CITY COUNCIL
HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE
Monday, January 29, 2007
Civic Center - Room 2402
7:30 P.M.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Aldermen Bernstein, Holmes, Jean-Baptiste, Moran, and Tisdahl

STAFF PRESENT: Judy Aiello, Rolanda Russell, Dennis Nilsson, Sam Petterno, Doug Gaynor, Jeff Corey, Bob Dornecker, Harvey Saver, Elke Purze, Brad Yatabe, Jay Terry, Audrey Trotsky

OTHERS PRESENT: Alderman Hansen, Sharon Eckersall, Diane Benjamin, Evanston Township Assessor's Office; Sue Cantor, Jane Grover, Mental Health Board; (See attached list of Attendees)

PRESIDING: Alderman Tisdahl

I. CALL TO ORDER

Alderman Tisdahl called the meeting to order at 8:40 p.m. and apologized for the lateness in starting the meeting as the Aldermen were all in attendance at another meeting.

II. APROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE NOVEMBER 20, 2006, MEETING

The minutes of the November 20, 2006 meeting were called and approved (4-0). (Alderman Bernstein was not in attendance at this time.)

III. CONSIDERATION OF DECEMBER 2006 AND JANUARY 2007 TOWNSHIP MONTHLY BILLS

Alderman Holmes’ ongoing question pertained to the Assessor’s office December legal fee bills for R. S. Hoover and Associates. From December 11, 2006 through January 10, 2007 another $1,177.50 was added. Alderman Holmes questioned when will this end and what are these additional charges for?

Ms. Purze of the City’s Legal Department has been in direct contact with Mr. Hoover regarding the bills and said this case is on appeal. In August of 2005 we won on our motion for summary judgment to have the case dismissed. The plaintiff took it up on appeal and the Appellate Court afforded the plaintiff numerous opportunities to file their record. Apparently there was something improper about the filing of the record which is what is delaying the case at the Appellate level. Alderman Holmes wondered how many times an appeal can be filed. Ms. Purze responded when an appeal is filed certain procedures need to be followed. Mr. Hoover sent a time line of everything that he filed with the Appellate Court up to this point. Alderman Bernstein also voiced his frustration with Mr. Hoover as this has been ongoing for years.

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Alderman Moran recalled the committee’s concerns were about being billed large amounts of money strictly for clerical things, he assumes for somebody getting on a train in Lake Forest and traveling to the Daley Center to file something and then back to Lake Forest on the train billing us $250 and hour to do that. There are services that will do what has to be done for $30 or $35 an hour. We need to get some delineation of how they went about with the defense of this case and how they were billing us and thought we would have this information tonight, as this has become quite expensive. Ms. Purze said she had the briefs and the time lines but does not have an explanation for why we were charged $250 for filing. Alderman Moran asked if they filed Appellate Court briefs without the record being on file as nothing can be done without the records being on file. Ms. Purze said they were trying to supplement the records because certain portions of the records were missing at the Circuit Court level.

Alderman Bernstein asked if we can get Mr. Hoover’s billing statement as he wants to see what the hours are, we were supposed to get these billing statements on a regular basis. This case was capped two years ago at a third of what this is costing and we are no where near done.

Alderman Bernstein moved to hold payment of this until all the billing statements were received. Alderman Jean-Baptiste felt we should pay a third of what is being billed us and if Mr. Hoover wants to get all his money he can take us to court. To supplement Appellate records you can go to a clerk or call to ask if the records are ready and send anybody available to pick the record up to take a block away to the Appellate Court. We need to stop being exploited by this individual. Alderman Jean-Baptiste seconded the motion to hold the bills. He hoped Mr. Hoover will get the message we have been trying to communicate to him for a long time.
Alderman Tisdahl called for a vote on the motion to hold payment of Hoover bills, motion unanimously passed (5-0).

Alderman Bernstein questioned Ms. Eckersall’s need of additional funds for trial reassessment as that comes every three years, no matter time of the year it comes. Ms. Eckersall said it always comes during May, June and July, however her budget ends March 31st and they want to be prepared for them starting March 9th when notices are mailed out. This means they won’t be coming in until Tuesday of the following week so we have a few days there plus three five day weeks. We close the appeals the Thursday before Good Friday as we are not open on Good Friday. With the amount of days left in March we feel we will not need to request any more money for the assistant. This was discussed with Ms. Vance and what’s left in the budget for office expense will cover this cost. We may run over in supplies but are going to time it where the supplies will go into the following year’s budget. We think we’re okay with this because they shortened the days by two weeks.

