

TERM OF COMMISSION: December 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 Michelle Malaby
Auditor and Budget Officer June Pitchford

The budget hearing was called to order at 11:00 a.m.

SUBJECT: City of Columbia/Boone County Health Department Request Concerning Sexual Trauma and Assault Response Team (START)

Michael Sanford, Health Department Director; Michael J. Szewczyk, M.D., Board of Health Chairman; and Pat Glaser, Director of The Shelter, were present. Mr. Sanford stated as Commissioner Miller suggested he included START as a supplemental request in the Health Department budget, but it is more of a community project than a Health Department project.

Dr. Szewczyk stated this program began about a year ago as a group effort of the Board of Health, Victim Response Team, Missouri Department of Health and The Shelter, because they saw problems with the manner in which rape victims are treated and how evidence is collected. The program is modeled after others in the country which have existed for some time. A program summary was submitted to the commission earlier. The United Way has agreed to provide funding, contingent upon receipt of funding from the City of Columbia and Boone County. They have requested one third of the necessary funding from each entity.

At the request of Commissioner Stamper, Dr. Szewczyk described the program in detail.

Ms. Glaser commented this program involves a wide variety of entities working together. The feedback they receive from women who have been raped is that when they are at the hospital and a car accident victim comes in, medical personnel deal with the car accident victim rather than them. Ideally, a woman should not eat, drink, or even go to the bathroom, in order to preserve the evidence. It is not uncommon for the process to turn into a five hour ordeal, which is not anybody's fault. It is the reality of triage. This program allows the rape victim to be seen by a trained nurse examiner within an hour of the rape or report of the rape. The victim will also be accompanied by a volunteer victim advocate from The Shelter. The conviction rate is much higher with this program.

In response to a question from Commissioner Stamper, Ms. Glaser explained the nurse is on call for a 24-hour period. If called in, the nurse is paid \$150 to perform the exam, provide medical follow-up and court testimony. The Shelter would dispatch the nurse and victim's advocate.

Mr. Sanford noted numerous nurses would be involved in the program. Mr. Sanford supplied a copy of correspondence sent to Ms. Pitchford, dated September 25, 1996.

Dr. Szewczyk stated The Shelter will have a toll free number for use in obtaining services. The Health Department will act as fiscal agent and handle liability insurance for the nurses.

Ms. Glaser stated Charter Hospital volunteered to handle day-to-day operations, such as processing forms.

In response to a question from Commissioner Miller, Dr. Szewczyk replied Columbia Regional Hospital and Boone Hospital Center agreed to serve as sites for the program. University Hospital has yet to agree to serve as a site. Dr. Szewczyk noted the victim will be given an opportunity to not participate in the program.

In response to a question from Commissioner Stamper, Mr. Sanford replied the Health Department agreed to act as the fiscal agent for the program. This service is not like others the Health Department provides. This is a community activity.

Commissioner Stamper stated the three funding sources are volatile. Is that the best approach?

Ms. Glaser replied they have applied for a grant from Stop Violence Against Women, which is federal funding available due to the Violence Against Women act passed two years ago. Ms. Glaser stated she believes they will receive funding. A local match is required.

Dr. Szewczyk stated another source of funding is the State of Missouri Victim's Compensation Fund. That funding cannot be accessed unless someone is prosecuted.

In response to a question from Commissioner Miller, Ms. Glaser replied they plan to serve 50 to 70 victims with the requested funding, which is consistent with the number of rapes reported in Boone County and Columbia.

Mr. Sanford stated in communities such as Madison, Wisconsin and Tulsa, Oklahoma, which have this type of program, the number of cases reported has increased. Women who learn this service is available are more likely to report an attack.

SUBJECT: Health Department Request Concerning Environmental Health

Mr. Sanford stated they submitted a supplemental request for an additional full time Environmental Health Specialist. The workload is increasing. They believe the Board of Health recommendation regarding a nuisance ordinance, which will apply to subdivisions, will result in a dramatic increase in complaints.

Environmental Health Inspector Gerry Worley stated the City of Columbia nuisance abatement program takes a lot of their time. It follows that the experience in the county will be similar. Contacting property owners takes time. Research in the Recorder of Deeds and Assessor's Office to determine who owns property is a common practice. Follow up to ensure a nuisance is abated and prosecution also take time.

