

WHEELING TOWNSHIP COMMUNITY MENTAL HEALTH BOARD MINUTES OF
NOVEMBER 8, 2023

CALL TO ORDER

The Mental Health Board Meeting of Wheeling Township, for November 8, 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 7:00 p.m.

ROLL CALL

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

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

Absent: None

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

President Jack Vrett led those assembled in the Pledge of Allegiance.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION #1: APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE WHEELING TOWNSHIP COMMUNITY MENTAL HEALTH BOARD MEETING ON OCTOBER 11, 2023, APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF SPECIAL BOARD MEETING OCTOBER 11, 2023 & APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF SPECIAL BOARD MEETING NOVEMBER 1, 2023

Motion by Jim Ruffatto, seconded by Susan Hayes, to approve the minutes of October 11, 2023 Wheeling Township Community Mental Health Board Meeting, Special Board Meeting October 11, 2023 & Special Board Meeting November 1, 2023

VOICE CALL VOTE: AYES: All Ayes, President Jack Vrett abstained from approval of both sets of October 11, 2023 minutes due to his absence at those meetings.

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

PRESENTATION

Deputy Chief Al Steffen from the Village of Wheeling Police Department & Social Services Manager Shari Huizar gave a presentation about Wheeling's Social Services Division. They spoke about the history of Social Services in Wheeling. In 2022 Wheeling Social Services was integrated into the Police Department fully as a division. The staff includes a manager & 3 Police Social Workers. Some of the cases handled are Child Abuse, Domestic Violence & Mental Health. Some of the services provided are Court Advocacy,

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Case Assessment, Crisis Intervention & Counseling. Some statistics are in 2022-23 there were 772 Wheeling Police Social Services Cases, from May 2020-April 2023 41% of cases were domestic/family conflict & in 2021-22 the Wheeling Fire Department had over 220 mental health calls. Some Senior Services are provided through the Social Services Division. There is a dining program for seniors provided through the Wheeling Park District. Over 14,000 meals are served a year. The presentation ended with questions and answers.

CITIZENS TO BE HEARD

Rosemary Walter a 40-year resident of Arlington Heights stated that Bill 690 was passed by both houses. She said she is assuming that the Wheeling Township Board will honor the levy that was voted on. She thanked everyone on the Board for their time, effort & compassion. She stated that she is hoping to hear tonight or in the future how the Board is going to move forward in the levying process.

Kathy O'Neil a Nurse & Coordinator of Pastoral Health Care at Our Lady of the Wayside Church shared that the Mental Health Ministry was holding a prayer circle this evening to pray for over 190 people who have a mental health concern. She stated that she is anxious to hear the results from the Needs Assessment Questionnaire. She said she was here to express her personal support for the program to move forward and set a budget.

Janis Farris stated that it's important that the taxpayers get the level of funding that was approved. She said the taxpayers don't want a new referendum on the ballot in 2024. She wants votes, voices and legislation honored.

Linda Waycie a Mount Prospect resident asked the Board to honor the levy of 1.5 million. She stated that the Board was asked to serve and that they made the decision to serve, so now she wants the Board to raise their voices and be supportive of the 1.5 million.

Lori Grainawi stated that the 690 bill was passed by both the house and the senate. She also stated that Wheeling Township came up in the discussion during the house debate. She stated to vote on a second referendum would be redundant, confusing & unnecessary to the voters. She hoping the Board gets to the business of what they are supposed to do.

BUSINESS

Approval of 2024 Meeting Dates-In response to the proposed schedule President Jack Vrett suggested maybe there is not a need to hold a meeting every month. Secretary Bill Dixon stated that the Board has to show that it is diligent & dedicated. He suggested picking a date for a January meeting and if not needed, it could be cancelled. The Board had a lot of discussion on meeting dates.

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MOTION #2: APPROVAL OF 2024 MEETING DATES

Motion by Jim Ruffatto, seconded by Jeanne Hamilton, to approve 2024 Meeting dates with the idea of adding a January & July Meeting if it became necessary.

ROLL CALL VOTE: AYES: Hamilton, Hayes, Lubbe, Ruffatto, Schultz, Vrett
NAYES: Dixon...Motion #2 Carried.

