be reporting on that, as required.

Commissioner Ortega said it is one thing to set up a whole assessment, evaluation, and reporting system just on the Stimulus bills. Is there a way to integrate; is there something they are requiring of us; that is better than what we have that we can replace that piece, rather than this whole reporting to the Federal government and then it is gone?

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Ms. Speiker said Connie Catlin, Director, Policy Analysis and Planning and staff in the County Manager's Office and in Budgeting and Accounting are looking at the whole question of outcome evaluation and what the reporting requirements will be.

Julie Kleinschmidt, County Manager, agreed that one of the challenges is that there will be at least 23 different systems. This is going to be an administrative burden; staff will figure out how to make the systems we already have work with what we will be required to do for the Federal government, and we are very aware of the issues.

Commissioner Ortega said his question is to tweak it almost the other way, possibly to seize this opportunity that if they are requiring something of us that makes more sense than what we've got, and if we can, swap that piece in there. We have the reporting, but to stay behind with hopefully a better system for measuring, evaluating, or reporting one or more of either function. He would not like to see staff do a lot of extra work because we are reacting to the Federal Stimulus, and then come back.

Ms. Kleinschmidt said that is an excellent point, and it gives us an opportunity to look for what we might call "best in practice". Staff will look at opportunities to streamline what we are already doing.

Commissioner Rettman said there is probably a lot going on behind the scenes. This is not just a check coming from the government. In all the requirements, these funds cannot supplant, and must show sustainability. Those are two things in the fiscal impact on whether it really did something. It is not just the jobs, but what did it do. There are other organizations working on this type of thing, including CAPRW, and the reporting mechanism is going to be the life or death on whether it has to be paid back. She said HUD has done this for years. If everything is not in order and everything is in the file, there are penalties, money can be withdrawn, or an organization can be limited in other dollars in the future. She does not see this as an ongoing thing, but it has to stand us in making sure we are creating that which we can sustain, not that which is easy money to go after. None of this is easy money, but we have to make sure we can sustain it and show that fiscal impact.

The Commissioners are used to getting memos about when a department applies for grants. We need to make sure that the memos on this Stimulus are somehow highlighted other than just information dissemination to Commissioners, and not just something routine. Some of these things have very prescriptive items.

Commissioner Rettman said she sat in on one of the meetings with Rob Fulton about the Community Clinics. Congresswoman McCollum has said this is all about the silo-uncoupling; it is about making sure that if we are spending this money, then the silos of the money trail in the Clinics is going to be useful to the Clinics, long afterwards, and was prepared with appropriations to match it, but was unwilling, and rightfully so – this is not buying a new computer system, a new building, software. If we have to change some laws at the Capitol or in Ramsey County, then we have to do that to make sure that those silos are unbundled. That would be unsettling to many people, but we would end up with a better system in the long run for the citizens, or the patient, and that is the goal. This is exciting, but it will mean we have to make sure we keep our core mission, and the public needs to be clear that the Board is conscious of that.

Chair Parker said there have been references to the CAPRW organization, which is also receiving some Head Start funds. One thing realized in that money is that there was a specific requirement that the salaries for Head Start employees had to be increased over 3%, which would be a permanent increase, with an additional 1+% increase, which was not permanent. Those are big tails that are important considerations. As staff run into those kinds of restrictions or conditions, they should inform the Board of them. She was shocked to see those included.

Ms. Speiker said that is a good point, along with Commissioner Rettman's point about the sustainability. Part of what the Recovery Act is designed to do, is to jump start the economy; to get the economic engine working so that there is money flowing again, so the money isn't long-term money.

