

WHEELING TOWNSHIP COMMUNITY MENTAL HEALTH BOARD MINUTES OF
JULY 19, 2023

CALL TO ORDER

The Community Mental Health Board Meeting of Wheeling Township, for July 19, 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 COMMUNITY MENTAL HEALTH BOARD MEETING ON JUNE 14, 2023

Motion by Jim Ruffatto, seconded by Jack Vrett, to approve the minutes of June 14, 2023 Wheeling Township Community Mental Health Board Meeting.

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

PRESENTATION

Clearbrook Executive Vice President Hollis Gorrie passed out a Power Point of the services Clearbrook provides. Some of the services offered are Home-Based Services, Respite Programs, Child & Family Connections, Child Therapy Services, Clinical Services & Community Day Services. There are many mores services offered. Clearbrook is the largest provider of home services in Illinois. The Residential Services provide Community Integrated Living Arrangements (CILA) and Intermediate Care Facilities (ICF). She concluded with questions & answers.

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CITIZENS TO BE HEARD

Kathy Motto is a resident of Arlington Heights for almost 50 years. She has been a Mental Health Provider for 30 Years. She stated she would like to see the citizens contribute to the questions of the survey. The gaps she sees are Supported Housing & Homelessness.

Lori Grainawi stated she represents herself and the others that created the 708 Board. She has concerns that the questions on the survey are not being asked properly. Also, she does not want the survey to be rushed and feels it should be done professionally. She also stated that volunteers have offered to help but to her knowledge none of them have been contacted. She was pleased to see there was a page on the Wheeling Township website about The Wheeling Township Community Mental Health Board. She stated there was only 1 paragraph and felt a lot more could be said, like what the Board is about, the goals of the Board and accomplishments. She wants to see more supportive housing.

Teri Pacion a resident of Wheeling has two sons with serious mental illness. She works for Abbot Laboratory where she is part of leadership group for the disability employee network. She also is the community chair person for Mental Health. She stated that her hope is the Board will take Mental Health seriously. Also, she said Mental Health has a special set of circumstances because there is a stigma.

Rich Rosen a Wheeling resident is asking the Board to learn as much as they can from the various groups that are presenting before the Board. He stated to get as much knowledge as possible. Also, he would like to see the Board move at a quicker pace.

Traci Sherva a Arlington Heights resident said it's important to take the time up front to do a thorough assessment before setting a levy. She stated a professional researcher versus an intern will take the data to determine the needs of the community.

Arlen Gould from School District 21 stated that in the late 1960's Mental Health facilities were closing in Illinois & all over the country. He also said smaller facilities were to be built but they were never developed and that's why we have the need today. Also, he stated he is on a school board and if they were doing a survey they would never hire an intern to do the survey. They would hire a professional for truth and accuracy. He asked the Board to ask the Wheeling Township Board for a loan to hire a professional to do the survey.

Nina Losch a resident of Arlington Heights stated she found it very challenging to get any updates or information about the Board. She mentioned maybe having more info on the website or Facebook. Also, she wants to make sure parents have the opportunity to talk about the needs based on age in the survey.

Jeff Pasicka a resident of Arlington Heights stated that he is a real concerned citizen. He is concerned about how the survey is being done. He said the homeless really need the help. He urged the Board to get a professional survey.

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Jeff Neff a resident of Arlington Heights stated he wants the survey to go to the unreachable. He said the institutionalized are a very important part of the population. Also, he said to make more use of the volunteers that have professional experience.

Tom Devitt a resident of Wheeling suggested the Board have a zoom or a virtual option for the meetings. He too stated to do a professional survey.

BUSINESS:

President Jeanne Hamilton advised everybody that the approved minutes are on the website.

Wheeling Township Attorney Ken Florey announced that President Jeanne Hamilton will be stepping down & this will require an election of a new president. Ken Florey stated the floor was open for nominations.

MOTION #2: TO APPROVE JACK VRETT AS WHEELING TOWNSHIP COMMUNITY MENTAL HEALTH BOARD PRESIDENT

Motion by Jim Ruffatto, seconded by JoAnne Schultz to approve Jack Vrett as president.

