

Call to order:

This meeting of the County-Tribal Concerns Committee was called to order at 9:00A.M. in the Peter Christensen Health Care Center meeting room by Chairman Al Bauman, with the following committee members present: Maynard Bedish, Sig Hjemvick and Dennis Nielsen. Elmer Rising Sun and Eric Chapman, Sr. were absent. Others addressing the committee during this meeting: Bob Rickard, Kristen Allen, Tom Maulson, Bob Kovar, Gina Egan, Joe Fath, Dan Rice, Judge Gary Smith, Emerson Coy and David Alleman. Open meeting notices and quorum present were verified by the Chair.

Approve agenda to be discussed in any order by the Chair:

Motion by D. Nielsen, 2nd by S. Hjemvick to approve the agenda, with the order of discussion at the Chair's discretion. All voted aye. Carried.

Approve February 23, 2012 meeting minutes:

Motion by S. Hjemvick, 2nd by D. Nielsen to approve the minutes of the February 23, 2012 meeting. All voted aye. Carried.

Health/Community Health update:

G. Egan presented the following report. The annual radon test program has concluded. A Parent Expo scheduled for March 28th in Lac du Flambeau is being supported by the Public Health Dept. The Tobacco Coalition would like to regulate smoking in multi-family dwellings. Non-compliance with current smoke free regulations remains an issue. J. Fath stated that the Sheriff's Dept. enforces no smoking regulations when notified. The Public Health Dept. is partnering with the Tribe in a Hepatitis C coalition. Hepatitis C cases have increased in the county. The Public Health Dept. is searching for a child car seat tech, to assist with the repair and/or replacement of these items. Public Health Dept. staff volunteered time to prepare and serve a meal at the Frederick Place homeless shelter. Public Health will also be a sponsoring partner in the Journeys Marathon Fun Run. The department was visited recently by the DHS under secretary. The Public Health Dept. will host an open house on April 5th, 2012 between 10 A.M. and Noon. The open house will showcase their newly leased office space.

County Grant Writer:

G. Egan expressed the need for the services of a professional grant writer. A. Bauman feels that the County could cooperate with the Tribe with regards to grant writing services. The Tribe employs trained grant writers, who have been very successful in obtaining grants for their community. B. Kovar has grant writing experience and is willing to assist with the grant writing process. T. Maulson views this as an opportunity for both the Tribe and the County to cooperate on bringing more state and federal funds back into the community.

Juvenile Intensive Program update:

B. Rickard presented a written report detailing February 2012 Intensive Supervision activities. Placement numbers have declined slightly as have Intensive Supervision cases.

Year to date numbers remain consistent. Mike Wurl will tour the Challenge Academy. Drug use remains a problem.

Law enforcement update:

a. Arrest and activity schedule:

J. Fath presented a February arrest and activity data report, along with a report detailing activity data sorted by demographics.

b. Drug enforcement:

The committee discussed the continuing problems associated with local drug abuse and the associated criminal activities. J. Fath reported a steady climb in drug related criminal cases. He also reported an increase in the local use of hard drugs such as heroin.

c. Jail update:

T. Maulson feels that an effort needs to be made to develop a method, whereby Tribal inmates of the County Jail serve their sentences back in their community. He envisions a system utilizing supervised work gangs, to perform public works duties on the Reservation. He emphasized the deterrent value of such a program. He also feels that this program would save the County the cost of housing Tribal inmates.

d. Wellness Drug Court:

Tribal Judge G. Smith spoke about the concept of establishing a Wellness Court. As a number of Tribal offenders suffer from drug and alcohol abuse problems, he feels that a Wellness Court could better address that issue. Offenders would be remanded back into the community and placed under various degrees of supervision. This method would utilize a system of rewards and sanctions to encourage the offender to become and remain a law abiding member of the community. Drug and alcohol counseling would be an integral part of this program. T. Maulson advocated the use of Tribal properties as half-way houses to house Tribal members involved with this program. Judge Smith presented a written report detailing the success of Wellness Courts in other Tribal communities. He has met with the Vilas County Circuit Judge regarding this program. B. Kovar is also supportive of this initiative. The consensus of the committee favors this concept. A. Bauman asked that all community leaders become involved in bringing this idea to reality.

Social Services update:

K. Allen reported on Indian Child Welfare issues. Local foster homes on and off the reservation are being sought. She also spoke about the 161 Agreement. This agreement specifies the duties and jurisdictions of the County and Tribal child welfare agencies.

Agenda format and committee oversight activities:

Nothing presented

Future agenda items:

The Chair asked that he be given any new agenda items at least 10 days before the next meeting.

Letters and communications:

Nothing presented

Set date for next meeting:

The next committee meeting is scheduled for 9:00 A.M., Thursday, April 26, 2012 in Lac du Flambeau.

Adjournment:

Motion by M. Bedish, 2nd by S. Hjemvick to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 10:17 A.M.

Respectfully Submitted,
David R. Alleman
Vilas County Clerk

Minutes reflect the recorder's notations and are subject to approval by the appropriate board or committee.