

TUESDAY, MARCH 23, 2010

**APPROVED MINUTES OF THE
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING HELD**

**STATE OF MINNESOTA)
DODGE COUNTY)**

**COUNTY ADMINISTRATION OFFICE
MANTORVILLE, MN**

2010-06 C.O.W.

The Dodge County Commissioners met in Committee of the Whole March 23, 2010, in the Commissioner's Room at the Dodge County Courthouse Annex, Mantorville, MN, at 9:00 a.m. CST. Lyle Tjosaas opened the meeting at 9:00 a.m. CST.

Meeting Convened

The Chair acknowledged those present:

Those Present

Members present:	Klaus Alberts	District #1
	Lyle Tjosaas	District #2
	Don Gray	District #4
	David Hanson	District #5
Members absent:	David Erickson	District #3
Also present:	Jim Elmquist	County Administrator
	Becky Lubahn	Deputy County Clerk
	Peggy Espey	Public Health Director
	Kelly Corbin	Health Educator

Public Health Director Peggy Espey and Health Educator Kelly Corbin met with the Board to discuss county health rankings.

County Health
Rankings Update

Ms. Espey stated that in February she gave the Board a brief general summary regarding the county health rankings i.e.; when they would be released, what they were, and how they could be used by our communities.

The Public Health Director informed the Board that the County Health Rankings Report shows us that where we live matters to our health. The health of a community depends on many different factors ranging from individual health behaviors, education and jobs, to quality of health care, to the environment. This first-of-its-kind collection of 50 reports, one per state, will help community leaders see that where we live, learn, work, and play influences how healthy we are and how long we live. The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation is collaborating with the University of Wisconsin Population Health Institute to develop these rankings for each state's counties. This model has been used to rank the health of counties in Wisconsin for the past six years.

Ms. Espey reported that each state's counties will be ranked on both health outcomes (how healthy we are) and health factors (how healthy we can be).

Ms. Corbin informed the Board that the County Health Rankings are a call to action for communities to work together to develop programs and policies that address the multiple influences on health. For the first time, every county will have a snapshot of how healthy their residents are so they can see where they are doing well and where they need to improve.

The rankings stimulate discussion and action within communities, regardless of how they are ranked, and can lead to important decisions aimed at improving health.

Ms. Corbin noted that all of us, from public health leaders to businesses, have a role to play in raising awareness about the multiple influences on health.

The Health Educator informed the Board that Healthy Behaviors was Dodge County's lowest ranking area which includes smoking, obesity, motor vehicle crash death rate, Chlamydia rate and teen birth rate. These areas of concern will be addressed through programs and grants.

The following statistical information was shared with the Board:

- The adult smoking rate is 16% in Dodge County and is below the 19% average statewide, however the target goal is 15%. This is being addressed through the Clearway Grant to reduce tobacco's harm in the county through education, coalition building, and policy change towards retail advertising.
- The adult obesity rate is 28% and is above the state and target goal of 26%. Obesity is being addressed through the Statewide Health Improvement Program to increase physical activity and nutrition in the schools, worksites, community, and healthcare facilities. Obesity for both parent and child are being addressed through WIC (Woman Infant Child) nutrition education program and the school nutrition education program.
- The motor vehicle crash death rate is at 27 which is above the states value of 13 and target goal of 11. This is being addressed through collaborative partnership with the County Engineer and surrounding counties. This collaboration is in the early stages.
- The Chlamydia rate is at 121 which is below the state average of 260 but well above the target goal of 36. This is being addressed through the free condom distribution program.

Ms. Espey noted that funding for this project is available for three years.

The Board thanked the Public Health Director and Health Educator for the report.

Finance Director Lisa Kramer presented for the Board's consideration a business subsidy policy.

Ms. Kramer informed the Board that later in the meeting today they will be holding a public hearing to discuss a proposed property tax abatement plan for Kurt's Auto Body and Repair, Inc. After the public hearing the Board will be asked to vote to approve or deny this plan.

The Finance Director noted that up until now Dodge County participates in several TIF agreements, JOBZ projects, but only one tax abatement plan.

Ms. Kramer commented that she submitted a copy of another county's policy in the Board packet because she felt that it would be good to examine the criteria another county uses for these requests. The Finance Director reported that she recently discovered that the county has a business subsidy policy that incorporates JOBZ.

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It was the Finance Director's opinion that business subsidy and JOBZ should both have separate policies.

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Business Subsidy
Policy Discussion -
Continued

It was the consensus of the Board that they agreed with Ms. Kramer that the business subsidy policy and JOBZ should be separate policies.

The Board thanked Ms. Kramer for the information.

The Chair adjourned the meeting at 9:31 a.m. CST.

Meeting Adjourned

ATTEST:

LYLE TJOSAAS
CHAIR, COUNTY BOARD

BECKY LUBAHN
DEPUTY CLERK

DATED: