

CALL TO ORDER

The Mental Health Board Meeting of Wheeling Township, for March 22, 2023 was held in the Paula Ulreich Meeting Room, in the Township of Wheeling, 1616 North Arlington Heights Road, Arlington Heights, Illinois. Regina Stapleton called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

ROLL CALL

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

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

Absent: None

MOTION #1: ELECTION OF OFFICERS-PRESIDENT

Motion by JoAnne Schultz, seconded by Jim Ruffatto, to elect Jeanne Hamilton as President.

ROLL CALL VOTE: AYES: JoAnne Schultz, Jim Ruffatto, Bill Dixon, Susan Hayes, John Lubbe, Jack Vrett.

NAYS: None....Motion #1 Carried.

MOTION #2: ELECTIONS OF OFFICERS-VICE PRESIDENT

Motion by Jack Vrett, seconded by Jim Ruffatto, to elect Susan Hayes as Vice President.

ROLL CALL VOTE: AYES: Jack Vrett, Jim Ruffatto, JoAnne Schultz, Bill Dixon, John Lubbe, Jeanne Hamilton.

NAYS: None....Motion #2 Carried.

MOTION #3: ELECTION OF OFFICERS-SECRETARY

Motion by Jack Vrett, seconded by Susan Hayes, to elect Bill Dixon as Secretary.

ROLL CALL VOTE: AYES: Jack Vrett, Susan Hayes, Jim Ruffatto, JoAnne Schultz, Jeanne Hamilton, John Lubbe.

NAYS: None....Motion #3 Carried

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Jeanne Hamilton led those assembled in the Pledge of Allegiance.

CITIZENS TO BE HEARD

Hugh Brady who is on the Board of Northwest Suburban Chapter of NAMI shared information about mental illness and estimated how many Wheeling Township residents have mental illness. He noted that a number of statistics of the need for Mental Health. He provided a Mental Health Board Funding Awards flyer from Bloomingdale Township.

Mike Murray is on the Bloomingdale Township Mental Health Auxiliary Board. He mentioned there are 5 Mental Health Boards in DuPage County. He gave the Board a handout on how to organize your Mental Health Board. He also stated Bloomingdale Township Mental Health Board is working with Dr Hubbert who is organizing a child network that will monitors a child from birth to age 21.

Lori Grainawi is a member of NAMI Northwest, Housing taskforce. She was one of the originals that wanted to create a 708 Board. She stated that the first year will be a lot of work and she also said the Board could be bigger. She offered her help and thanked everyone for their service.

John Geier is a member of NAMI Northwest, housing taskforce. He mentioned that the Association of Community Mental Health Authorities of Illinois was offering a seminar for new 708 Boards on March 24th.

Tracy Sherva is a volunteer for NAMI Northwest, parent support group facilitator. She runs a support group of volunteers for NAMI. She also belongs to a Mental Health ministry at St James and runs a support group for children. They recently had a prayer circle for families that have someone with Mental Health.

Laura Fry is the Executive Director of Live4Lali. She works with families & individuals with Mental Health & substance use abuse in Arlington Heights and the surrounding counties. She works for the McHenry County Mental Health Board. She stated that only 17% of people with substance use disorder who want treatment can get it, so mental health boards fill in those gaps. Looking forward to helping in any way she can.

Staci Allen, District 21 Board member and is the Director of Community Services at A Bridge Back, Substance use abuse & alcohol abuse facility. She has been serving the community for 14 years. Last year Illinois lost 4,000 citizens to overdose. She stated that McHenry County has seen a reduction in losses because they provide more help.

Beth Nabors runs Journeys the Road Home in Palatine. Journeys serves the homeless in Northwest Cook County. It serves not only homeless but prevention, people at risk of losing their home. She stated that a lot of clients have mental health issues and have not insurance. There is a three year wait to see someone. She has opened a not for profit real estate holding company there are 16 homeless individuals living amongst us in Palatine. She hopes the Board is ready to make some serious decisions.

