

Agenda Item # 2

Distribution
County Board
Health Department

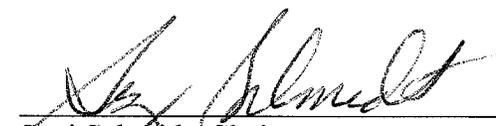
STATE OF ILLINOIS)
) SS
COUNTY OF LAKE)

COUNTY BOARD, LAKE COUNTY, ILLINOIS
ADJOURNED REGULAR JUNE, A.D., 2008 SESSION
JULY 8, A.D., 2008

TO THE MEMBERS OF THE COUNTY BOARD:

Your Chairman presents herewith a Resolution recognizing the contributions and service of Dale W. Galassie, M.A., M.S., Executive Director, Lake County Health Department and Community Health Center, on the occasion of his retirement, and requests its adoption.

Respectfully submitted,



Suzi Schmidt, Chairman
Lake County Board

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, Dale W. Galassie, M.A., M.S., has served the Lake County Health Department and Community Health Center as Executive Director since 1992; and

WHEREAS, over the past 16 years, Mr. Galassie's vision has been crucial in the growth, development and relevance of Health Department programs; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Galassie was instrumental in transitioning the Health Department's medical clinics into a Federally Qualified Health Care Center (FQHC), significantly increasing comprehensive primary care services to limited-income residents of Lake County. From the mid-1990s to the present, primary care visits increased from 25,000 to approximately 150,000 per year; and

WHEREAS, under Mr. Galassie's direction, the Health Department's food protection program was overhauled in the mid-1990s from a largely bureaucratic and regulatory approach, to one that constructively blends education and regulation. The new system improved public health by emphasizing food handling methods, focusing on true hazards and reducing the incidence of food borne illness in Lake County; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Galassie's lobbying efforts have brought millions of dollars in state and federal funding for Department building projects, program expansion and direct service assistance. Today, the Health Department is the largest human service provider in Lake County, serving more than 45,000 primary care patients, approximately 9,000 behavioral health patients and numerous community health and environmental health clients; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Galassie spearheaded a unique plan to use Lake County's 165 polling places as medication distribution sites in the event of an emergency. The County Clerk, along with elected officials, law enforcement, township officials, fire fighters and other agencies staunchly supported the plan, which will bring medications closer to target populations and reduce security and safety issues for local enforcement in the event of an emergency; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Galassie initiated a "Smoke Free Lake County" resolution, which passed the Board of Health and Lake County Board, and which called for aggressive Department efforts to encourage Lake County communities to adopt smoke-free ordinances. The proactive activities of the Department's Tobacco Free program subsequently lent momentum to smoke-free ordinances in 11 municipalities, and finally, the adoption of a smoke-free ordinance for unincorporated Lake County in 2007. It was widely felt that the "Lake County Smoke Free" clean indoor air ordinance helped build momentum for the passage of the Smoke-free Illinois Act, which went into effect on January 1, 2008; and

WHEREAS, under his direction, the Department and the Board of Health embarked on an aggressive strategic plan process, segments of which resulted in greater public health accountability, budgetary stability, and JCAHCO accreditation (Joint Commission for the Accreditation of Health Care Organizations) for the two largest patient-oriented service areas; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Galassie's vision and leadership have enhanced public health at the local, state and federal levels. His public health advocacy has been present not only in Lake County, but regionally and statewide through his active roles in the Illinois Public Health Association and other associations and committees, such as the National Association of City and County Health Officials and the Northern Illinois Public Health Consortium; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Galassie was the recipient of the 2008 Distinguished Service Award from the Illinois Public Health Association. This statewide honor is presented annually to an individual who has made contributions of major significance to the public health movement.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that this Lake County Board recognizes Mr. Galassie's extensive contributions to the citizens of Lake County through his dedication to the betterment of public health, and we express our gratitude for his 27 years of service and commitment; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this Lake County Board extends its best wishes to Mr. Galassie on the occasion of his retirement and wishes him blessings in the years to come.

DATED, at WAUKEGAN, LAKE COUNTY, IL on this 8th day of July, A.D., 2008.