

WHEELING TOWNSHIP COMMUNITY MENTAL HEALTH BOARD MINUTES OF
MAY 10, 2023

CALL TO ORDER

The Mental Health Board Meeting of Wheeling Township, for May 10, 2023 was held in the Paula Ulreich Meeting Room, in the Township of Wheeling, 1616 North Arlington Heights Road, Arlington Heights, Illinois. President Jeanne Hamilton called the meeting to order at 7:00 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

Jeanne Hamilton led those assembled in the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

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

Motion by JoAnne Schultz, seconded by Jack Vrett, to approve the minutes of April 19, 2023 Mental Health Board Meeting.

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

PRESENTATION

Mari Brzostowski from Ascension Center for Mental Health gave a brief description of their services. She explained all the name changes over the years. The Center has been in existence for 61 years in this community. They were the first to have a partial hospitalization building outside the hospital. She stated they have an array of services, 13 clinical programs, 3 psychiatrists to help provide medication, 2 residential programs and a traditional living program. There are counselors that go to the school districts to help students with mental health issues. She stated that most clients are mostly at poverty level.

WHEELING TOWNSHIP COMMUNITY MENTAL HEALTH BOARD MINUTES OF
MAY 10, 2023

CITIZENS TO BE HEARD

Arlen Gould stated that the Arlington Heights & Wheeling police departments receive many calls related to mental health issues. They have social workers on staff but stated that's not enough. There needs to be more social work. He has reached out to Milton, Schaumburg, Bloomingdale & Vernon Townships who have established 708 boards in place. He suggested one way to organize a 708 board is to hire Northern Illinois University who has experience with this.

Tracy Sherva a member of NAMI & a resident of Arlington Heights wants to encourage the board to conduct a needs assessment. She stated that other 708 boards have hired Northern Illinois University to create the needs assessment. She suggested adding a couple more board members or creating a committee that would have expertise in this area.

Hugh Brady who is on the board of NAMI stated the reason 708 boards hire Northern Illinois University to do the needs assessment is it cost 1/3 of what a private agency would charge. He handed out a copy of a survey that Milton Township completed. They had advantage as an organization called DuPage Impact collected a lot of the information that was needed. They conducted a survey of 1,577 DuPage residents and one question was what are the 3 most important health issues. It was drug use and mental health issues. The 2nd question was where should the community focus on how to make things better. It was access to mental health treatment and access to alcohol & drug abuse treatment. He stated in DuPage County there are 39,000 residents with mental health issues & 75,000 residents with substance abuse issues and said there is a huge need for services that 708 boards can provide.

Nicolle Grasse made a comment that the US Surgeon General put out a call to action to communities about a serious epidemic of isolation & loneliness. She stated this can affect your physical & mental health. She shared there are 6 pillars they are starting to put together in the communities to address this epidemic.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT: Administrator Stapleton reported:

- Pictures of the Board were taken. They will be in the Summer Newsletter and the website in June.
- Looking to hire an intern this summer to help with the questionnaires & surveys.

OLD BUSINESS:

Jeanne Hamilton stated that Wheeling Township will not levy this year for the Wheeling Township Community Mental Health Board. She explained there just was not enough time. The agencies that are funded now will submit their applications & will be funded

WHEELING TOWNSHIP COMMUNITY MENTAL HEALTH BOARD MINUTES OF
MAY 10, 2023

based on their application. By not levying this year allows more time to do a more professional needs assessment.

John Lubbe talked with a Dr. Mindy Schneider at Northern Illinois University about a needs assessment. Her background is Survey Research. She has worked at psychiatric hospitals & has done research for the American Medical Association. It would take 4-6 months to complete the assessment at a cost of \$15,000 - \$20,000. A 1-3-year strategic plan can be done as well. He will submit something in writing to add to the minutes.

Jack Vrett suggested inviting local police and fire departments in to give a presentation on the gaps. He asked about the process of hiring a service to prepare a needs assessment. Wheeling Township Attorney Ken Florey stated that since it's a professional service, it is up to the board to decide. Jack also asked who was hiring the intern and Administrator Stapleton said the Township was.

Bill Dixon said he was jolted by the decision the Township made not to levy until next year. He stated 2025 is a long time out & the Mental Health Board has a say as well about the levy, but he respected the decision. He read an article from a newsletter that represents all community mental health centers. The article talks about pending legislation in Congress with bipartisan sponsors that would provide planning grants of up to \$250,000.

There was considerable discussion about the questionnaires. JoAnne Schultz suggested asking the Wheeling Township Board for an advance or loan. She also stated the questionnaires should have a return date, possibly July 1-15. Jack Vrett will form a sub-committee to prepare an operational plan.

Administrator Regina Stapleton stated that there could potentially be a lot of residents filling out the survey. She suggested it be multiple choice questions and post on Survey Monkey. Open ended questions would be too difficult to process. She stated this is the simple & most effective way to process.

Jack Vrett suggested a modification to the Agency Certification sheet. Instead of asking if an Agency has a grievance procedure, it should be grievance/whistle blower complaint.

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS:

John Lubbe stated he will document his notes from Northern Illinois University and forward to Administrator Regina Stapleton & she will distribute to the Board. He also asked about the levy process. Wheeling Township Attorney Ken Florey explained the levy process. Bill Dixon stated municipalities have to pass an ordinance to request a levy. Susan Hayes asked if the request for a levy has anything to do with having a plan in order.

Jack Vrett asked what happens to the money that the Wheeling Township Board allocates to the agencies once the 708 board has their own levy.

WHEELING TOWNSHIP COMMUNITY MENTAL HEALTH BOARD MINUTES OF
MAY 10, 2023

John Lubbe stated that Northern Illinois has a webinar, Conducting a Community Needs Assessment. The cost is \$33. He will forward the information to Administrator Regina Stapleton.

MOTION #2: ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Bill Dixon, seconded by Jim Ruffatto to adjourn

VOICE CALL VOTE: All Ayes...

NAYES: None...Motion #2 Carried.

The meeting for Wednesday, May 10, 2023, was declared adjourned at 8:46 pm. The next scheduled Community Mental Health Board Meeting is set for Wednesday, June 14, 2023, at 7:00 p.m.