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This is money with a time limit. The County Departments looking at this money are all very aware not to create something that builds a cliff so that at the end of two or three years, however the funding is set out, that it is discovered that something was created that is unsustainable. Using the example around one of those “cliffs” that has the Community Human Services Department watching – there is a fair amount of money in the bill that would be available for child care. The problem is that it is not ongoing money. There is logic behind it because as people go to work, they need child care, but staff are looking at how to plan this responsibly for when that Federal money might not be there anymore. The Corrections Department had come forward with something that would allow them, if they get the grant, to make some changes in how they do business. But, there is the issue about the “tails”. The County Manager has been clear about talking about what the tails might be – are there some kinds of funding that would go with this money that we have to be cautious about. Even though we may have sent off applications, we will not accept any awards without Board approval to accept them. The County Manager is expecting staff to provide the Board with information about any liabilities that might come with grants.

Chair Parker said there has been a lot of discussion about what may or not be cut in the State Legislature’s budget process. A lot seems to be focused in the human services area. In the sheet distributed, there are no specific projects so far dealing with disabled communities or elderly, more human service kinds of focus.

Ms. Speiker said those are not out yet. Staff will see what they look like once the Legislature is done. In terms of the Stimulus, it goes through the State. It is similar to the energy money. Claudia Brewington, Intergovernmental Relations, has been tracking in the human services bill where they have been using Recovery money. That is huge. Monty Martin, Director, Community Human Services, and his staff, with Dave Haley as the person tracking, have been watching, but we don’t know what they are going to look like.

Chair Parker said in addition to the information already provided, Art Coulson, Public Communications Director, has been helping to put together a website for anyone in the community to access information about available funds, what are sources of information, which can be accessed through the counties of Ramsey, Dakota or Washington websites. Art has done a great job in consolidating and coordinating that information.

Ms. Speiker said this is exciting. Art will show this on TV for those watching the meeting today. He has job a great job in working with his counterparts in Dakota and Washington Counties. This should be a one-stop-shop for residents in the community, people who are looking for information about the Recovery Act, or appropriations opportunities. Workforce Solutions will be putting together information for links to job training and opportunities. The site will also include a language widget in Spanish. This is part of transparency, to let people know what they are getting for their money, and an opportunity to put a lot of information out there that might be useful to people in the east metro area.

Mr. Coulson said the East Metro Recovery blog addresses the reference to tearing down some of the silos, not just within our own business but across the east metro. Congress has encouraged that we all work together; that the money doesn’t respect the political boundary lines that we all work within. Working closely with his counterparts in Washington and Dakota Counties, they have started this blog site www.eastmetrorecovery.org. A presentation will be made later this month to the Dakota County Board, at which time they will look at some of the things they will add to the site, and Washington County may do the same before this is promoted to the public, to make sure that each of the counties has the information up for their communities.

The idea behind the website is transparency, so they have built in layers for many different ways for people to access the information. In the upper right-hand side of the page is a “tag cloud”; each of the items included in the blog will be assigned tags by Art and his counterparts for posting. A person

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could click on Ramsey, for instance, and every item that mentions Ramsey County will pop up. The items will be searchable by date and category. There is a live feed of news related to the Stimulus Act, which is national, so folks can see things that are happening around the country, possibly providing ideas for streams of funds we might want to tap into. Built in will be a long dynamic list of links including Congressional, other counties, local agencies. Workforce Solutions' Dislocated Worker Program is included. At the top of the page are categories, one aimed at businesses; those that want to tap into Stimulus money, as well as businesses who want to do business with Ramsey County. That page is still under construction. There is a similar site for residents that will include Federal money available to include job opportunities within Ramsey County and other information they would be interested in.

Commissioner Rettman asked if the site would provide a resident with information and forms if they wanted to purchase a furnace, a door or new windows; would it be that specific so they don't have to call a number of places for the information.

Mr. Coulson responded affirmatively. The link is already on the page. Because the counties are still working within the lines we currently color within, they are trying to put things into plain English and in places that sort of information can be found easily. The links the Federal government has provided are up.

Commissioner Rettman said Ms. Speiker had spoken about the mortgage foreclosures in two zip codes, specifically Little Canada and Maplewood. Is there going to be an easily accessible link for that, for whether or not they would preliminarily qualify, and be able to connect with the County's Community and Economic Development staff?

