

WHEELING TOWNSHIP COMMUNITY MENTAL HEALTH BOARD MINUTES OF
JUNE 14, 2023

CALL TO ORDER

The Mental Health Board Meeting of Wheeling Township, for June 14, 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

President 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 MAY 10, 2023

Motion by JoAnne Schultz, seconded by Jim Ruffatto, to approve the minutes of May 10, 2023 Wheeling Township Community Mental Health Board Meeting.

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

PRESENTATION

Arlington Heights Police Chief Nick Pecaro presented a Power Point overview of the Arlington Heights Police Department interactions on a day to day basis with Mental Health. He talked about the National Survey by Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA). The interaction between the Arlington Heights Police Department and a citizen is about 4-5% involving substance use disorder and mental health. The number of police calls for mental health incidents during the past year was 491. The Village of Arlington Heights & community partners formed the Community Addiction and Recovery Effort to help individuals who are battling with substance use disorder/addiction. The Village of Arlington Heights has a Victim Services Program that provides services for victims of crime The Arlington Heights Police Department has a Crisis Co-Responder Team Program (CCRT) with a counselor who can respond to crisis calls. The Village approved a \$250K grant for this program.

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CITIZENS TO BE HEARD

Grace Breisch a resident of Arlington Heights discussed her grandson who is bi-polar. She stated that he had been living in a State supported housing facility where he was getting no help. They were under staffed and not qualified. His lease was not renewed. Recently he reacted under mental stress and is now in jail in the mental health area. She stated that he is getting more help in jail than anywhere else. She is hoping Wheeling Township can do better for the mentally ill.

Hugh Brady who is on the board of NAMI stated that he feels like the Agency & Community Stakeholders Questionnaires are a very good start. He had 2 suggestions. Suggestion #1-On the Agency Questionnaire he would like #2 to read, What services are you seeing that are needed in Wheeling Township that need to be expanded or that are currently not offered. Also, on the Community Stakeholders Questionnaire, #4 Are there any services that apply to mental health, developmental disabilities, or substance abuse not offered or need to be expanded in Wheeling Township that are needed. Suggestion #2-Send the Community Stakeholders questionnaire out as far & wide as possible, i.e. Psychiatrists, psychologists, schools etc.

Tracy Sherva a resident of Arlington Heights, stated that her son was in the CCRT Program in another city and that it saved his life. She has some concerns about the current questionnaires. She stated they may not accurately identify all the gaps & services. Also, she stated it might lead the Board to not levy enough to provide for the programs that are needed. She strongly encouraged the Wheeling Township Community Mental Health Board to ask the Wheeling Township Board for a loan to complete a professional needs assessment.

Catherine Melka-Kaffer a resident of Wheeling is a Social Worker and a former therapist. She currently is a coordinator for the Behavioral Health Workforce at the University of Illinois Chicago. In this role she is doing a needs assessment of training needs of community mental health providers across Illinois. She stated it was unclear to her what exactly what this 708 board is hoping to assess through the questionnaire's and who they are trying to target. She highly recommends a professional needs assessment in order to get a good sense of our community.

Aaron Wagner a resident of Wheeling stated that the questionnaires have no representation of his generation and he would like to see more focus on that. He stated there are more resources for seniors and children under the age of 12. He stated that his generation is always working and not able to use the resources available or that they are not affordable.

Jennifer Pheres a resident of Arlington Heights stated that Cook County Commissioner Scott Britton was a recent victim of a hate crime. Commissioner Britton started a new initiative called Cook County United Against Hate to address hate crimes in the area.

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OLD BUSINESS:

President Jeanne Hamilton stated the Agency & Stakeholders questionnaires would be approved with a few changes. Secretary Bill Dixon suggested on the last page of each questionnaire to add name of person responding, title, phone number & date. JoAnne Schultz asked who was going to be responsible for sending out questionnaires and she suggested there be a return date on the questionnaires. President Jeanne Hamilton replied that the new intern would be sending out the questionnaires. Jack Vrett suggested that instead of the new intern working on these questionnaires, that we do business as usual with our questionnaires that we use now agency funding. President Jeanne Hamilton stated that the questionnaires that will be gathered will be good information for the professional assessment that may be done in the future.

Jack Vrett & Jim Ruffatto put together a draft strategic planning calendar for discussion purposes only. Jack Vrett suggested an interim assessment. Sue Hayes stated that she does not like that the levy is being pushed out to far. She suggested the Board do their own assessment. She also said the general data is out there that can be compiled so the levy can be moved up. There was a lot of discussion back & forth about the assessment and the levy. President Jeanne Hamilton summarized that the assessment will be done using the questionnaires. The intern will compile data with Susan Hayes assistance. They will make a presentation in August. At that point the board will decide if the assessment is enough to ask for a levy in November. If there is not sufficient data to ask for a levy then a decision will be made to hire a professional at a later date.

MOTION #2: TO APPROVE THE QUESTIONNAIRE TO FUNDED AGENCIES AND COMMUNITY STAKEHOLDERS INCLUDING THE MINOR SUGGESTIONS MADE AT THE MEETING BY MR. BRADY AND BOARD MEMBER BILL DIXON

Motion by Jim Ruffatto, seconded by Bill Dixon to approve the Funded Agencies & Community Stakeholders Questionnaires.

VOICE CALL VOTE: All Ayes...

NAYES: None...Motion #2 Carried.

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Secretary Bill Dixon commented on the decision to not have a July Meeting. He felt it was way too early to decide not to have one. He expressed that there is a lot to do. He also stated he understands if there is not a quorum or if there are not agenda items. President Jeanne Hamilton stated she has some conflicts in July and she thought the Board would want July off. The Board decided to schedule a July meeting. If there is not a quorum or no agenda items, then it will be cancelled.

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MOTION #3: ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Bill Dixon, seconded by Susan Hayes to adjourn

VOICE CALL VOTE: All Ayes...

NAYES: None...Motion 3 carried

The meeting for Wednesday, June 14, 2023, was declared adjourned at 9:17 pm. The next scheduled Community Mental Health Board Meeting is set for Wednesday, July 12, 2023, at 7:00 p.m.