



MEETING MINUTES

MENTAL HEALTH BOARD

Thursday, May 11, 2017 7:00 PM

Lorraine H. Morton Civic Center, 2100 Ridge Avenue, room 2402

Members Present: S. Johnson, K. Ruetzel, R. Feiler, M. Pierce, J. Sales, J. Taylor, I. Ziaya

Members Absent:, L. Murphy

Staff: I. Perkins, J. Wingader

Presiding Member: S. Johnson, Board Chair

Also Present: Ald. Revelle

Call to Order / Declaration of Quorum

Chair Johnson declared a quorum and called the meeting to order at 7:03 pm.

Approval of the April 13, 2017 Meeting Minutes

Mr.Pierce moved approval of the April 13, 2017 meeting minutes, Ms. Johnson noted a correction and Ms. Feiler seconded approval with corrections. The minutes as amended were unanimously approved.

Health & Human Services Department Update

Human Services Manager, Indira Perkins provided an update for the Health & Human Services Department including information about open positions within the department. She further discussed the General Assistance and Emergency Assistance programs, number of recipients and additional services offered.

Liaison Reports

Board members provided updates for Childcare Network of Evanston and Trilogy, Inc.

Public Comment

Liz Gordon with North Shore Senior Center announced her new role in the organization and introduced Kathy Honeywell as her replacement. Jennifer Jenks with Metropolitan Family Services described the Agency's advocacy efforts in Springfield. Jasmin Walker introduced herself and her co-worker, Daniel Friedman and described the services they offer in Evanston.

2018 Funding Priorities

Ms. Sales opened the discussion by reading the funding priorities provided by the working group. There was discussion about inclusion of the newest priority and whether the language of the priority was specific, but not restrictive. The Board voted unanimously to adopt the first priority as stated: Programs and services that respond to mental health and substance abuse needs, including crisis intervention and mental health promotion. The Board voted 6-1 to accept the second priority as stated: Programs and services that meet basic needs including access to food, shelter and health care, in order to promote mental health and welfare. Ms. Ruetzel abstained. The Board voted unanimously to adopt the next priority as stated: Programs and services to enhance the mental health, safety, and

protection of children, youth and families. The Board also voted unanimously to adopt the final priority as stated: Programs and services that promote mental health, cultural diversity and social inclusion for all, including refugees and immigrants.

Review of ZoomGrants Questions

Ms. Feiler initiated the discussion by reviewing the Board recommendation to combine ZoomGrants statements 3 and 10. The Board voted unanimously to replace the two criteria with the following statement: Organization has a track record of delivering programs/services in collaboration with other agencies that does not duplicate, in order to provide service to the target population. The Board next voted unanimously to combine statements 9 and 15 into the following statement: Organization has proven experience and capacity to sustain its operations and to comply with local, state, and federal regulations.

The next point of discussion centered around the final three statements. Ms. Sales pointed out that programs that do not meet all priorities may be disadvantaged, she suggested combining the final statements related to priorities. The Board discussed statements that considered agencies versus programs. The final consolidated statement the Board voted unanimously to adopt is as follows: Program's missions, goals and work reflect the current priorities of the Board.

The Board discussed services to Evanston residents versus services to a broader population. There was discussion about whether agencies could prioritize Evanston residents and if question 14 could be modified to clarify. There was further discussion about agency reporting and if agencies were able to record services to and outcomes for Evanston versus non-Evanston residents. Staff confirmed that programs reported quarterly the number of Evanston residents served and outcomes achieved. Mr. Pierce asked about programs that work with the homeless and ways to avoid penalizing agencies that serve this population. Staff reviewed ways agencies established residency. Ms. Taylor cautioned against asking agencies to prioritize Evanston residents. Chair Johnson requested that staff present demographic information including residency in chart form using information gathered from the prior year for applications requesting 2018 funding.

Members discussed different ways to compare program services. The Board voted unanimously to change statement 11 to the following: The number of Evanston residents served and depth of services provided are reasonable based on program costs.

Staff Report

Staff presented information about changes/updates to two programs, Reba Early Learning Center and Trilogy Behavioral Healthcare – Evanston Mental Health Program. Staff also presented a memo outlining the governance and funding practices of the MHB. Chair Johnson stated her concern that the memo did not reflect funds from the Township as allocated by the Board throughout the 80s and 90s. Ald. Revelle requested that staff revise the memo to include funding for social services by all City departments before it is sent to Human Services and City Council.

Election of Chair and Vice Chair

The elections of Ms. Taylor to MHB Chair and Ms. Ruetzel to MHB Vice Chair were unanimously approved 7-0. Ms Taylor will assume her duties July 1, 2017, and Ms. Ruetzel will continue in her current role.

Chair Report

No Chair report.

Adjournment

Ms. Johnson called to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Ms. Ruetzel. The meeting adjourned at 8:26 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Jessica Wingader
Grants and Compliance Specialist