ROLL CALL VOTE: All Ayes...
Nays: None... Motion #2 Carried.

President Jack Vrett thanked everyone and said he will not let anyone down. He also thanked Jeanne Hamilton for her services thus far.

MOTION # 3: TO APPROVE THE COMMUNITY SURVEY

Motion by Bill Dixon, seconded by John Lubbe to approve the Community Survey.

Open for discussion. John Lubbe question "in-pt care" and asked if it should be spelled out "in-patient care"

MOTION #4 TO AMEND THE MOTION TO APPROVE THE COMMUNITY SURVEY

Motion by Bill Dixon, seconded by Jeanne Hamilton to amend the Motion to Approve the Community Survey by changing "in-pt care" to "in-patient care."
Open for discussion.

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ROLL CALL VOTE: All Ayes.
Nays: None... Motion #4 carried.

MOTION #5 SECOND MOTION TO AMEND MOTION TO APPROVE THE COMMUNITY SURVEY

Motion by Jeanne Hamilton, seconded by Bill Dixon to again amend the Motion to Approve the Community Survey by changing “out-pt care” to “out-patient care.”

Open for discussion.

ROLL CALL VOTE: All Ayes...
Nays: None... Motion #5 carried

MOTION # 3: MOTION TO APPROVE THE COMMUNITY SURVEY AS AMENDED (TWICE)

ROLL CALL VOTE: All Ayes...
Nays: None... Motion #3 carried

DISCUSSION:

Bi-Laws:

Bill Dixon spoke about Bylaws. Bill Dixon & Jack Vrett did some research on Mental Health Board Bylaws. They researched 5 Townships and 3 counties. After reviewing them Bill Dixon stated the word Bylaws places a major reliance on state law. He also said a Policy Manuel is not an accurate description. He is recommending that the Wheeling Township Community Health Board name their Bylaws Governance Framework. He passed out a sheet with categories. He said to start out simple & basic.

Mission Statement/Vision:

Wheeling Township Administrator Regina Stapleton passed out options for the Mission, Vision & Purpose/Philosophy statement. She stated they looked at other Mental Health Boards and reviewed their statements. She also said the Purpose/Philosophy comes right out of the state statues. It was decided the Board will convey to Regina what option they like.

Focus Groups:

Board Member Susan Hayes spoke about Focus Groups. She stated there is a list of things required for planning once the responses from the surveys arrive.

Needs Assessment:

Board Member John Lubbe stated that Northern Illinois University does both the Needs Assessment & Strategic Planning. UIC only does the Needs Assessment. Wheeling Township Administrator Regina Stapleton & Board Member John Lubbe had a meeting

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with Harper Business College about a Needs Assessment. John Lubbe stated he was very impressed and do both the Needs Assessment & Strategic Planning. He suggested to bring them in so they can share their proposals. It was decided that John Lubbe will reach out to other Mental Health Boards for examples of an RFP. He will then share these with Wheeling Township Administrator Regina Stapleton. There was a lot more discussion on this topic.

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS:

Bill Dixon asked about Wheeling Township attorney Ken Florey's letter. Mr. Florey said it would be discussed at a later date.

Jim Ruffatto suggested putting the names & email addresses on the website.

Jack Vrett stated that one of the powers the Board has is to create a nonprofit organization to help coordinate & involve volunteers. He also said it is very clear there are people out there that want to help.

John Lubbe suggested that the meetings be on Zoom. Wheeling Township attorney Ken Florey stated that it is a very big investment. Jim Ruffatto stated that he talked with School District 21 Superintendent and they have a facility that is equipped & available to have the Board Meetings on Zoom. He suggested maybe this Board travel to different facilities that are equipped to have the meetings on Zoom. This idea will be put on a future agenda.

MOTION #6: ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Bill Dixon, seconded by Jim Ruffatto to adjourn

VOICE CALL VOTE: All Ayes...

NAYES: None...Motion #6 carried

The meeting for Wednesday, July 19, 2023, was declared adjourned at 8:43 pm. The next scheduled Community Mental Health Board Meeting is set for Wednesday, August 9, 2023, at 7:00 p.m.