Mr. Coulson responded affirmatively. The beauty of a blog site is that we can put anything we want on it. As ideas come to us, we are working to put them in several different layers so that no matter where folks hit the page, they can find the information very easily.

Ms. Speiker said Mr. Coulson will show this website to the Senior Management Team on Thursday. Some of the Departments have been sending stories to add to the site. Mr. Coulson is managing the site and can post pictures, stories or input from the Commissioners.

Mr. Coulson said the idea behind transparency is to have brevity, and immediacy. As material crosses his desk, it will be put on the site right away so folks know about it and don't have to wait for the deadline; they'll have time to prepare. Some of the application deadlines are very aggressive.

Commissioner Carter said she clicked on the site yesterday and had not noticed the 'cloud'. The blog format allows for the posting of all kinds of information. She asked if we would be able to key in questions, and if some commonly asked questions would be added.

Mr. Coulson said it is not on there now but could easily be added. The public is also able to blog or ask questions for a two-way conversation. He would moderate this to make sure it is on-topic.

Commissioner Rettman asked if the outcomes and sustainability reports will be included once all the tails have been addressed, and if this site would be maintained until this is done.

Mr. Coulson responded affirmatively. They are looking to track money applied for, money received, what it is used for, jobs maintained, and jobs created, including sustainability. The grid will be posted in plain English so the public understands what the money is specifically aimed toward. A couple email lists will be included; one for the public and external partners and one for internal use to let Department Heads and Commissioners know about sources of money that are popping up and the money we are applying for. Money that is available in one area might not be applicable in another area. The email lists are up and running, but there hasn't been anything to send out yet.

Commissioner Ortega appreciated the use of the word brevity. That is critically important. While it is important that we use this as a vehicle to do the kind of reporting and providing as much transparency as possible, he continues to hear from the public that government in general -- they're

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having mortgage issues, dealing with the appropriate source -- that brevity is a key issue. We need to make sure this becomes more interactive. He likes the comment about questions – how do we get the answers to the public. Most people who need help are trying to figure out how this might help them. He doesn't want to lose track of that while we're about what we are doing, and it doesn't connect with what they need.

Mr. Coulson said those are good points. They are trying to make the site think like the residents, like businesses think, and not to put it in the bureaucratic thought, but in a fashion we can all understand – this money is available; here's how you'll apply for it; if you have any questions, give us a call, etc,

Commissioner Ortega said it should be more their tool rather than our tool; about how they access the help they need.

Mr. Coulson said it is our tool as well.

Ms. Speiker said Mr. Coulson has been working on this with Mary Mahoney and Cheryl Hernandez in the County's Information Services Department because this is something hoped for as a prototype for some other kinds of electronic information available to the public over time. Information Services is interested in how we develop this and how it becomes less bureaucratic and more user- and public-friendly. Commissioners are encouraged to provide input to staff to make this useful to the people who live in the area. Posted on the site will be staff contacts.

Commissioner Rettman said this is just for the Recovery Act, but if someone is looking for jobs in Ramsey County, it would still link back to the County's website.

Mr. Coulson responded affirmatively. This is a way to have us look at things in a different and better way.

Chair Parker said we could repeat the entire conversation about the evaluation process – our status quo is going to change as we go forward, and we may never look at things the same way.