Alderman Tisdahl called for approval of the Township December 2006 and January 2007 bills. to include Alderman Bernstein’s amendment to hold payment of all Assessor’s legal bills. Alderman Moran moved approval, seconded by Alderman Bernstein, motion unanimously approved (5-0).

IV. CONSIDERATION OF ORDINANCE 12-O-07 AMENDING THE CITY NOISE ORDANCE

Alderman Hansen stated she met with Brad Yatabe of the Law Department and Chief Nilsson and Commander Pettineo to discuss enforcement of this ordinance and an increased minimum fine opposed to the current ordinance that has a $10 minimum fine. Radios versus speakers to radios are not specified because making it simple in language it’s easier for the officers to determine whether or not someone is breaking the law. In this proposed ordinance the officer can ticket them if the radio or music can be heard 75 feet or more from the car. Another reason is the new cars now being made already have standard up scaled speakers and radios. This ordinance will also allow officers to write a ticket as they hear or observe this as well as if citizens call in that someone is parked in front of their home with the radio booming. This not only pertains to cars traveling down the street but parked on the streets as well.

Alderman Hansen also wanted to include language in the tow issue which she believes would give the ordinance more bite. Fines can always be kept the way they currently are in the ordinance or changed if the noise can be heard 100 feet or more from the vehicle then the issue of the tow could be instituted. Currently EPD is using the enforcement under state law where there is no minimum fine and the maximum fine is $50. At the last meeting Chief Nilsson noted when the tickets get to court the judges don’t do anything with them and as it currently stands they don’t have to give any type of fine whatsoever. In 2005 the Police Department wrote 33 tickets and in 2006 they wrote 28 tickets. Unfortunately Alderman Hansen was not able to get the disposition because we don’t keep those the Clerk of the Circuit Court does.

Alderman Hansen referred to the language and how officers would be able to enforce 75 feet. In practice an officer has to come out and say he tape measured the distance and it said 75 feet. Often times when you’re prosecuting a speeding ticket and the officer didn’t use a laser or other technology there is an older way of determining if somebody is speeding called pacing, which is how the officer testified he was able to determine the speed of the auto, something in this instance that can help the officer. Chief Nilsson said there are some intersections where the officers already know where 75 feet is. If the committee is inclined to pass this ordinance onto Council and if Council passes the ordinance, in the future officers could visualize what 75 feet would be if they were to be at some type of intersection. Alderman Hansen believed that this type of ordinance with up scaled fines and your reconsideration of the tow issue would help combat this problem in the neighborhoods. This is being written under the state level and could help us in Evanston.

Alderman Bernstein had no problem with this other than the enforcement capacity and noted the one thing we have to change is if the sound generated by the device is audible to a person. A police officer is not necessarily a person, you have different sensibilities. In the ordinance he would add, including, but not limited to, a peace officer so an officer could actually hear and make his own arrest. He would ask where is the person who heard this rather than if the officer heard it. This is not a 911 call and he encourages people to call the station if they hear a car going by with the location/direction of that car and if the next person says the same thing an officer who has time might be able to intercept that car. Absence of that he does not know how you will be able to enforce this.

Alderman Bernstein made a motion to amend the ordinance by adding the language that a person includes, but no by way of limitation, a police officer. That way if the officer hears it on the street his determination is sufficient. Alderman Moran seconded the motion.

Alderman Jean-Baptiste respected what is being done and thinks a lot of people in town are tired of the big vibrating boom boxes which is why he agreed with Alderman Holmes about targeting that kind of moving theater speaker system as opposed to the general problem of young people playing their radios too loud. Many people may be in violation of this particular ordinance during the summer months, therefore it becomes too broad, and he would like to see us address our real concern. Most people would be not be offended by a loud radio going down the street, they’re offended by these boxes that vibrate the entire neighborhood. He would rather support an ordinance that would do something to help shape
that behavior than an ordinance that is so broad it will end up being somewhat arbitrary and community young people will
end up being in violation of this without really having that level of offense to their neighbors. That is why he is opposed to
this particular ordinance as it is.

