

WHEELING TOWNSHIP SPECIAL MEETING

MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES AGENCY PRESENTATIONS

CALL TO ORDER

The special meeting of the Supervisor and Board of Trustees of Wheeling Township, for October 25, 2022 was held in the Paula Ulreich Meeting Room, in the Township of Wheeling, 1616 North Arlington Heights Road, Arlington Heights, Illinois. Trustee Kozicki called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Clerk Gauza called the roll and the following members were present: Trustee Kozicki, Trustee Murglin, Trustee Talken, Trustee Hamilton, and Clerk Joanna Gauza.

Also in attendance: Director of Finance and Administration Regina Stapleton, Township Attorney Ken Florey and Funding Agency Committee: Leon Gopon, Maria McCarthy, and Joanne Schultz.

Absent: Supervisor Penner

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Trustee Kozicki led those assembled in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mental Health Service agency presentations are now on a three year funding cycle. This year, Mental Health Service agencies were asked to appear before the Supervisor, Board of Trustees and the Advisory Committee at a specified time. 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:

Mari Brzostowski, Executive Director **Amita Health/Alexian Brothers Center for Mental Health**, spoke on behalf of the agency, and requested \$140,000 in funding. The agency provides mental health services to residents of Wheeling Township who cannot afford private care. The center offers individual, group, and family therapy, psychiatric evaluations, medication management, day treatments, residential treatments, supported education, supported employment and in-home and in-community services. Services are provided to individuals across the age spectrum and regardless of income or insurance for all the Wheeling Township Residents. The Agency provides both inpatient and outpatient services. Staffing is a challenge. The Agency is one of a few that accepts Medicaid funding for services. Currently, the Agency has a waitlist of 63 clients which is

a reduction from earlier in the year. There are 11 individuals waiting for psychiatric services. The Center is also a trainer for the prescribing psychology program that allows a psychologist with training to prescribe medications to patients. The Agency had a 99% satisfaction rating from clients.

News/Questions and Answers –

AMITA employs 3 psychiatrists. If someone cannot wait on the waitlist, they refer them to another provider. AMITA will send email as to how many Wheeling Township residents are on the waitlist.

Ron Reeves, the Vocational Director, for **Avenues to Independence (“Avenues”)** requested \$35,000 in funding. Avenues supports people with developmental and other disabilities. Avenues has been serving the community for 69 years. Avenues provides homes, jobs, and activities. Avenues' mission is to enable their clients to live the life they choose. Daily, some 146 individuals come to the Center for Independence in Wheeling for job training, social skills development, art, cooking, music, exercise, entrepreneurial encouragement, computer class, and fitness. Half of the Center space is used for daily programs. Avenues held a \$1.5 million fundraising drive to renovate the Center. Avenues Center has a demonstration kitchen, activities rooms, fitness center etc. Avenues has one of few remaining work centers as there is a transition to community based employment. Avenues also helps prepare individuals for community employment. For example, their clients help stock the Township food pantry. About 27 Wheeling Township residents are in Avenues programs. Avenues receives 60% of its funding from the State of Illinois and the rest from donors or local governments.

News/Questions and Answers –

Most customers come from age 22 and up. Some clients are retirees.

Karen Fay, Grants Manager for the **Center for Enriched Living (“CEL”)**, spoke for CEL and requested \$5,000. CEL serves individuals with disabilities. CEL stresses healthy living, employment, creativity and self-expression for persons with disabilities. Youth 12-21 years of age can participate in after school programs. For adults 22 years of age and older, CEL offers a day program, weeknight, and weekend programs, including excursions. CEL also offers individualized employment programs to address the some 85% unemployment rate among CEL clients. CEL receives only 2% of funding from State or federal governments. This year, CEL has already served 330 individuals and expects to serve some 450 clients this year. Last year, CEL served 25 Wheeling Township residents and provided \$9000 of services. CEL offers 60 different programs. CEL is also launching two initiatives. First, a family research center to support families of customers. Second, an 8 week program to teach life skills and foster independence. Currently, CEL has 30 individuals on a waitlist and 5 are from the Township. Most are waiting for a day program or employment program.

News/Questions and Answers –

The budget lists \$162,000 for art supplies. Most is for a consultant and to place Google ads.

Tony DiVittorio, President of **Clearbrook**, spoke on behalf of the agency and requested \$100,000. Clearbrook is dedicated to creating innovative opportunities, services and support systems for people with disabilities. Founded in 1955, Clearbrook now serves about 5600 youth, adults, their families and the public at large. Clearbrook offers vocational training and employment placement, home-based family support, respite care, health and wellness, recreation and therapeutic activities, disability awareness and community education. Like Avenues, Clearbrook is transitioning to a campus model with variety of rooms and activities for day customers. Clearbrook partners with NWSRA to get customers into the community. Clearbrook is also transitioning away from traditional workshop to preparing clients for community employment. Clearbrook operates extensive homes, including facilities for assisted living. Clearbrook operates 65 group homes with 10 homes in Wheeling Township. Between 2-8 customers live at each home. About 95% of clients have single bedrooms. Staffing is a challenge for all providers.

