

EXECUTIVE-PERSONNEL-FINANCE COMMITTEE

February 14, 2006 - 3:30 p.m.
Teleconference Meeting

MINUTES

PRESENT: Dan Alonzi; Debbie De Leon; Gail Mahoney; Ross Fulton; Ralph Tillotson; Ken Ponds; Ken Lautzenheiser

STAFF: Robin Reynolds, Executive Director; Gerrie Roeser, Finance Manger; Lori Griffin, Executive Secretary

GUESTS: Larry Gould; Maxine Vanlerberg

CALL TO ORDER

The teleconference was called to order at 3:35 p.m.

Ms. Reynolds began by stating notice of this special meeting was posted to the Commission's web site within the 18 hour time frame required for special meetings, and that there had been no requests from any providers to participate.

Ms. Reynolds stated the purpose of the meeting is to seek authorization to terminate the contract for the prevention provider in Jackson and Hillsdale counties, Prevention Partners. She added there is currently no signed contract for this provider, so notice would be 45 days from today's date, which would be March 31, 2006. Ms. Reynolds also stated the 45 day period would be a transition time for close-out.

Ms. Reynolds provided to the committee reasons for seeking this action, noting the provider was placed on probationary status two years ago, and again for the first quarter of this fiscal year. She continued by reporting the provider has not moved along in the prevention pathways process, has been communicating misinformation to the county Coalition, and there has been a significant breakdown in the relationship between the provider and Mid-South. Ms. Reynolds clarified that what is being terminated is the FTE position at Prevention Partners that supports the Coalitions. She added that the Coalition may still want to purchase other services from the provider. Ms. Reynolds reported Mid-South will need to find another agency in Jackson and Hillsdale counties to house the FTE. She added that one agency in Jackson has expressed interest. She noted that in Hillsdale county no one has been identified yet, and the Mid-South will increase its role in that county in the interim period. Ms. Reynolds also stated she would contact the Jackson County judges regarding possible interruptions in the FTOP programs in those counties since the provider in question operates those programs. Ms. Mahoney stated in Jackson the first group is

done, and they are 6 weeks long but don't have to run concurrently and could be rescheduled if necessary. Ms. Reynolds stated she would talk with Judge Nye in Hillsdale County, adding she had no problem with the provider continuing to provide those services.

Ms. Mahoney stated Mid-South has been working for three years with Prevention Partners. She added from her attendance at the Jackson Coalition meetings that they have been working to not buy into the prevention pathways process, that they have made Mid-South out to be the enemy, have provided misinformation to the Coalition, and expressed negative opinions out in the community. Ms. Mahoney also reported that when the Coalition found out what they should have been doing all along, they were excited about the process, and the community is of the belief that nothing will move forward without something different happening.

Ms. De Leon moved to terminate the contract with Prevention Partners, giving 45 days notice to them, with a termination date of March 31, 2006. Mr. Ponds supported the motion.

Mr. Lautzenheiser stated many of the people in Hillsdale County who have spent countless hours putting their Coalition together may not return to the table. Ms. Reynolds acknowledged that fact, adding it is her hope that some will remain. She added their plan will not have to be redone; the major piece is to house the FTE to support the Coalition.

Mr. Ponds asked if some type of announcement should be made to the communities involved telling them what is happening. Ms. Mahoney stated it could be announced at the next Coalition meeting.

Mr. Tillotson called the question.

Vote called on the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

Ms. Reynolds stated she would proceed with sending the letter, which would be copied to the Board, with the full Commission voting to ratify this decision at the February 27th meeting.

There being no further business, the teleconference meeting adjourned at 4:00 p.m.