Discuss & Approval of Needs Assessment Proposals-Bill Dixon stated that for many years he was a member of Illinois City/County Management Association. The Association gets its staff support from a small unit within NIU's Center for Governmental Studies. For Appearances sakes Bill Dixon recused himself from the discussion or the voting. He stated as Secretary of the Board, he would remain in the room in case there were any motions.

Wheeling Township Administrator Regina Stapleton stated she tried getting Schaumburg's Community Survey results but they would not give it to her. She also tried Harper but Harper was in the process of redacting it.

JoAnne Schultz stated she spoke with Melissa Williams the Administrator from Schaumburg Township and Mel said they were very pleased with Harper & thought they were very thorough. Mel suggested to contact Dr. Bailey from Harper with any questions. Jim Ruffatto stated he like Harper from the perspective that they did group sessions and NUI did not. He also said NIU has lots of experience & has a data base of information to produce a Needs Assessment.

Jack Vrett stated he likes Harper's methodical approach and also stated that NIU has a lot of experience. He expressed he does not want the Board to tell the consultant what to search for & have them tell us what to do. He said he knows Harper is twice the cost of NIU but he likes their methodology as compared to NUI.

Jeanne Hamilton stated maybe some things could be cut from the Harper proposal in order to lower the cost. She said she would like to hear some suggestions from them.

John Lubbe stated if he had to vote today, he would vote for NIU. He said he does not have enough information on Harper. He also said Schaumburg Township is the only Township using Harper for their Needs Assessment. Also, he spoke to a Mental Health Board member from Schaumburg Township in the Summer & the member said it was not going well with Harper as they have to teach them. There was a lot more back & forth discussion on the Needs Assessment approval.

MOTION #3: TO CLOSE DEBATE ON THE NEEDS ASSESSMENT

Motion by John Lubbe, seconded by Jim Ruffatto to close debate on the Needs Assessment.

ROLL CALL VOTE: AYES: Hamilton, Hayes, Lubbe, Ruffatto, Schultz, Vrett
NAYES: None
ABSTAIN: Dixon...Motion #3 carried

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MOTION #4: TO VOTE IN FAVOR OF SELECTING NIU FOR THE NEEDS ASSESSMENT

Motion by John Lubbe, seconded by Jeanne Hamilton to select NIU for the Needs Assessment.

ROLL CALL VOTE: AYES: Hamilton, Lubbe
NAYES: Hayes, Ruffatto, Schultz, Vrett
ABSTAIN: Dixon...Motion #4 Failed

MOTION #5: TO DELAY THE DECISION UNTIL A DECEMBER MEETING IS DETERMINED

Motion by Jim Ruffatto, seconded by Jack Vrett to delay the decision until a December meeting is determined.

ROLL CALL VOTE: AYES: Hamilton, Hayes, Ruffatto, Vrett
NAYES: Lubbe, Schultz
ABSTAIN: Dixon...Motion #5 Carried

There was a brief intermission in the meeting while the Administrator Regina Stapleton left to check the meeting room calendar. It was decided that the next meeting would be January 11, 2024.

MOTION # 6 TO ACCEPT HARPER'S PROPOSAL IF THEY CAN NEGOTIATE PRICE

Motion by JoAnne Schultz, seconded by Susan Hayes to accept Harper's proposal if they can negotiate price.

ROLL CALL VOTE: AYES: Hayes, Ruffatto, Schultz, Vrett
NAYES: Lubbe
ABSTAIN: Dixon
RECUSAL: Hamilton...Motion #6 Carried

Recommendation for Funding Agencies-Jack Vrett stated he wants the Board to share their thoughts about Funding Recommendations with Regina Stapleton. There will be discussion & approval at the January meeting for funding of agencies.

BOARD COMMENTS

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Jack Vrett asked Attorney Ken Florey to explain the limits on political speech before any comments were made. He stated as a member of the Board you cannot express your opinion for or against a referendum.

John Lubbe asked when the survey results would be available. Administrator Regina Stapleton explained that the Township is very short staffed and that the results have not been done yet.

MOTION # 7 ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Bill Dixon, seconded by Susan Hayes

VOICE CALL VOTE: All Ayes...

NAYES: None...Motion #7 carried

The meeting for Wednesday, November 11, 2023, was declared adjourned at 8:58 pm. The next scheduled Community Mental Health Board Meeting is set for Thursday, January 11, 2024, at 7 pm.