News/Questions and Answers –

The budget shows about \$750,000 for consultants and lobbyists to get funding and grants. Some are medical consultants. In a group home, some daily maintenance is done by clients, but also there is a need for skilled maintenance contractors to fix furnaces, roofs etc...

Jennifer Grandberry spoke for **Josselyn** and requested \$40,000. Josselyn provides comprehensive mental health services to individuals and families affected by a mental health issue. Josselyn provides psychiatric services, community education programs, therapy, and intensive services for youth. Josselyn used to have one center, but now has 7 locations. A year ago, Josselyn had about 2705 clients and over the last year the number grew to about 4400 clients or a 63% increase. Staff increased 130% over the last year. 82% of the staff is clinical. Josselyn has a focus on serving teens from 12-18 years of age that require medication. Josselyn worked with 245 Wheeling Township residents this year. 35% of clients self-identify as persons of color and 40% of staff self-identify as persons of color. Josselyn has substantial number of bilingual therapists.

News/Questions and Answers –

Josselyn has committed to providing services for 7 days a week. Josselyn uses intake coordinators with BA in social work. Josselyn has no backlog currently. Junior board are workers that discuss mental health to teens and help teens and schools host "Let's Talk About It" events. During the last year, Josselyn incurred losses ramping up staff. Josselyn received two federal grants, including a grant for capacity building.

Sharon Andersohn and, Grants Manager, and Jean Martinez, Director of Grants spoke for **Little City Foundation** and requested \$33,595 in funding. Little City is dedicated to serving children and adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities by providing the best options and opportunities to live safely, learn continuously, explore creatively and work productively throughout their lifetime. By inspiring, advocating and pursuing success with passion and purpose, lives are changed through hope, happiness and optimism. Little City is committed to advancing the understanding, acceptance and

independence of people with disabilities. Founded in 1959, the organization now serves approximately 820 people and their families, including 40 individuals and their families that reside in Wheeling Township. Little City offers therapeutic day services, employment training, and adult residential living for clients. This grant is requested from Wheeling Township to support Township residents who participate in Little City's Community Day Services Program and the two residences operated in Wheeling Township. The residences can house 14 residents that learn to live independently. Little City now also provides virtual home visits. 24 of 42 Wheeling residents received virtual services. Little City currently has no waiting list for therapy programs, but does have about 100 individuals waiting to join a residential living program.

News/Questions and Answers –

Little City has 130 job openings, mostly for residential living staff. Retention and recruitment is a challenge. The Raleigh location is operating at a loss.

Greg Davenport, the Director of Development at **North Suburban Legal Aid Clinic**, spoke on behalf of the agency and requested \$3,000 in funding. The Clinic has 3 primary practice areas: Domestic Violence, Immigration, and Housing. The Clinic's Immigration practice is accredited through the Board of Immigration appeals and provides immigration legal services to eligible immigrants seeking help with U-Visas, citizenship applications, certain waivers of inadmissibility, family-based permanent resident status, asylum, and removal proceedings. The Clinic's Domestic Violence practice focuses on cases that involve the personal safety of victims of domestic violence and their children including, Emergency and Plenary Orders of Protection, child support, custody, visitation, and other family law matters. The Clinic's Housing practice assists with problems arising from landlord and tenant relations. Clients must be at or below 250% of the poverty line or \$70,000 for a family of four. There are no income guidelines for victims of domestic violence. The Clinic has two outreach coordinators. Currently, the Clinic has 6000 clients and has opened 2200 cases in 2022 having grown from just 60 cases in 2015. The Clinic has 19 attorneys and 32 total staff. The Clinic serves some 100 Wheeling Township residents and has opened about 116 cases for its Wheeling Township clients. The Clinic is taking on more complex cases. In response to the July 4 Highland Park, the Clinic provided family legal counseling. The Clinic just screened the 40 immigrants bused from Texas to determine if they were eligible for any type of immigration relief.

News/Questions and Answers –

The Clinic provides services to anyone without regard to immigration status and supports undocumented persons. The Clinic serves northern Cook County and all of Lake County.

Katrina Volkers, Director of Development, spoke for the **Zacharias Sexual Abuse Center** and requested \$3000. The Center provides counseling, medical and legal advocacy, and prevention education programs for adults and children who have faced the trauma of sexual abuse. Trained counselors provide crisis counseling, emotional support and coping strategies to survivors and their non-offending loved ones. In Lake County, Center counselors will attend court cases with survivors. Last year, the Center provided educational services to some 20,000 people. The Center also provides training to first

responders and faith organizations. The Center serves northern Cook County and Lake County.

News/Questions and Answers –

The Center served 5 Wheeling Township residents this year.

The Mental Health Services presentations adjourned at 7:40 p.m.

Joanna M. Gauza
Township Clerk