

Carter County Commission

Minutes of:

Health & Welfare Committee

September 3, 2019 6:00 PM

Members:

Chairman Dr. Robert Acuff
Vice Chairwoman Layla Ward
Mike Hill
Brad Johnson

Jerry Proffitt
Aaron Frazier
Randal Jenkins
David Miller

I. Call to Order

The Health & Welfare Committee was called to order by Chairman Dr. Robert Acuff at 5:55 pm.

II. Approval of Agenda

A motion was made to approve the agenda by Mike Hill second by Aaron Frazier. Motion to approve the agenda was unanimously approved.

III. Public Comments

None

IV. Approval of minutes

A motion was made to approve the minutes from the July and August meeting by Mike Hill second by Layla Ward. Dr. Acuff noted a correction needed to be made to the July minutes by changing the absentee of Mr. Jerry Proffitt to present. The motion to approve with changes was made by Mike Hill and second by Layla Ward. Motion to approve the July and August minutes was unanimously approved.

V. Children Advocacy Center – Samantha B Prater, Executive Director – see attached CAC information packet

Samantha Prater, Executive Director of the Children Advocacy Center came before the committee to speak about the services they offer in Carter, Johnson, Unicoi and Washington Counties. Services include Forensic Interviewing, Trauma Based Therapy, Medical Exams and Advocacy to children suffering from severe physical and sexual abuse. She explained that the children serviced in the past were if abuse was suspected they would have to relay information and be interviewed by up to 13 people before progress could be made in resolving the situation. In the system being used now the child would only need to repeat their situation to 3 people. She stressed that each time a child must repeat the story they are traumatized over and over. Ms. Prater pointed out on the last page of the packet how the center gets their money and how it is spent. She brought attention to the Victim Assistance Program that is not being implemented and collected in Carter County. The Victim Assistance Program is a fund that will be attached to the fines and fees of any criminal conviction or plea of guilty. The amount would be \$45 with \$3 going to the Clerks Office for collection and \$42 going into the agencies in need such as the Children Advocacy Center. The monies collected can be split between several agencies or go as a complete amount to one agency. From 2018/2019 the number of cases coming to the Center per county are as follows: Washington: 323; Carter: 243; Unicoi: 67; Johnson: 56; other: 38. The other meaning courtesy interviews for other counties if the child/children are placed in foster care in one of our four counties. Mr. Proffitt asked what ages the center services, Ms. Prater answered ages 3 to 18. Mr. Hill made a

motion to advance this to the budget committee for consideration to fund. Attorney Hardin informed him that this would need to go to the full commission because they are not asking for an allocation of money. An amendment to the motion to research what agencies are in Carter County that would benefit from this fund. And what percentage they would receive. Then bring it back before this committee at the October meeting. Randal Jenkins second the motion with the amendment.

Roll Call:

Dr. Acuff – Yes

Layla Ward – Yes

Mike Hill – Yes

Brad Johnson – Yes

Jerry Proffitt – Yes

Randal Jenkins – Yes

Aaron Frazier – Yes

David Miller – Yes

The motion passed unanimously. The subject will be placed on the October agenda under Old Business.

Dr. Acuff invited Ms. Prater or her designee to come to the full commission in October where this will be presented.

VI. Health and Welfare Issues Facing our County – Updates

a. Opioid Epidemic

No proposal has been brought forward at this time

b. Food Accessibility for Kids and Families

Rhonda Chaffin spoke at the full commission meeting last month and gave ideas that could be don't to help. No further action has been done.

VII. New Business

None

VIII. Old Business

Research still being done with the employee incentives for insurance utilization.

Mr. Johnson stated that he and the others didn't get paid for the August commission meeting. Steps will be made to ensure sign in sheets are passed around, signed and turned into the Ms. Patsy Lewis in the clerk's office in the future.

IX. Adjournment

A motion to adjourn was made by Randall Jenkins, second by Aaron Frazier. The motion was unanimously approved. The meeting was adjourned at 6:30 pm.