

**TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 9, 2010**

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

**STATE OF MINNESOTA)  
DODGE COUNTY)**

**COUNTY ADMINISTRATION OFFICE  
MANTORVILLE, MN**

**2010-21 C.O.W.**

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

Meeting Convened

The Chair acknowledged those present:

Those Present

Members present:	Klaus Alberts	District #1
	Lyle Tjosaas	District #2
	David Erickson	District #3
	Don Gray	District #4
	David Hanson	District #5

Members absent: None

Also present:	Jim Elmquist	County Administrator
	Becky Lubahn	Deputy County Clerk

Semcac Executive Director Wayne Stenberg was present to provide the Board with an update on Semcac activities in Dodge County.

Semcac Activity  
Report

Mr. Stenberg acknowledged the contributions of Commissioner Tjosaas and Commissioner Alberts as Dodge County representatives to the Semcac Board.

The relocation of the Semcac Office from Dodge Center to Kasson was briefly discussed.

Mr. Stenberg shared the following background information on Semcac.

Semcac was established as a private, non-profit organization in 1966. In the first years it was known as the South East Minnesota Citizens Action Council. The agency became the designated Community Action Agency for Dodge County in 1975, and they have been working hard to serve the people of this area for the past 35 years. In 1995 the name changed from SEMCAC, Inc. to Semcac. They are now the Community Action Agency for seven core counties - Dodge, Fillmore, Freeborn, Houston, Mower, Steele and Winona and provide services in five additional counties - Goodhue, Olmsted, Rice, Wabasha and Waseca.

Semcac offers over 20 programs from 79 locations which include the main office in Rushford, a Family Planning Clinic in Winona, seven (7) Contact Centers, eleven (11) Head Start centers and four (4) partnership sites, and fifty-five (55) Senior Dining sites. Semcac currently has a workforce of 251 people.

The Executive Director briefly reviewed the following programs and their purpose with the Board:

Semcac Activity  
Report - Continued

- Senior Nutrition - to empower seniors to maintain their health and nutritional well being and to help at-risk seniors remain in their own home
- Senior and Caregiver Advocacy - to maintain safe and independent living for seniors and adults with disabilities:
- Transportation - to help people get to work, medical and dental appointments, childcare, preschool, senior dining, grocery and retail shopping, and errands to local businesses

Deadhead miles were discussed and how they affect the volunteer driver service.

Mr. Stenberg resumed discussion on the following programs:

- Energy Assistance - to ease the burden of heating expenses and keep people warm
- Weatherization - to improve the energy efficiency of people's homes and reduce their energy consumption
- Head Start - to enrich young children ages 3-5 and empower their families
- Outreach and Emergency Services -
  - To support people through a crisis and to help them stretch their limited incomes until they reach stability
  - To help people obtain or remain in their housing
  - To ensure people have food to eat and are able to extend their limited income for other needs

Additional discussion took place regarding the new location in Kasson and whether or not the location has affected the participation numbers or if the increase in utilization is economy driven. It was noted that the utilization of Semcac services in surrounding counties was also up.

Mr. Stenberg discussed with the Board strategic planning. Semcac is currently preparing for the next five years by creating a strategic plan. This process was initiated in the fall and will end with a final product in December 2010. These meetings have provided stakeholders the opportunity to discuss best practices, funding concerns, delivery vehicles and ongoing services.

The Executive Director shared Semcac's Promise of Community Action which reads as follows:

Community Action changes people's lives, embodies the spirit of hope, improves communities, and makes America a better place to live. Semcac cares about the entire community, and they are dedicated to helping people help themselves and each other. Semcac appreciates the opportunity to serve the people of Dodge County and the Board's continued support to the programs.

The Board discussed with Mr. Stenberg ways in which Semcac markets the programs they offer and additional ideas for getting the word out to Dodge County citizens regarding the services that are available through Semcac.

The Executive Director was thanked for the update.

The Chair adjourned the meeting at 9:29 a.m. CDT.

Meeting Adjourned

**ATTEST:**

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**LYLE TJOSAAS**  
**CHAIR, COUNTY BOARD**

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**BECKY LUBAHN**  
**DEPUTY CLERK**

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**DATED:**