Alderman Holmes asked Alderman Hansen if we know what the levels of those new built in systems are in the new cars.
What bothers her is what would be the consequences if you buy a car with a radio that has a higher sound level than what
is normally built in, not the booming vibrating systems, who do you arrest, the manufacturer. What would we be enforcing
because the cars are built by the manufacturers. Most of the young people we’re talking about don’t have the new cars
but have the old cars that they put the systems in.

Alderman Bernstein said the cars may have the capacity for the loud vibration but people can turn it off which to him is the
real offense. He does not know how you specify vibration in an ordinance. Years ago when decimal level was discussed
the cost of monitoring devices to measure sound was ridiculous. He would look to the discretion of our officers for this
enforcement. We don’t profile here so that will not happen. Theoretically this ordinance is available for that kind of sound
and the directive of the Police Chief would be not to go overboard with this kind of ordinance. The reality is this is a priority
crime and is not the preeminent stop that the officer will make and probably will be way down on the totem pole of
offenses. He does not know if there is language to codify this type of intrusion.

Alderman Moran moved for approval of Ordinance 12-O-07, seconded by Alderman Bernstein. Alderman Tisdahl
called for any further discussion and remarked if we are going after the really louder sound she also does not want to put a
lot of teenagers in violation. She wondered if this louder vibrating sound be heard more than 75 feet away and asked if
100 feet could be more acceptable. Alderman Holmes added what bothers her is the loud vibrating sounds from the
speakers not the radios. Alderman Moran noted the ordinance covers everything not only speakers. Alderman Bernstein
said he supports the ordinance but his concern with this ordinance, as well with the old ordinance, is enforceability, we do
not want to pass a law that will not be enforceable. If we pass this ordinance this may just call attention to the right
thinking people to turn the volume down to the extent that if the officers come upon an offender in the normal course of
their business, they can ticket that offender.

Alderman Tisdahl called for a vote of approval of Ordinance 12-O-07, ordinance approved (4-1). Aldermen Moran, Bernstein, Holmes, and Tisdahl voted aye, Alderman Jean-Baptiste voted no.

Mr. Terry wanted to clarify that the ordinance was approved to include Alderman Bernstein’s amendment. Alderman
Bernstein said he has no problem if there could be language included to address Alderman Jean-Baptiste’s concerns.
We will look to the Police Department for their normal, rational enforcement.