Ms. Speiker said this Act is giving us the opportunity to think about how we do business differently. It is already being seen in the Departments on the list provided. They are putting together work teams that are across Departments, but more focused on topic areas. That can be seen on the website and how it is organized and how Departments are providing information. While this is around Recovery, information is being placed on the website on some of the things around Regional Rail – while it might not be seen as Recovery funding, it is about jobs and about economic development – it is broader than just the Recovery Act. Staff will continue to keep the Board posted.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Nick Riley, Intergovernmental Relations, provided information on happenings at the Legislature. They may finish on time, but the end result may not be anything anyone will like. There is more than \$3 billion yet to be accounted for. The Governor wanted almost \$1 billion in bonding. He has dropped that and is now asking for \$450 billion in bonding. The K-12 shift is still up in the air – will it be the Governor's number of \$1.2 billion, or the House number of \$1.7-1.8 billion. A tax bill was attempted earlier this week that would raise about \$1 billion in revenue, amounting to about a nickel increase in taxes on an alcoholic drink; a charge to credit card companies that charge more than 15% interest; and a fourth tier on income taxes. The Governor vetoed that bill. There were no Republican votes, and it is unlikely they will get any Republican votes if they brought it back up. There will be cuts somewhere to make up for that \$1 billion. He believes there will be a big recognition shift for schools which would make up part of that \$3.2 billion. There will be many cuts somewhere, which is how they will probably close the gap and close the door and send everything to the Governor with very little time left in Session to regroup. That is how things seem to be playing out right now. The tax bill being worked on now is minor in the scheme of things. They are not raising any new revenue. For instance, they are

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now dealing with TIF districts. The tax bill will be a bare-bones bill as far as revenue goes. Some believe the Governor doesn't expect there will be any reserve left. That said if they pass the tax bill with no reserve, and if the economy takes another downturn, there will be more un-allotments; the County should be prepared for that again.

Mr. Riley said there are some interesting things in the tax bill; they voted on the Central Corridor TIF district, which was not passed. He believes that bill will be closed today and sent to both bodies and to the Governor. The Arden Hills TIF district is in the bill.

Commissioner Ortega asked where the lack of support was for the Central Corridor TIF district.

Mr. Riley said the main opponent is Rep. Lenczewski, Chair of the House Tax Committee. All it takes are three on one side who do not support it, which keeps it out of the bill.

Commissioner Ortega requested clarification on how the committee works.

Mr. Riley said there must be unanimity or a majority on both sides for anything to go in. They even altered the district; it was originally $\frac{1}{4}$ mile on each side of the Corridor; they changed it to $\frac{1}{8}$ mile and extended the district to the year 2029.

Ms. Speiker said that in general, the Chair of the House Tax Committee is not a supporter of TIF districts, TIF transit districts in particular. One of the main reasons she is opposed to them is that they hide the true cost of transit and transit development and she wants that cost to be more transparent. She believes in transparency in terms of taxation; that is part of her hallmark.

Mr. Riley said the Economic Development bill, which included the County's Building Lives program, was vetoed over the issue of debt forgiveness for the Xcel Energy Center. The City wanted to use that money to build The Pond, a practice sheet of ice that would have been built across from Xcel Center. The bill was repackaged but has not yet been signed.

Ms. Brewington said they thought the public safety bill was finished last week but some changes were made to it yesterday to move toward some of the concerns that the Governor had. He expressed opposition to some of the changes to minimum sentencing guidelines which gave judges much more discretion in deviating from those minimums. There was some disagreement on the Conference Committee between the House and the Senate as to what the effect of those changes would be. The House members overall felt that it was soft on crime and was not the kind of message to be sent; the Senate was convinced that there are too many people in prison and jails for non-violent crimes and at a time when we are trying to cut costs it was a good time to look at reforming some of those minimum sentences, especially for some drug-related crimes, and to not incarcerate as many people by giving the judges the ability to deviate with an explanation to the deviation. They took most of that language out because the Governor sided with the House. He also objected to the amount of money they raised from increased fees; there was about \$42 million that would have been raised from fees and they cut it to about \$30 million to move more in the direction of what the Governor would want. He also wanted some additional money in the Department of Corrections (DOC), so they took \$1 million from the Office of Juvenile Justice Programs and gave that to the DOC for their internal administrative work. They are hoping that the bill will be acceptable to the Governor and passed. The transfer of short-term offender costs to the State from the counties remains in the bill.