Mr. Sanford stated they receive quite a few complaints now. He believes many people do not complain because they realize there is not an ordinance in place to provide relief. Once there is a remedy, it will be like opening flood gates.

The meeting recessed from 11:23 a.m. until 11:30 a.m.

SUBJECT: Sheriff's Department

Budget Account 1251, Operations

Ms. Pitchford pointed out the increase in cellular telephones.

Sheriff Boehm stated that is the only line item in this budget which increased significantly. Part of the increase is due to the cost increasing when the service was re-bid. A new policy on cellular phone use was initiated last month. Road deputies are encouraged to use their cellular phones for all purposes, with the direction that they should tally personal use at the end of each month and remit the amount to the county.

In response to a question from Commissioner Vogt, Sheriff Boehm confirmed the budget does not reflect reimbursement for personal use.

Commissioner Vogt asked why do process servers need to use cellular phones?

Sheriff Boehm replied instead of having to return to an address repeatedly, they can leave a card with their cellular phone number. They use the phones to determine if an individual is home. Cellular phone use reduces vehicular mileage, particularly with process servers.

Commissioner Vogt asked are figures available to support that assertion?

Sheriff Boehm replied no. However, the number of papers served has not decreased, and they have not increased the number of process servers. Before they had cellular phones, individuals were directed to contact the department who would then contact the process server. Fewer people are involved in the process now. Sheriff Boehm stated they want a few more people who work the overnight shift to have cellular phones.

In response to a question from Sheriff Boehm, Ms. Pitchford replied the rate increased about five cents a minute to 19 cents.

In response to a question from Commissioner Stamper, Sheriff Boehm replied radio repeaters are needed at various locations around the county. Deputies have problems reaching Joint Communications from some areas of the county. Adding repeaters will allow the Department to provide better service and it will improve the safety of officers. Deputies can transmit fairly well from their cars. They are not able to communicate with their portable radios once they leave their cars. Sheriff Boehm ranked this supplemental request as their highest priority.

In response to a question from Commissioner Stamper, Sheriff Boehm replied the State of Missouri just received bids on the Dodge Intrepid police vehicle. Sheriff Boehm stated they are interested in purchasing a Dodge Intrepid with funds from the corrections budget for use in transporting inmates. The county paid \$18,600 for a Ford Crown Victoria this year. The cost of the Dodge Intrepid is \$14,000. He would also like to buy a Dodge Intrepid for evaluation in patrol use. The rumor is that a large price increase is expected for the 1998 Ford models. The county needs to look at other vehicles.

In response to a question from Commissioner Vogt, Sheriff Boehm replied the Dodge Intrepid has a six cylinder engine and front wheel drive. They will have to change their pursuit policy, increasing radio use, if they go to a six cylinder vehicle. It is rumored that Ford will also discontinue production of heavy duty, police package vehicles with eight cylinder engines.

***Budget Account 1252, Drug Enforcement Unit
Budget Account 1253, Traffic Grants***

Captain Beverly Braun confirmed traffic grants are shrinking. Funding for one traffic officer ended in November. Two years of funding remain for another traffic officer.

Budget Account 1255, Corrections

Sheriff Boehm stated revenue from prisoner housing will decrease.

In response to a question from Commissioner Stamper, Major Warren Brewer replied increases in most classes are due to the increased prisoner population.

Sheriff Boehm stated they based the 1996 budget on having an average of 150 inmates. The 1997 budget was prepared using an average inmate population of 175.

In response to a question from Commissioner Miller, Sheriff Boehm replied the approximate cost per day to house an inmate is \$50.

In response to Commissioner Miller's comment that it would almost be cheaper to house inmates outside the county, Ms. Pitchford replied the per diem cost is a fully absorbed cost. It includes all fixed overhead costs which cannot be eliminated. Even if the facility were empty, the county is still providing for its capacity. Variable costs, such as food and some electricity, represent the only opportunity for savings. Part of the cost can be recovered by housing inmates from outside the county.

The problem of the increasing prisoner population was discussed.

Sheriff Boehm noted the cost of housing inmates outside the county needs to be included in the budget.

The meeting adjourned at 11:59 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

June Pitchford
Auditor and Budget Officer