V. REPORT FROM THE EVANSTON MENTAL HEALTH BOARD ON PROPOSED FY 08 AGENCY FUNDING LEVELS

Sue Canter introduced herself, Jane Grover and Harvey Saver and proceeded to give an overview of the Mental
Health Board activities during the past year reporting the Mental Health Board followed the same funding process as in the
past several years. Proposal reviews were held and questions by each proposal were developed and sent to agencies,
each to be addressed at the hearings. Two sets of hearings were then conducted, one with the Mental Health Board
funded agencies and another with agencies funded by both the Mental Health Board and the United Way. The Mental
Health Board funding guidelines and criteria were revised prior to the hearings and then filled out by each Board member
after the hearings. The results were tabulated and given to the allocation committee that used this information as one tool
for forming their funding recommendations. At the November Mental Health Board regular meeting they met to discuss
the recommendations, make changes as required and vote on the recommendations as a whole. The Board adopted
recommendations for the allocation of $844,000 to 27 programs and 18 different agencies. This recommendation includes
the requested increase of funds of $15,000 over its current level of $829,000. The rational behind the requested increase
comes from a number of sources. First the funding environment continues to be difficult. State funding has tighter
guidelines and is more restricted as a result of the implementation of fee for service. The Mental Health Board received a
larger number of proposals than in the past. The proposals this year came from 29 programs and 19 agencies. Over the
past 10 years the Board has seen a reduction of $262,000 in funding capacity, close to a 25% reduction. This year our
funding requests were up $185,000 over last year’s requests, approximately a 22% increase. Even though the amount
budgeted for the Mental Health Board has remained the same since 2003, at $829,000, our dollars have in effect
diminished because there has been no yearly boost to make up for the increased cost of living. In the E-Plan Community
Survey mental health problems were related as a top health concern in Evanston. Looking at the total community health
needs assessment mental health was one of top 6 priorities which would indicate the services the Mental Health Board
funds are important and valuable to the community. A number of the funded agencies and programs support and carry out
the goals of the City’s Strategic Plan as well as the Youth Initiative. This is particularly true of the programs and agencies
promoting housing, employment, service to families, children and youth, and those involved in collaboration in with other
agencies and community groups. In order for the Mental Health Board to fund any new initiatives without an increase in
funding capability the Board would need to take dollars from stable, excellent agencies and programs that truly count on
local funding to make ends meet. Approximately 10% or about 7,400 individuals of Evanston’s population use the services
The Mental Health Board feels that the agency has an important mission, its visibility has increased, it has a wonderful website, and has developed good fund raising strategies. In spite of these positives, BE-HIV’s mental health program has failed to meet expectations that are required of all Mental Health Board funded programs. BE-HIV’s final score when measured with the Mental Health Board’s funding criteria tool was the lowest of all the funded agencies. The outcome objectives developed by BE-HIV were not truly measurable and client centered, they were based only on client report. Through the past and current funding year BE-HIV was able to report progress in only one outcome objective for one-quarter of reporting. Attempts by the Mental Health Board and staff to work with BE-HIV to revise outcomes were met with slow response from the agency and less than desirable results. For the past two years BE-HIV has served only 5 Evanston residents in the mental health program. This is the program funded by the Board, not the total agency, just the mental health program. This number is below the agency’s own projections both years. While the program grew from 37 to 53 total clients, Evanston people served in that program dropped from 8 to 5 clients. BE-HIV reports their therapists have nearly full case loads and there is no waiting list. This would indicate there is ability to serve more clients. Evanston has a fairly high rate of HIV AIDS infection when compared to other Illinois communities, yet BE-HIV has not been able to engage more Evanston clients. Mental Health Board’s funding to BE-HIV amounts to less than 1% of their total funding dollars. This would suggest that Mental Health Board funding would be more symbolic in nature. Because of their limited dollars the Board cannot support symbolic funding. It seems BE-HIV has been doing fairly well financially, that combined with Mental Health Board expectations not being readily met and other agencies performing at a higher level with regard to funding criteria outcomes, and Evanston residents served, the decision was made not to fund the BE-HIV mental health program for FY 2007/08.

New program requests funded were, Center for Independent Futures Full Life Model Evanston High School Outreach Program was funded as a challenge grant with ETHS where the program is carried out. Youth Job Center received funding this year as they strongly responded to the Board’s encouragement to focus on accountability and outcomes when they were not funded last year. The Evanston North Shore YWCA Transitional Housing and Community Based Services Program was also recommended for funding.

The Mental Health Board has engaged in other activities involving community planning, Board development and community education. A new Mental Health Board accomplishment during December of this past year was the presentation of citizen’s award to Carol Warkenthien former owner of Café Express on Dempster and Sherman. Her shop was near a couple of Evanston’s mental health facilities. Ms. Warkenthien went out of her way to support the residents of these facilities and was presented with a certificate from Mayor Morton for her kindness and welcoming attitude toward her Evanston customers who are living with mental health problems. Mrs. Warkenthien is not a professional or community volunteer but rather a local business person who cares a lot about people in the community. The Mental Health Board plans to recognize other community members who are not volunteers or human service professionals but ordinary citizens who help make Evanston a great place to live.

Alderman Bernstein expressed his gratitude for an outstanding and incredible report. Alderman Moran thanked the Mental Health Board for all of their work and this amazing report in terms of detail, accountability and clear documentation of their efforts to fund our social service agencies on a just and equitable basis. He thought this committee should recommend to the City Council the Mental Health Board’s request for $15,000 in its budget discussions. He knew we had fallen down in our commitment in terms Purchase Services but was shocked to see that we’re at the same funding level that we were at 21 years ago. We think of ourselves as a caring community and he believes we are, but we have to make some further effort to fund social services.

Alderman Moran made a motion that the Human Services Committee recommend to the City Council to increase the $15,000 for the Mental Health Board as requested. The committee unanimously approved this recommendation (5-0).