Ms. Brewington said the economic development bill had to be reworked and sent back. Work was done over the weekend on the human services bill. Commissioner McDonough put in many hours. They cut \$500 million from the base, which was between what the House and the Senate wanted. The counties are in a much better position than they were in 2003, but the partners we work with, the people we serve and the providers of services will all be hit quite hard. Cuts of 3-5% were directed more toward specialists rather than cutting all health providers. A considerable amount of federal money was used to balance the budget, including emergency funding through TANF of \$25 million. There may be a county share, or maintenance of effort (MOE) contained in that. There is also some

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money coming for subsidizing COBRA payments for recently unemployed individuals. The requirements for MinnesotaCare eligibility requirements would be softened. They reauthorized the “children in need of protection” (CHIPS) money. There is \$9 million for 2010-2011 and \$11.7 million for 2012-2013 in that area. Much of that money will be passed through to the counties for the work done in child protection. They also did a lot of TANF refinancing. There are also payment delays where they shift the payment into the next fiscal year, which does nothing more than move the problem into the next fiscal year. They have also done some cost shifting, but it is minimal for counties. Senator Berglin managed to preserve most of the health care access for MinnesotaCare and that comes at a considerable price. The Health Care Access fund has over \$200 million in it. The Governor wants to take that money and merge it into the general fund. The Governor has said he would veto the bill as they need to make deeper cuts.

Mr. Riley said everything is one-time; they are using many stimulus dollars for this biennium but there is nothing in the next biennium. It seems that the House and Senate are not talking about what needs to be done in the next biennium; they just want to get through this biennium. All these shifts of one-time money will come with a price because we will be back in the same position in the next biennium. The House and Senate tried to be honest about the problem and that revenue is needed; the Governor said he would not support any new taxes. The school recognition shift is \$1.8 billion; that is one-time only.

Commissioner Ortega asked about the differences between the House and Senate in health care access.

Ms. Brewington said that Senator Berglin, at any cost, wants to protect the Health Care Access fund and MinnesotaCare and access to health care. That is such a huge portion of the budget that it takes ignoring many of the other programs and being more willing on the senate side to cap waivers and to take bigger reductions in reimbursement rates for health care providers, including hospitals and nursing facilities. The House would much rather find a mix in the middle, rolling back some of the expansion of the Health Care Access fund and MinnesotaCare. If the federal money is accepted we cannot track eligibility. That gives strength to the Senate position. There are such big ticket items in health care, which is about 85% of the budget.

Commissioner Ortega said the Governor is likely to veto the bill; what is the next move?

Ms. Brewington said the next step would be cuts to eligibility, and cuts to the benefit set. We have already seen some watering down of programs such as contraction of dental services. They are also discussing emergency room access, birthing centers vs. hospitalization, inpatient benefits, etc. There would be deeper cuts and cost shifts to the nursing homes and other nursing facilities. Cuts are being made to providers of services to the elderly and disabled, and would likely become deeper cuts. We would probably see cuts to grants and pass-throughs to the counties. There is \$47 million in the statewide health improvement program and is not yet up and running.

Commissioner Ortega asked if it is likely that the legislature would cut back to what the Governor wants so the bill would be signed.

Mr. Riley said he has predicted that is what is likely to happen. Until the cuts happen people don't believe what they are hearing.

Mr. Riley said that the proposed ½ cent local option sales tax is likely off the table.

Ms. Speiker said the Senate passed a bill that would allow them to do a continuing resolution. There is no need for a tax bill unless you raise costs. The same tax bill can be used year after year as long as there is no need to raise additional money. By postponing things, the hope is that the economic recovery would begin to bring more money into the state and there might be some ability to have an easier budgeting process the next time around.

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Ms. Brewington said the Governor got the idea of the redesign program from AMC but took it in a direction that the counties did not want, which was asking the counties to come up with 15 regional districts where the counties would come together and deliver human services. His contention was that there are too many counties and some of them are not performing well. The overwhelming majority of counties have performed well, but some of the smaller counties have struggled. Fifteen regions would be difficult; at a time we are cutting, how difficult would it be to come up with a new way of doing business. AMC and the Minnesota Association of County Social Services Administrators (MACSSA) have come together and have another plan. Commissioner McDonough, President of AMC, was there Saturday. That was included in the bill and looks more like the AMC version. The Governor has been adamant about wanting to see something included.

