

WHEELING TOWNSHIP COMMUNITY MENTAL HEALTH BOARD MINUTES OF
AUGUST 9, 2023

CALL TO ORDER

The Community Mental Health Board Meeting of Wheeling Township, for August 9, 2023 was held in the Paula Ulreich Meeting Room, in the Township of Wheeling, 1616 North Arlington Heights Road, Arlington Heights, Illinois. President Jack Vrett called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

ROLL CALL

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

Also, in attendance: Wheeling Township Attorney Kenneth Florey, and Wheeling Township Director of Finance and Administration Regina Stapleton.

Absent: None

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Jack Vrett led those assembled in the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION #1: APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE COMMUNITY MENTAL HEALTH BOARD MEETING ON JULY 19, 2023

Motion by Jim Ruffatto, seconded by JoAnne Schultz, to approve the minutes of July 19, 2023 Mental Health Board Meeting.

VOICE CALL VOTE: AYES: All Ayes
NAYS: None....Motion #1 Carried.

CITIZENS TO BE HEARD

Arlen Gould a member of School District 21 Board thanked everyone for serving on the Board. He stated this group is here to work with the Board. He also said the group shines in civility & feels this country has forgotten what civility is.

Lori Grainawi stated that the Wheeling Township Board had decided the referendum was considered partially invalid and therefore cannot levy. She is concerned about lack of transparency. The group is exploring options to resolve the situation. She feels the decision by the Wheeling Township Board violates the spirit & intent of the law. She said it was clearly stated the intent for a new tax to fund the new Board. Exact language was used in the referendum after consultations with attorneys. She is happy the Community Mental Health Board will continue to move forward.

WHEELING TOWNSHIP COMMUNITY MENTAL HEALTH BOARD MINUTES OF
AUGUST 9, 2023

Jackson Paller an attorney for the Citizens Advocacy Center in Des Plaines stated that everything he has read has the correct language to cover the Mental Health Act & PTELL. He recommended that no drastic action should be taken. He made himself available as a resource and said he would answer any questions at the end of the meeting.

Philip Grier stated that it is unfortunate that there is a disconnect between Wheeling Township leadership, the goals of the people, the voters & the people of need in the community. He said the most important people in this process are the citizens who are waiting for the promise of a full professional assessment of needs and funding for services. His wish is for issues of power & politics not interfere with this affair.

Tracy Shreva stated the people of Wheeling Township voted to establish a 708 Mental Health Board along with a levy. She said in the Township Board's Fall of 2022 newsletter they overstated an amount that would be needed for services. In her opinion this was to scare people to vote no for the referendum. She also said steps are being taken to complete a professional needs assessment. She feels like the Township is going out of their way to not levy for funds and it feels very sneaky. She hopes the Board moves forward to enable funding.

Tom Devitt stated that everyone would agree that the need is high and the need is growing for services. He is suggesting local like-minded individuals come together and take action. He feels as great as the need is that even the maximum amount of funding is probably not enough. He wants to raise more awareness.

Debbie McAtee a life long resident of Wheeling Township stated she is glad to hear everyone is supportive & happy to see this many people here. She also said from what she is hearing we need to be showing up at the Wheeling Township meetings. She stated that the Township is the one giving the Board a hassle. She wants all the dates of the Wheeling Township Board meetings and will clear her calendar to attend.

Paul Neff thanked everyone on the board for their service. He stated that he does not have to repeat the urgency from the community for the mandate to be fulfilled. He said it's important that this Board but more importantly the Wheeling Township Board gets this right. He also said many people are watching and hopes everyone can hear the pain in the community. He appealed to everyone to do the right thing.

Lessie Smebakken of Arlington Heights lost her daughter to depression, substance abuse and post-traumatic stress disorder. She felt her daughter fell thru the cracks. She stated there is so much need out there.

WHEELING TOWNSHIP COMMUNITY MENTAL HEALTH BOARD MINUTES OF
AUGUST 9, 2023

BUSINESS:

DISCUSSION:

Levy:

Wheeling Township attorney Ken Florey spoke about the 708 referendum. He said the question on the referendum was missing language that is legally required by the property tax code, more specifically the tax cap. He explained that the property tax code is a very complicated area. He said the legal language tells the voters on the ballot what the consequences are of passing the referendum from a financial perspective. He stated the creation of the board is solid and legal but the levy authority is not correct. He took questions from the Community Mental Health Board members.

Community Assessment:

Regina Stapleton stated that the Fall/Winter newsletter will have an insert for the Community Assessment. It will also be on the website and paper copies will be available in the office. The newsletter should be out the end of September.

Needs Assessment:

John Lubbe stated that he talked with 5 different Townships with Mental Health Boards and did not find any that has created a document to get a quote for a consultation. He recommends asking 3 or 4 consultants to come to a meeting to give a quote and a presentation. He has a list of questions for the consultants. It was mentioned that the Wheeling Township Board will fund the needs assessment.

MOTION #2 TO APPROVE A CONSULTANT FOR A NEEDS ASSESSEMENT

Motion by Jeanne Hamilton, seconded by Jim Ruffatto to approve conduct of a Needs Assessment by a professional consultant.

ROLL CALL VOTE: All Ayes...
Nays None...Motion #2 Carried

Funding Application:

Wheeling Township Administrator Regina Stapleton reported a minor change on the general instructions page. The very top of the page was changed to Wheeling Township 2024-25 Agency Application for Funding. No other changes were reported. She recommended 2 dates for the Agency hearings, October 11th or November 8th. The Board decided on October 11th.

MOTION #3 TO APPROVE OCTOBER 11, 2023 FOR AGENCY HEARINGS

Motion by John Lubbe, seconded by Jack Vrett to approve October 11, 2023 for Agency Hearings.

WHEELING TOWNSHIP COMMUNITY MENTAL HEALTH BOARD MINUTES OF
AUGUST 9, 2023

VOICE CALL VOTE: All Ayes...
NAYES: None...Motion#3 Carried.

Mission Statement/Vision/Purpose:

Wheeling Township Administrator Regina Stapleton stated option #3 for the Mission was chosen & option #2 for the Vision was chosen. Also, for the Purpose the word authorize was changed to recommend. There was no further discussion.

MOTION #4 TO APPROVE THE MISSION STATEMENT/VISION/PURPOSE

Motion by Bill Dixon, seconded by Jim Ruffatto to approve the Mission Statement/Vision/Purpose.

VOICE CALL VOTE: All Ayes...
Nays None...Motion #4 Carried.

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS:

Jim Ruffatto stated that he contacted Dr. Connolly from School District 21 about space to hold a meeting there. School District 21 has the capabilities of zoom & it would be no cost. A contract would be necessary.

Bill Dixon mentioned it was his understanding 1 or more members of the Board cannot attend the September 14th meeting. Wheeling Township Administrator Regina Stapleton will look into moving the meeting to a different date.

MOTION #5: ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Jeanne Hamilton, seconded by JoAnne Schultz to adjourn

VOICE CALL VOTE: All Ayes...
NAYES: None...Motion #5 Carried.

The meeting for Wednesday, August 9, 2023, was declared adjourned at 8:13 p.m. The next scheduled Community Mental Health Board Meeting is set for Wednesday, September 20, 2023, at 7:00 p.m.