Alderman Moran accepted the Mental Health Board’s recommendations in total including the circumstance where BE-HIV was denied and regretted the kind of circumstance we find ourselves in. When he first came on the Council a number of years ago BE-HIV was getting started. At that time the City of Evanston had the 3rd of 4th highest incidents of HIV or AIDS and personally felt we needed to make a commitment to outreach, education efforts and assistance for whatever we could do to support BE-HIV. As a community we needed to develop a response to the high incidents HIV and AIDS presented to
the community. He hoped that BE-HIV did not feel overly criticized and take what has been said as a recommendatory suggestion in terms of benchmarks and progress. He is very happy that BE-HIV is here and still performing an important function as BE-HIV has a strong history of being a contributor to the community. He hopes you continue with your work here and that we will see you again.

Alderman Jean-Baptiste thanked the Mental Health Board for all their work and development of criteria. He was glad to see the turn around for Youth Job Center being funded again this year after last year’s denial. He also joins Alderman Moran in inviting BE-HIV to come back next year and apply for funding. His concern and the concern of many of the Council members is for the youth who are subject of our police enforcement as many of them suffer from being alienated, discouraged and disconnected. He was interested in what the Mental Health Board thinks needs to be happening in that area to help abate some of the problems. Ms. Grover responded the Mental Health Board has funded a number of agencies that address youth from Family Focus, Youth Job Center, YOU, to the Evanston Defender’s office in their social work program and legal services. Sheila McCorkel recently came to a Mental Health Board meeting and made an excellent presentation explaining her efforts for the City. The Board learned a lot from Ms. McCorkel and see is a lot of youth needing attention and resources. We are stymied as to how to focus those efforts so the youths on the fringes and a bit adrift come back to the fold. Alderman Jean-Baptiste noted the Mental Health Board has engaged themselves with the various groups that have been trying to do things in the City. He asked if they see something that’s missing that they may need to hear about and with Ms. McCorkle’s input help that troubled population. Canter thought what the needs are is currently in a data collection and knows the Board will be helping with that. There haven’t been any new agencies applying that serve only youth. The agencies we have doing that have been there for a long time. The Mental Health Board is happy to help in any way they can by providing information and helping agencies collaborate with one another. The agencies that focus on families and youth already do collaborate but not necessarily in a formal way.

Alderman Tisdahl commented the Mental Health Board has done a wonderful job and she is in awe of your work. We’re looking to get the non-profits in town to help with our strategic planning and wondered if next year the Mental Health Board would look at all the groups you fund, particularly for teenagers, as she knows youth is funded but teenagers are the ones frequently left out. Ms. McCorkle’s report says there were things for these teens when they were younger but now that they’re in high school there’s nothing for them if they’re not involved in extra curricular activities. Maybe you’re not getting any new requests which you can’t do anything about but asks that you zero in and look with extra kindness on that particular group because we are trying to bring them into the fold. Ms. Canter thought the high school is doing some bridging with the younger kids that are in the Y.O.U. program as well as Family Focus.

Alderman Tisdahl had a question about one of the agencies the Board is funding for high school students, the Center for Independent Futures. She knows their work is terrific as they have a home in her in her ward, but transition activities are the high school’s responsibility. Ms. Grover said the Board also thought that and is why they required matching funds. Alderman Tisdahl was glad to hear that but said ETHS is supposed to be doing that. If they’re not doing it well enough it doesn’t mean we need a new agency, that is clearly the school’s responsibility and they have to be told they have to do a better job here. Ms. Grover said in their funding proposal there weren’t funds for the type of work they were proposing to do, transitioning high school students out of high school into independent living. Alderman Tisdahl asked whether they are just sitting in the high school planning this or actually physically helping. Ms. Canter said it’s the full life model, something they developed that targets the 18 to 21 group of students with special needs who after they turn 21 the bus magically stops coming and there is not much out there for that age group of individuals with disabilities. This program is an intensive way to prepare these students in that transition time to get ready for work or semi independent living or living in a group home and they also engage the families. It’s much more than a transition program, it’s mandated in the school that there have to be transition programs for ages 18 to 21, what they are proposing is even more so when the students have a plan. Each person has something they’re going to do and they’re hoping to reach out to students who have the most problems in that area, children from less advantaged families that need the most support to get their children on the way once they reach 21. This is quite a comprehensive program which is just getting started so we don’t know that much about it. Ms. Grover noted in previous years they had criticized the Center for Independent Futures wasn’t reflective of Evanston’s demographics. We asked them to please dig a little deeper in the community as there are other students with mental health problems and developmental disabilities who need their kind of assistance in the housing transition that they’re not reaching. They decided those students were at the high school and this program is part of their efforts to diversify some of their housing. Alderman Tisdahl said its not that she’s opposed to funding them but questions if the high school is matching the funds since they already do this. Mr. Saver said the Executive Director of the Center for Independent Futures has begun looking for some direction with the Superintendent of the high school, specifically what they should be doing. At this point the Board still doesn’t know what its budget will be come February 28th and whether they would then need to go back and make some overall modifications. Their Director already approached the high school letting them know things are still up in the air and asked if the Mental Health Board would be available to help discuss what the arrangements will be with the high school. The Board’s path is it will be a dollar for dollar match. The transition tool they developed is for an assessment in helping to plan some of the next stages that are a little different and more involved and comprehensive than what the high school is doing. The high school initially committed $1,000 out of the total budget, and the Board then threw out the challenge to them that they’d be willing to support it.