Commissioner McDonough said it was discouraging because there had been a feeling that headway was being made with the Governor about a proposal that could be agreed upon, but as the night went on differences became clear. Senator Berglin had said she would support whatever the department was going to support, but in the end she agreed to move the AMC proposal forward. Currently, there is no agreement with the department or the Governor about how that proposal would look but we are continuing to meet and have conversations about it. Three things could happen: the leadership could agree with the Governor and just give up; there could be an agreement with the department and the Governor about how the redesign would look and function; or nothing would change. AMC feels that we should start building on change.

Commissioner Ortega asked if the main difference is the 15 regions vs. AMC's plan.

Commissioner McDonough said the Governor has moved away from the number 15. The goal is to get away from the mandates but rather to work together in coming forward with solutions that work. Both sides have a responsibility in the success of that.

Commissioner Ortega asked if the Governor wants to have the ability to provide for penalties if the counties do not perform vs. providing incentives, which is the AMC plan.

Commissioner McDonough responded affirmatively; he added that one of the issues they are struggling with is that the department has been good in negotiating, but they can only go so far and then the Governor weighs in. When we feel we are moving forward, the Governor weighs in and we then move backward. Over the past seven years, the human services area has not been a high priority for the Governor. AMC is focused on making certain that changes make a difference and provides an opportunity to meet the needs of the clients who need services and doing it in a more effective and efficient way. We continue to try to have that conversation turned around from a math problem, whether it is dollars or fifteen. We are trying to focus on outcomes and expectations and giving the local level the flexibility to meet needs along with accountability.

Commissioner Rettman asked three questions that could be answered at a later time: 1) did the dental hygienist issue survive; 2) did the TNT survive; and 3) provide information on energy bonds that were being discussed.

Ms. Brewington said the dental hygienist issue went as a separate bill, but she does not recall the outcome.

Mr. Riley said minor changes were made to TNT. Additional information will be provided to the Commissioners.

INTRODUCTION OF NEW CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER

County Manager Kleinschmidt introduced the County's new Finance Director – Chief Financial Officer, Lee Mehrkens. She said the County is very fortunate to have gotten Lee from the Minnesota Judicial branch where he has been the Finance Director and Chief Financial Officer for the past four years. He has 22 years of public sector experience, and holds his Masters Degree in Public

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Administration from the University of Wisconsin – Madison. He has worked for the State of Minnesota since 1992, and has managed the Governor’s capital budget process and assisted in the preparation of the state’s \$30 billion biennial operating budget, and provided budgetary oversight of state and local pension plans. We were impressed with Lee’s strong strategic planning and budgeting and financial administration leadership.

Mr. Mehrkens said it is a pleasure to be in attendance at today’s Board Meeting. He is honored to be a member of Ramsey County staff.

Chair Parker welcomed Mr. Mehrkens to Ramsey County. She told him that he has joined a long history of highly qualified and competent finance people. That is something that is a real high value of this County Board. The Board is also very proud of the County’s AAa rating.

OUTSIDE BOARD AND COMMITTEE REPORTS

Chair Parker reported:

- She attended the 50th anniversary of the School Patrol, held this morning at Aldrich Arena. Over 1100 kids are expected to attend today’s event.
- Commissioner Reinhardt is not present today because she is being interviewed on KARE11 about solid waste management.
- Commissioner Reinhardt asked her to acknowledge the hundreds of volunteers who assisted with the Governor’s Fishing Opener in White Bear Lake.

Commissioner Rettman reported:

- District 5 has started a restorative justice program. They are starting to train about 20 individuals to be the core group.
- She attended the North End-South Como Block Nurse Program recognized their volunteers. They presented her with the ‘heart of gold’ pin.

Commissioner Carter reported:

- She attended the World Cultural Heritage District planning session held at Concordia University. Positive and negative implications of the Central Corridor were discussed.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Chair Parker declared the meeting adjourned.

Bonnie C. Jackelen, Chief Clerk – County Board