



## MEETING MINUTES

### MENTAL HEALTH BOARD

Thursday, April 12, 2018 7:00 PM

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

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

Members Absent: M. Pierce

Staff: J. Wingader

Presiding Member: K. Ruetzel, Board Chair

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#### **Call to Order / Declaration of Quorum**

Chair Ruetzel declared a quorum and called the meeting to order at 7:06 pm.

#### **Approval of MHB Minutes of March 8, 2018**

Ms. Johnson moved approval of the March 8, 2018 minutes, seconded by Ms. Haines; a voice vote was taken and the minutes were unanimously approved.

#### **Equity and Empowerment Presentation**

Patricia Efiom, Equity & Empowerment Coordinator, presented information about the Equity Budget Lens Tool. She defined equity and the purpose of the tool which is to identify an underserved population and provide access to services. Dr. Efiom provided examples of the tool in use and encouraged members to incorporate the tool when considering applications for 2019 funding. She closed by highlighting the importance of community engagement when identifying target populations and ways to effectively engage residents and encouraged the board to critically review outcomes as a way of understanding who receives services and where needs may go unmet.

The board discussed how to incorporate the tool into decisions and ways to hear from different community members. Dr. Efiom offered several suggestions for a review of the populations with the poorest outcomes or populations not measured by current outcomes. She also offered suggestions for working with grantees. Dr. Efiom noted that information gathered by agencies would be specific to the populations those agencies served and encouraged the board to hear directly from community members and those that work within the community.

There was discussion about the challenges of resource allocation and how diverting funds to one group could put other groups in peril. Members talked about access and how to review outcomes. They further discussed the challenge of recommending programs that don't align with priority of addressing mental health. Members agreed that a review of the ZoomGrants application would be an important next step; Chair Ruetzel requested a review of the ZoomGrants application questions. Members also brainstormed different community representatives that they could hear from including hospital staff, school social workers, and leaders of faith-based communities.

#### **Public Comment**

Kathy Lyons suggested hearing from first responders. Betty Bogg urged members to share information with agencies as agencies may have capacity to provide programs that address emergent needs. She also urged members to review agency standards and programs using evidence-based practices.

## **Liaison Report**

Two members provided reports for five agencies.

## **Staff Report**

Staff provided a summary of monitoring visits.

## **2019 Funding Priorities**

Ms. Sales introduced the 2019 draft funding priorities and explained proposed changes. There was discussion about the scope of the priorities and potential impact of the equity lens. There was discussion about which currently funded services address the priorities. Members stated a preference for focusing on programs that included case management and noted that the scoring system would not disadvantage programs that didn't include a case management component. There was further discussion about how mental health aligned with City Council goals and mental health as a priority of the Eplan. The community resource guide and ways to spread information throughout the community was also discussed.

Ms. Feiler suggested including a statement of support for the City's equity initiative. After discussion, members agreed to include a statement about equity. Staff asked members to consider the types of programs that would be encouraged to apply under new funding priorities and whether priorities encompassed the full scope of social services needs for which the board is responsible based on the ordinance and bylaws. Revisions to the second and third priorities were discussed. Ms. Johnson moved to approve the following:

The Mental Health Board joins the City of Evanston in its commitment to equity and empowerment initiatives. The priorities for 2019 are:

- Programs and services that respond to mental health and substance abuse needs, including crisis intervention and mental health promotion.
- Programs and services that provide linkages to emergency or long term housing, case management or nutritional services, to improve mental health.
- Programs and services to enhance the mental health, empowerment and protection of youth, seniors, and families
- Programs and services that promote mental health, cultural diversity and social inclusion for all, including refugees and immigrants.

The motion to adopt the 2019 funding priorities was seconded by Ms. Feiler; a voice vote was taken and the priorities were unanimously approved.

## **Board Name Change**

Members proposed new names for the board including Mental Health and Wellness and Mental Health and Welfare. It was generally agreed that, even though funding recommendations should be broad, changing the name would broaden the focus of mental health. There was discussion about the connotations of "wellness" and "welfare." Members asked whether there would be more money to allocate if the name changed. Staff responded that it would not. Ms. Sales motioned that the name remain the Mental Health Board, it was seconded by Ms. Johnson. The Board voted 6-0 to keep the title the Mental Health Board with Ms. Feiler abstaining.

## **Presentation to Human Services Committee**

Chair Ruetzel and Mr. Hall volunteered to present 2019 Funding Priorities to Human Services Committee at the upcoming May meeting.

**Chair Report**

Chair Ruetzel appointed Ms. Jonson and Ms. Feiler to identify a new Chair and Vice Chair to be presented at the May meeting. Chair Ruetzel assigned Ms. Sales and Ms. Haimes to draft a letter to Mayor Hagerty.

**Adjournment**

Ms. Johnson moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Ms. Sales. The meeting adjourned at 8:54 pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Jessica Wingader  
Grants and Compliance Specialist