Alderman Tisdahl asked Mr. Terry if the City is asking BE-HIV to help us in the Health Department transition. Mr. Terry responded, not at this time. We had one preliminary discussion with them when we were examining the range of possible
providers for HIV testing. He can’t say we will never go back to them and raise that question, but at the moment we are
exploring other alternatives for STD services and hopes to soon come back with more information about that. Alderman
Tisdahl then said she hoped BE-HIV will be back next year because we want you back.

Alderman Jean-Baptiste moved to accept the Mental Health Board’s report, seconded by Alderman Moran. The
committee unanimously approved the Mental Health Board’s report (5-0).

VI. BE-HIV FUNDING RECOMMENDATIONS

Brad McLaughlin, Executive Director of BE-HIV, said nobody suggested that the Evanston Mental Health Board hasn’t
been deliberative nor have they not created criteria for reviewing some of these agencies, but there are a number of
issues they still have and sent a letter to the Board explaining some of these issues. In the minutes of 2006 the Evanston
Mental Health Board acknowledged they had an issue with how things were allocated. The very same set of minutes said
this Human Services Committee congratulated them on such a deliberate process. In that same set of minutes they
acknowledged why are they funding child services at 37%, why one agency gets 10% of the total funding, why another
agency get 90% of the total funding for this program and the Mental Health Board said they didn’t know except Mr. Saver
interjected when the Mental Health Board was created these were basically the funding levels they had all along. They
delivered an application to the Mental Health Board for the first funding hearing when Ms. Grover was their liaison and
spoke about how wonderful it was to see that the mental health piece had been pulled away from the education outreach
which had also been funded. The Mental Health Board has funded case management and educational outreach as well
as the mental health piece. The $500 for case management wasn’t cost effective to do these reports and they thought it
made more sense to streamline an application for the mental health piece. The United Way was delighted to see we had
done this and congratulated us as we were receiving combined funding from both. At the end of that process we got
$2000 more than we asked for and were one of the agencies that got increased funding last year and were trying to divide
it out and make sure it was equitable between the two programs. Nevertheless our score was low which we called Ms.
Grover about and were told she did not know but $2000 was a nice pat on the head. She also told us we were getting
another liaison and there would be an intern liaison in this process. Carol Sittler, our intern liaison, visited our agency
once and was delighted with what BE-HIV was doing and continues to do in an aggregate for the City of Evanston and said
she hoped to get BE-HIV next year. That is what we were very clear with in our application process. BE-HIV is an
Evanston organization; we reach thousands of students in ETHS every year. Despite the fact that 1400 tests are done at
the Evanston Department of Public Health every year we were certainly willing to chip in and pick up the slack wherever
we could hoping the Health Department would be a little more directive of what those tests were like and when was the
heavy season so we could get support in there to do it. We were certainly willing to participate in that process. Every
year a large number of Evanston residents, for one more degree of removal from a public organization, come to BE-HIV
for testing as well. In our cover letter and in our application we went through the entire litany of our services that the
citizens of Evanston receive in the only HIV funded agency in the City Evanston. We need the money in the mental
health piece and it was a stark $5000 which was $2000 more than we received in the past. He does not know how many
people you expect us to serve for $5000. That’s still a cheap session for 100 hours of service and yet that’s not true either
because mental health was redefined last year to include some of the things that we have never included in mental health
and very much shouldn’t have. Not everybody is able to project themselves or tell their stories in one on one individual
counseling and yet our therapy is an approved form of mental health counseling and three Evanston residents attended
that. Five Evanston residents received crisis counseling from us over the phone. You go to the Health Department, you
get a HIV diagnosis, and still most people think their world is over. Their world is going to change because their
relationship with their employer, with their spouse or partner, with their friends is going to be different. There are a lot of
things that happen to an individual. Some of them have issues with psychosis and many other issues of self esteem and
disclosure issues in relationships that take many weeks, months and perhaps years to address. The Mental Health Board
said we only served the same 5 people this year, did they look the people housed last year, are those the same children in
the child care services, the only one they asked about was ours. In the minutes you said we did a magnificent job there
was a great deal of mis-information. In this last entire fiscal year we tried to get in touch with our liaison Mr. LeMell and
never saw him. He did come to the hearing and didn’t ask a single question and when it came time for the allocation
hearing he was not there. We appealed the first time and sent letters to Mr. Terry and the Mental Health Board. We were
put on the January 11th meeting agenda and MR. LeMell was not there. We had a liaison for over a year and nothing was
addressed the entire year. The Mental Health Board looks at the application and makes assessments, on what? Outcomes are
a huge issue for an organization like BE-HIV where you have relationships with your spouse, your
workmates, etc., as your life changes dramatically with an HIV diagnosis. Mr. McLaughlin said, yes they did deliberate,
we asked for the area of money that we needed it the most, they myopically looked at a single program that needed the
most funding and refused to see the vast array of incredible services that we provide to this town. This is the only agency,
of any kind, for HIV that you will find.

