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DuPage County Health Department reduces Reliance on county funds in FY08 budget

Key health services maintained through efficiencies and increasing outside revenue

The DuPage County Board of Health approved the FY08 budget for the DuPage County Health Department at its Nov. 8 meeting and again cut the agency's reliance on DuPage County funds while maintaining key health services.

"This is a dramatic effort," said Board President Linda Kurzawa, "to reduce the health department's reliance on county funds and help the DuPage County Board while it struggles with a county budget." She added, "The health department has done its part to maintain important health services while increasing revenue from outside sources, such as user fees."

"We've gone the extra mile through efficiency so critical services such as breast cancer screenings and urgent dental care for kids in pain can be maintained," Kurzawa said.

The Health Department has dramatically reduced its reliance on county funding, with the exception of its property tax levy, while increasing program revenue in the balanced FY08 budget. The Health Department budget still must be approved by the County Board as part of the over-all county budget.

Health Department program revenue has increased from 49 percent to 62 percent in the past four years, while reliance on county funds has been cut from 51 percent to 38 percent. Spending for FY08 has been reduced by \$740,000. The spending reduction was accomplished while more efficiently providing services to DuPage County residents. The FY08 budget is \$47.5 million compared to \$48.2 million in FY07.

Michael Kiep, Business Operations Services Director, said, "The Health Department has increased program revenue, decreased expenses and implemented operational changes to eliminate reliance on DuPage County funding sources, other than the property tax levy."

"We promote health, prevent illness and provide quality service"