



MEETING MINUTES

MENTAL HEALTH BOARD

Thursday, March 8, 2018 7:00 PM

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

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

Members Absent: L. Murphy

Staff: J. Wingader

Presiding Member: K. Ruetzel, Board Chair

Call to Order / Declaration of Quorum

Chair Ruetzel declared a quorum and called the meeting to order at 7:01 pm.

Approval of MHB Minutes: October 12, 2017 and January 11, 2018

Ms. Johnson moved approval of the October 12, 2017 minutes, seconded by Ms. Sales; a voice vote was taken and the minutes were unanimously approved. Ms. Feiler moved approval of the January 11, 2018 minutes, seconded by Ms. Ziaya; a voice vote was taken and the minutes were unanimously approved.

Equity and Empowerment Presentation

Presentation rescheduled due to staff illness.

Public Comment

One person announced the upcoming Mental Health & Wellness Fair at the Evanston Public Library. Other announcements made about upcoming agency fundraisers.

2018 Liaison Assignments and Liaison Report

Two members provided reports for four agencies.

Chair Ruetzel appointed new member Jackie Haimes to serve as liaison to PEER Services and YOU and new member George Hall to serve as liaison to Meals at Home and Shore Community Services. Members agreed to presentation assignments as follows: Chair Ruetzel and Ms. Feiler will present in April; Mr. Pierce and Ms. Ziaya will present in May; and Mr. Hall and Ms. Haimes will present in June.

Staff Report

Staff provided additional information about Health & Human Services 2018 goals, the Community Organizations Directory, the Draft 2017 CAPER available for public comment, and the 2018 monitoring schedule provided.

Chair Report

Chair Ruetzel introduced the discussion to change the name of the board and present 2019 funding priorities to the Human Services Committee.

Board Name Change

Staff reviewed Board's recommending history, defining documents, and rationale for the name change. Chair Ruetzel talked about the impact of Council goals on past allocation

recommendations, information from the discussion with Ald. Fleming, and whether, based on 2018 City Council goals and MHB priorities, a name change should be considered. Members discussed mental health as an Eplan priority, past and present board priorities, and applications received in prior years; most members agreed that changing the Board's name would dilute Board's purpose. One member stated that mental health was being more broadly defined and questioned whether there was a title that could better capture the additional allocation responsibilities.

Members discussed various name options including Mental Health and Community Services and Mental Health and Wellness. Most members agreed that mental health should be the lens used to review programs requesting funds. Members also discussed the importance of keeping mental health as the priority behind their allocation recommendations and their belief that the current name did not cause confusion when considering allocation priorities, or for potential new applicants and/or new board members. Board asked staff to determine whether changing the name could lead to an increase in the amount of funds available for allocation recommendations. Members agreed to table the discussion, but bring this item for action at the next meeting.

Presentation to Human Services Committee

Chair Ruetzel encouraged members to consider funding strategies such as: recommending funding new programs for three years then gradually reducing funds to give programs the chance to become successful, recommending development grants or reserving a portion of funds available for allocation to develop new programs. She suggested that the Board work more closely with City Council by presenting ideas to Human Services Committee and rethink previously funded programs that may not align with City Council goals.

Chair Ruetzel suggested a working committee to review funding priorities. Members discussed a gradual reduction to programs currently receiving funding and whether all programs receiving awards in 2018 match funding priorities. Ms. Ziaya noted that supporting mental health programs does not directly align with any current City Council goals; she encouraged the Board to be creative when defining priorities. Members recognized the challenge to cutting funding to well established programs and questioned whether funding for new initiatives would come from a separate fund. Additional ideas discussed included fund startups, providing stop gap funding, or setting time limits on agencies/programs that receive funding in consecutive years. Chair Ruetzel appointed Ms. Johnson and Ms. Sales to develop 2019 funding priorities and funding strategies for review at the next meeting, which will be included in the presentation to Human Services Committee. Chair Ruetzel reviewed the timeline for presenting to Human Services. There was further discussion about the challenges around establishing 2019 priorities based on 2018 City Council Goals.

Adjournment

Ms. Johnson moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Ms. Feiler. The meeting adjourned at 8:35 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Jessica Wingader
Grants and Compliance Specialist