Alderman Bernstein remarked we approved the Mental Health Board’s recommendations and in light of this would like to
revisit them. The liaison was to have played a bigger role and didn’t, if in fact the decision is the same he appreciated that
but requests that you review this.
Ms. Grover said it’s hard to know where to begin. Its not about BE-HIV the agency, its not about Mr. McLaughlin, its about the actual funding application that we received asking for $12,000 for a program that we funded last year for $5000 to serve five Evanston residents. It’s not the issue that it was the same five Evanston residents, its that in a program that has grown BE-HIV has been unable to bring more Evanston residents into the program despite efforts to recruit clients to this program. This raises the question of the need for the program in Evanston. There’s also another issue, we require all the agencies to report to us how the program is making a difference. We have objective outcome measures that are meaningful that tell us how the program is making a difference and in this program the outcome measures were unquestionably meaningful, they were based upon self report of those clients but the more important thing is we never got a report we got 4 outcomes measures in over 4 quarters, we got a report in one category on one outcome measure in 4 quarters. We didn’t know if this program was performing. There was no objective way of knowing if these 5 Evanston people, in general, were better off. We cannot fund an agency because the agency does great work in educational outreach. We cannot fund an agency because its the only comprehensive HIV AIDS agency in town, we have to fund the program because the program is performing and making a difference in Evanston. That was the basis for our decision.

Ms. Canter added competition is so tight for money because every year it goes up little bit we have to set some standards of performance for each agency and we expect each agency to have measurable outcome objectives. We expect these agencies to serve a certain percentage of Evanston residents. Again, there are wonderful things that BE-HIV does but we also have to judge them based on our criteria otherwise it wouldn’t be fair to anyone else.

In the interest of time Mr. Terry suggested, maybe in a future Human Services agenda we could talk about the overall HIV situation both in terms of the Health Department services and other City funding. A lot has changed in the 20 years since BE-HIV has been created; in fact there is another very active agency in town named Care Point that works with a lot of low income persons at risk of HIV. There have been a number of demographical and cultural shifts in terms of the impact of HIV. While Care Point has never come to the Mental Health Board they have approached the City in other venues for some financial support. It might be a good time later this spring to have a comprehensive overview of where we are with HIV services in the City.

Alderman Holmes commented, having sat on the other side of the table in terms of the Board’s liaisons she never considered the liaison to be a major piece of the evaluation. Getting the quarterly reports in and telling your own story is the big piece.

Mr. McLaughlin said the issue was their de facto liaison spoke about BE-HIV and he was very grateful that the errors in the minutes of the discussion about funding BE-HIV are going to be corrected. He found 13 either misleading or error statements that the other members of the Board relied on to make a decision.

