

TERM OF COMMISSION: November Session of the November Adjourned Term

PLACE OF MEETING: Boone County Government Center Commission Chambers

PRESENT WERE: Presiding Commissioner Don Stamper
District I Commissioner Karen M. Miller
District II Commissioner Linda Vogt
Deputy County Clerk Ashley Williams

The budget hearing for Parkade Family Health was called to order at 4:30 p.m.

SUBJECT: Budget Hearing for Parkade Family Health

Commissioner Stamper welcomed President of the Parkade Family Health Clinic Bob Bailey, Executive Director Gloria Crull and Finance Manager Marjorie Hill.

Mr. Bailey explained they were approaching the Commission to request \$140,000 in funding for the Parkade Family Health Clinic. He said the Commission has been remarkably responsive to their requests and incredibly generous. He also said he appreciated their efforts last June when it looked like the center might be closed down. He appreciated that they helped get Boone Hospital Center back on board and that since then their relations have been remarkably improved. That would have never happened without the Commission's support, he said.

Mr. Bailey explained that they had hired Ms. Hill because of her expertise in finance. He also said they were in the process of searching for a new medical director and have set a date of June 1, 1998. Mr. Bailey said they have hired a new physician who has brought a lot of expertise to the center. He said they had made a tremendous improvement in their ability to serve their constituents and have a more effective and efficient system.

Again, Mr. Bailey requested \$140,000 and said he hoped the Commission would fund the Center as one of the three major partners.

Ms. Crull said that in the history of the Center they had 7,500 visits in 1995; 12,600 in 1996; 15,200 in 1997 and to date they had seen 5,800 and projected they would have 18,000 visits this fiscal year. She said the growth was definitely there.

Ms. Crull said their goals for 1998 included adding an FTE counselor and a .15 FTE psychiatrist to bring them to 2 FTE counselors and a .5 psychiatrist. They are hoping to expand to two evenings more a week and to remain open on Saturday mornings. She also said there was the possibility for an urgent care clinic within the confines of their current facility.

In response to a question from Commissioner Stamper, Mr. Bailey explained that they would be collocating and moving in December 1998. They would expand from their current 6,000 square feet to 9,000.

In response to a question from Commissioner Miller, Mr. Bailey said they had had no discussion regarding the Brouder study. He said it didn't tell them much they didn't already know. He said they were the primary care practice in the County and the Health Department has only 500 clients that they see. The Health Department, he said, does policing and health programs like WIC.

Ms. Crull explained that the growth could be explained through the demographics of the community. There are more entry level positions or part-time jobs where benefits are not offered. At the same time Medicaid was attempting to move people off their rolls, coverage for children was expanded in response to federal legislation.

Mr. Bailey said their growth could also be attributed to decisions made at the corporate level. He said as long as businesses decline to offer health benefits to their employees, the center will continue to grow. He said that it made business sense, not community or social sense and that regrettably many businesses operate under that principle.

Commissioner Miller said that a lot of times the employees made those choices. They would rather feed their families than invest in health care. She said she did not think businesses were totally to blame, although she didn't know the answers, or they would be pursuing those as a community.

Mr. Bailey said that small businesses in particular were faced with that dilemma, although national chains were not.

Commissioner Miller said that a good portion of Boone County is made up of small businesses who could not afford total health care insurance.

Mr. Bailey said that was why their Center had an ever-increasing population and why they need an increased source of funding.

Commissioner Stamper thanked Mr. Bailey, Ms. Crull and Ms. Hill for their time and said the Commission has always had a heart for work done at the Family Health Center. If anything, he said, we are wondering how we can enhance the next phase. He asked that the record reflect that there was no public present.

The meeting adjourned at 4:55 p.m.

Attest:

Don Stamper
Presiding Commissioner

Wendy S. Noren
Clerk of the County Commission

Karen M. Miller
District I Commissioner

Linda Vogt
District II Commissioner