



Effingham County Board  
101 N. 4<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite 301, Effingham, IL  
217.342.4990

September 3, 2024 2:30 P.M.  
**Health and Insurance Committee Meeting**

**MINUTES**

Committee Members Present: Tim Ellis, Norbert Soltwedel

Committee Members Absent: Doug McCain

Other Board Members Present: Josh Douthit

Others Present: Jeff Workman, Sheriff Kuhns, Travis Buhnerkempe

**Minutes**

- Approval of August 6, 2024 minutes. T. Ellis motioned/J. Douthit seconded. Unanimous. ***Motion carried.***

**Unfinished Business**

- Opioid Funding – J. Workman shared other grant funding is underway in addition to the settlement funding. J. Workman reported reaching out to people from different sectors in the county and received quite a bit of interest in attendance of public meeting or panel. N. Soltwedel shared draft agenda for sample panel or focus group along with recommended attendees. J. Workman recommended adding a pharmacist to recommended attendees.
- Lisa Krampe from El Shaddai shared around 90% of women in her shelter are recovering from drug use and would like to be a part of any forum or panel presented.
- J. Douthit recommended board facilitate education to the community about funding, leaving it to community organizations to determine if they fit the criteria and wish to move forward in securing funding. T. Ellis recommended creating a FAQ sheet that helps community organizations to determine who qualifies to receive funding. J. Douthit moved to full board scheduling one(1) public hearing in the next three(3) months to educate the public on opioid funding. T. Ellis seconded. Unanimous. ***Motion carried.***

**New Business**

- Employee Group Health Coverage –
  - K. Passalacqua presented quotes received from Blue Cross/Blue Shield with zero percent increase with the bundling of other coverages including dental/vision along with employer paid \$10,000.00 life coverage of \$2.42/employee per month. K. Passalacqua shared quotes were received from Health Alliance, Cigna, Allstate, etc., however all other carriers, but Allstate, came in higher than Blue Cross/Blue Shield. K. Passalacqua stated Allstate is a non-network provider so would require education for employees on how the plan works as Allstate will require disclosure forms. K. Passalacqua shared Weis has secured software rights for new program called Employee Navigator that allows employees access to all benefits in one portal.

- Kevin Kern, Jacob Janssen and Brent Williams with HopeTrust presented quotes for group health coverage. Composed of member governments with many covered members getting care in Effingham County. HopeTrust presented three plans; Hope 1500 and Hope 4000 with automatically included \$20,000.00 term life insurance and AD&D that doubles up to \$40,000.00 free for county and employees, as well as an HRP program for those not enrolling in the group health coverage. Dental and Vision can be addressed by brokering through HopeTrust or do a self-funded basis. Discussion with employee insurance advisory members for recommendation of insurance with recommendation being HopeTrust. J. Douthit motioned to recommended moving forward with HopeTrust as the Employee Group Health Carrier. T. Ellis seconded. Unanimous. ***Motion carried.***
- Employee Group Dental Coverage – no action
- Employee Group Vision Coverage – no action

### **General Information/Public Comments**

- Health Department Update
  - State Budget/Grants – J. Workman stated the health department is showing deficit for this year and next year, so will be requesting an increase in levy. J. Workman reported a Board of Health meeting scheduled next Monday in which he will be seeking increase.
  - J. Workman reported waiting to hear back from several different grants.
- CIRMA Liability Insurance Renewal Update – Vanessa with Bushue HR stated renewal has been submitted and waiting for response at this time.

### **Adjournment**

- T. Ellis motioned/J. Douthit seconded that meeting be adjourned. Unanimous. ***Motion Carried.***

Respectfully submitted,  
Angie Thompson, County Board Administrator