

**SPECIAL MEETING OF THE WHEELING TOWNSHIP COMMUNITY  
MENTAL HEALTH BOARD**

**MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES AGENCY PRESENTATIONS**

**OCTOBER 9, 2024**

**CALL TO ORDER**

The special meeting of the Wheeling Township Community Mental Health Board, for October 9, 2024 was held in the Paula Ulreich Meeting Room, in the Township of Wheeling, 1616 N. Arlington Heights Road, Arlington Heights, Illinois. President, Susan Hayes called the meeting to order at 6:14 p.m.

**ROLL CALL**

Secretary, Bill Dixon called the roll and the following were present: Jeanne Hamilton, Jim Ruffatto, JoAnne Schultz, Bill Dixon, John Lubbe, Jack Vrett & Susan Hayes.

Also, in attendance: Director of Finance and Administration Regina Stapleton.

Absent: None

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

President, Susan Hayes led those assembled in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**CITIZENS TO BE HEARD**

None

**AGENCY HEARINGS-MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES**

Agency presentations are on a three-year funding cycle. This year, Mental Health Services agencies were asked to appear before the Wheeling Township Community Mental Health Board. Agencies were each allotted ten minutes for a presentation, with questions and answers following. All agencies submitted an application prior to the presentations, which was used as a guideline during the question and answer period. Each application for funding provided detailed program and budgetary information.

Presentations were made as follows:

A representative from **CENTER FOR ENRICHED LIVING** spoke on behalf of the agency. The requested funding is \$25,000. The agency provides services for youths & adults with developmental & intellectual disabilities. Thirty-two members from Wheeling Township were served last year.

News/Questions and Answers-How many on the wait list? 13. Are there language barriers? A weekly class for sign language is offered to the staff. Are there staffing issues? Looking to hire a Social Worker otherwise none.

A representative from **AVENUES TO INDEPENDENCE** spoke on behalf of the agency. The requested funding is \$35,000. Avenues provides services to adults with intellectual & developmental disabilities. Group homes are provided. 83 adults are on the wait list & 12 of those are in Wheeling Township. The Center for Independence offers activities such as art classes, cooking classes, music classes & technology classes.

News/Questions and Answers-Is funding used for wages? Yes. How many homes in Wheeling Township? Seven.

A representative from **CLEARBROOK** spoke on behalf of the agency. The requested funding is \$100,000. Clearbrook provides services to over 8,000 children & adults impacted by intellectual/developmental disabilities. Also provided is personalized community day, employment, residential, clinical and children's services at more than 80 locations.

News/Questions and Answers-How many on wait list? Community Day wait is dependent on the number of staff members to help, The Health Center is 2 months, and Employment none. Early Intervention 30 days. Are there language barriers? Clearbrook has staff that speak Spanish, Polish & Russian. There is a staff shortage.

A representative from **JOURNEYS THE ROAD HOME** spoke on behalf of the agency. The requested funding is \$25,000. Journeys is the sole social service organization that provides comprehensive continual care for anyone facing homelessness or at risk. They are equipped to help anyone at any stage of their housing crisis. They have 4 programs. PADS Emergency Shelter, Interim Housing, HOPE Day Center & Pathways Readiness.

1. News/Questions and Answers-Are migrants a possible reason for increase in children's needs? No.

A representative from **THE JOSSELYN CENTER** spoke on behalf of the agency. The requested funding is \$28,800. The Josselyn Center is a certified Community Mental Health Center. There are 7 locations in Northern Cook County and Lake County. In 2024 they served 265 Wheeling Township residents. Over half of the 265 residents were children under the age of 18. They have bilingual clinicians who speak Spanish & Polish.

News/Questions and Answers- Is there a program to retain staff? Yes, there is a strong time off program & there are many trainings offered for free. How long has the clinical internship program been in place? 3 years.

A representative from **LITTLE CITY FOUNDATION** spoke on behalf of the agency. The requested funding is \$40,000. Since 1959 Little City has served children and adults with intellectual & developmental disabilities. Little City currently serves approximately 1,000 people, 38 are Wheeling Township residents. They have a 56-acre campus in Palatine which includes residential, recreation & academic programming.

News/Questions and Answers-Are there any more plans for more housing? Yes, but there are licensing & purchasing issues. There are plans on the board for more housing as they have a large waitlist. How is staffing? Staffing is difficult. Every week there is a notice for 120 open positions.

A representative from **OMNI** spoke on behalf of the agency. The requested funding is \$240,000. Omni was born 50 years ago in Wheeling Township. Last year Omni served 115,000 people & 3,000 were Wheeling Township residents. Omni provides Mental Health Counseling, Case Management & Prevention Services. Omni is asking for increased funding for adult services.

News/Questions and Answers-How is the existing staff? Omni is fully staffed & has 85-88 employees. Is there a waitlist? No for English and a short wait list for Spanish-speaking clients.

A representative from **KENNETH YOUNG CENTER** spoke on behalf of the agency. The requested funding is 50,000. Kenneth Young Center is a Community Mental Health Center that serves people of all ages. KYC primarily serves clients with Medicaid. The requested funding is to support Wheeling Township residents receiving high & behavioral health services. The services consist of 3 areas, Assertive Community Treatment, Community Support Team & Case Management & Therapy for Adults in the Home.

News/Questions and Answers-Are there Townships where you offer a sliding scale? Yes. Elk Grove Township & Schaumburg Township. How is staffing? In good shape

right now. Is there a waitlist? Right now, there are 5 Wheeling Township residents on waitlist.

A representative from **SEARCH INC.** spoke on behalf of the agency. The requested funding is \$7,500. Search Inc. is a community nonprofit organization that empowers people with intellectual & developmental disabilities to achieve their full potential. They have 5 core services-Supported Living, Adult Learning, Career Services, Clinical Services & Community Education programs. There are 27 homes and 6 of those homes are in Wheeling Township.

News/Questions and Answers-How many live in a home? 4-7.

### **DISCUSSION ON AGENCY REQUESTS**

None

### **MOTION #1 ADJOURNMENT**

Motion by Jack Vrett, seconded by John Lubbe to adjourn

VOICE CALL VOTE: All Ayes

NAYES: None...Motion 1 carried

The meeting for Mental Health Services Agency Presentations was declared adjourned at 8:17 pm.