Nancy Tierney, Prospect Heights, a retired high school teacher and has 15 years' experience in suicide prevention. She wants more grant money for the schools. She stated that the school social workers are swamped. She passed out cards with suicide prevention websites. She wants the Board to supplement the schools grant money for these types of programs or social workers.

Nina Losch is an Arlington Heights resident. Her family is affected by mental health. Last October she received a phone call from her son's school to pick him up and that he could not return until he had a full mental health evaluation. She states the process is very confusing. She also, stated that the system is broken. She wants the Board to know that it is our friends and neighbors affected by mental health.

Jamie Rische from Mt. Prospect, is a behavioral analyst and has worked in the field for 26 years. She works with adults with addiction, bipolar and other disorders. She said when someone falls thru the cracks terrible things can happen. She said, that the Board needs help to reach out.

Aaron Wagoner is a Wheeling resident and works for School District 25 as a custodian. He stated he could have taken his own life, but because of the support system and social workers he is here today. He helped pass out flyers for the Wheeling Township Mental Health Board referendum at the Wheeling train station.

Arlen Gould thanked Aaron Wagoner for having the courage to stand up & speak. He stated that mental health issues are nationally on the rise. He serves on the School District 21 Board and sees the issues every day. He also added that the cost to a Township taxpayer is about \$28 a year per household to raise roughly 1.5 million. He thanked the board members for serving.

Ken Jochum is the Wheeling Township Assessor and a resident of Arlington Heights. He said proponents have said the Board would collect about 1.5 million a year in taxes. He suggested it could seek as much as 8.5 million. He also stated to please avoid duplication of services and not to tax the max.

Joyce Burity is president for DBSA. They offer free group meetings and help people that need services.

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT: Administrator Stapleton reported:

Board packet-Board members will get this electronically when the Agenda is posted. Included in this packet is the following:

- Hard copy of the Community Mental Health Act
- List of all 708 Boards in Illinois from ACMHAI
- Township Agency Funding Spreadsheet, last column shows the 2023-23 budget, the Township Board decided to keep the Agency Funding flat.
- Copies of Mental Health/Disabilities 2023-24 Application for Funding for you to see what they asked for and how they are responding.

- Agencies present in October on a three-year cycle, 2023-2024 was Mental Health/Disabilities, 2024-2025 is Youth Services and 2025-2026 is Human Services.

At the next Board meeting Administrator Stapleton will have Wheeling Township emails for all board members.

NEW BUSINESS:

Wheeling Township attorney Ken Florey explained the Remote Attendance Policy to the Board. There has to be a Qualifying Event to attend remotely. The definition of a Qualifying Event is personal illness or disability, employment purposes, business of the Township or a family or other emergency. He said there should be a 48hour notice if attending remotely.

MOTION #4: APPROVAL OF WHEELING TOWNSHIP COMMUNITY HEALTH BOARD REMOTE ATTENDANCE POLICY

Motion by Jack Vrett, seconded by Jim Ruffatto to approve the Wheeling Township Community Health Board Remote Attendance Policy.

ROLL CALL VOTE: AYES: Bill Dixon, Jeanne Hamilton, Susan Hayes, John Lubbe, JoAnne Schultz.

NAYS: None....Motion #4 Carried

There was discussion of how often the Board should meet. Some wanted to meet twice a month, some wanted once a month, some wanted mornings, some wanted evenings and some wanted to meet at School District 21 offices. It was decided meetings would be held once a month at Wheeling Township. The next meeting will be April 19, 2023 at 7 pm at Wheeling Township.

MOTION #5: ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Jim Ruffatto seconded by Joanna Schultz

VOICE CALL VOTE: All Ayes....Motion #4 Carried.

The meeting for Wednesday, March 22, 2023, was declared adjourned at 10:01 am. The next scheduled Mental Health Board Meeting is set for Wednesday, April 19, 2023, at 7:00 p.m.