Alderman Moran stated the Mental Health has been positive in the field of social service funding where objective criteria are sometimes difficult to nail down. The Mental Health Board has done an excellent job of distilling objective criteria which we’ve all seen in the work product of these reports. We need to make sure that we keep that in mind here, although a lot of Mr. McLaughlin’s criticisms seem to gravitate around process. He read Mr. McLaughlin’s letter and commentaries very closely and sees where he’s coming from but there were objective reasons for virtually every allocation made by the Mental Health Board and does not think they gravitated toward the criticisms Mr. McLaughlin raised. They were more objective and had to do with the entire application process for your agency as well as all the others that applied. Alderman Moran was a little distressed by some things Mr. McLaughlin said one of which was the statement that the Mental Health Board doesn’t know why they make a lot of different allocations, he finds that offensive. The Mental Health Board does a great job and everybody on this panel who are intimately familiar with this kind of work gave them their praise because they share the conception that the Mental Health Board certainly knows what they’re doing.

Alderman Tisdahl thanked the Mental Health Board and Mr. McLaughlin and hoped to see BE- HIV next year.

VII. CONSIDERATION OF ORDINANCE 11-O-07 AMENDING THE INDOOR CLEAN AIR ORDINANCE

Alderman Moran moved for approval. seconded by Alderman Holmes. Hearing no further discussion Alderman Tisdahl called for a vote of the committee, Ordinance 11-O-07 was unanimously approved (5-0).

VIII. CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION 1-R-07 AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO EXECUTE AN AGREEMENT WITH TAKASHI SOGA FOR THE COMMISSION OF A SCULPTURE FOR SHERMAN PLAZA

A model of the sculpture was shown to the committee. Ms. Gerry Mascia noted that is the sculpture that will be at the corner of Sherman and Davis done by a Japanese artist who now lives in New York State. There was a very involved process selecting the sculpture that went on for months. There were 166 different submissions that was narrowed down to 5 finalists who came, met the committee, met with public, and had their pieces on display at the library. They received comments on the website and in person and the choice was made. Ms. Mascia noted if the committee approves this it will be before the City Council on February 12, 2007. Mr. Soga has been asked to come to this meeting as there was a question about height. Mr. Soga proposed a 15 feet high piece, and there was the question if the sculpture should be 13,
15, or 16 feet high. It was decided to invite Mr. Soga to come visit the site and with the committee and make a final decision. The contract will not be affected by a couple of feet up or down.

Alderman Moran moved approval of Resolution 1-O-07, seconded by Alderman Jean-Baptiste and unanimously approved by the committee (5-0).

IX. FREE BEACH TOKENS

Alderman Tisdahl questioned if there were any staffing or crowding problems with this to which Mr. Gaynor responded that it was hard to make any comparison because July 8, 2005, might have been very cold and July 8, 2006, could have been very warm and they did not have to make an adjustment. Every year they put a crib there for people swim in certain areas. If it gets too crowded in one area they have to make it larger which costs more money because they would have bring in another life guard, which did not occur this year.

Alderman Jean-Baptiste heard the tokens that were allocated to the agencies were used up. Mr. Terry responded, yes 98% of the tokens were used. Alderman Bernstein inquired about a letter from some agencies requesting more tokens. Mr. Terry said no agency came to us during the summer and said they needed more tokens, which is not to say that we may not ask for more tokens next year.

X. PROPOSED RENT INCREASES FOR THE NOYES CULTURAL ARTS CENTER RESIDENT ARTISTS AND 2007/08 COMMUNITY SERVICE REQUIREMENTS

Alderman Jean-Baptiste asked if Mr. Gaynor could give a quick overview as there were some problems a couple of years ago with Next Theater when they were unable to pay but they caught up, and wanted to know how everything is going at this time. Mr. Gaynor said he is somewhat superstitious and does not want to talk about the fact that things are going well. We have one studio in the basement that we’re advertising for and hope to fill in the next couple months. If you haven’t heard from our artists, that’s good news.

Alderman Tisdahl had a question pertaining to all the community service being done and asked if anyone encourages working with teenagers as part of our Youth Initiative as they only seem to work with little kids. Mr. Gaynor said what he would like to do in the future is instead of having the artists submitting to us he would like to make suggestions to them. Our department is looking to the future about the obesity issues, and the health problems that presents as well as addressing the older teenager, which is we want to focus some of our attentions.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was unanimously adjourned at 10:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Audrey Trotsky, Department of Health and Human Services