



MEETING MINUTES

MENTAL HEALTH BOARD

Thursday, June 8, 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: E. Thomas-Smith, S. Flax, J. Wingader

Presiding Member: S. Johnson, Board Chair

Call to Order / Declaration of Quorum

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

Approval of the May 11, 2017 Meeting Minutes

Ms. Taylor moved approval of the May 11, 2017 meeting minutes seconded by Ms. Ziaya; the minutes were unanimously approved.

Health & Human Services Department Update

Health & Human Services Department Director, Evonda Thomas-Smith provided a department update covering staffing and program updates. Currently, the General Assistance program has 152 participants and the Emergency Assistance program has 219 participants. Director Thomas-Smith provided highlights of the We're Out Walking and Man Up programs, and talked about rodent and pest control. She closed with an update about the number of residents served by Presence; crisis intervention logged 537 encounters to date and there have been 262 encounters at the library. Evanston residents comprise 80% of clients served.

Liaison Reports

Board members provided updates for James B. Moran Center, Connections for the Homeless, Housing Options, now known as Impact Behavioral Health Partners, PEER Services, Center for Independent Futures, Childcare Network of Evanston, North Shore Senior Center and Metropolitan Family Services.

Public Comment

Martha Arntson, Interim Head Start Director for CNE, discussed the history of City funding for child care scholarships to families not eligible for State of Illinois subsidies through her organization. She also answered questions about the new executive director and the agency's goals.

MHB Administrative Rules & Procedures (bylaws)

Ms. Ruetzel described the process for creating the bylaws and working with the City's Law Department; she reviewed the changes and explained the rational starting with the change in wording from "associated human services" to "other human services." Ms. Taylor further explained how and why narrowing the scope of funding would require City Council review and approval. There was discussion about funding priorities; the Board reviewed current

ordinance language and discussed how that language impacted priorities. It was agreed that the language would remain consistent with the ordinance.

The Board next reviewed the changes to wording of eligibility for assistance based on a person's ability to pay for services. There was discussion about different payment options and the availability of services to residents who are not able to pay for services. It was agreed that the language was confusing and the Board ultimately requested to delete references to ability to pay. The Board also discussed the language describing evaluation of collaboration between agencies and agreed to include the following statement: "The Board will also evaluate and facilitate inter-agency collaboration."

The Board discussed the Powers and Duties section. Members debated including language that would further define "at-risk." Staff confirmed that changes to the powers and duties section would require approval by City Council because "at-risk" is defined in Article II, Section 1. The Board agreed that Article II, Section 1 could be referenced to define "at-risk."

The Board had no changes to the language in Article V. Staff pointed out that use of a Letter of Intent was already referenced in Article VI, Section 1, which outlined the application process. Additionally, the Board agreed with the language in Article VII. Finally, it was agreed that the term "social services" would be used consistently throughout the document, replacing "human services."

Staff Report

Staff summarized site visits performed in May and meetings scheduled in June.

Chair Report

Chair Johnson inquired about the City's budget for FY18. Staff provided information about local and federal budget processes. Chair Johnson mentioned the need to reassign liaison roles.

Adjournment

Ms. Taylor adjourned the meeting, seconded by Ms. Sales. The meeting adjourned at 8:44 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Jessica Wingader
Grants and Compliance Specialist