

La Salle County 708 Community Mental Health Board
BOARD MEETING MINUTES
May 29, 2024

Meeting held at 1:30 PM, the twenty-ninth day of May, 2024, at Ottawa Friendship House, Ottawa, IL.

ACTING AS CHAIRMAN: Dave McClure, President

Present: Dave McClure, Jack Leninger, Sara Escatel, Lois Guyon, Gary Peterlin, Susan Thornton, and Ella Weber

Absent: Pamela Beckett, John Koehler

Also Present: Don Miskowiec, Executive Director, and Laurie Gilich, Administrative Assistant

Funded Agency Representatives: CiCi Chalus (CASA), Noelle Sliker (NCBHS), Beth Campeotto and Paula Williamson (SRRC), Michelle Rich (Horizon House), Susan Bursztynsky (Safe Journeys), Tony Barrett (Ottawa Friendship House)

CALL TO ORDER: Board President Dave McClure called the meeting of the 708 Mental Health Board to order at 1:30 p.m.

ROLL CALL: Present: Dave McClure, Jack Leninger, Sara Escatel, Lois Guyon, Gary Peterlin, Susan Thornton, Ella Weber

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: Dave noted we will move the HB444 Community Mental Health Act from New Business to the Executive Director's Report. *Motion by: Susan Thornton, seconded by Ella Weber to accept the agenda as revised.* Unanimous approval.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: *Motion by: Lois Guyon, seconded by Sara Escatel to approve the minutes of the February 21, 2024 Board meeting as printed. Motion carried.*

TREASURER'S REPORT: Don Miskowiec gave the Treasurer's financial report as included in the packet and presented on the attached Powerpoint slide. He highlighted the December 2023 through April 2024 Revenue & Expense Report. He noted that we are at 4 ½ months of reserve now due to increases in tax levy. Dave noted that Don emails him the expenses for the Board President approval. Lois commented that administrative overhead is pretty good at 4.5 %.

Motion by: Jack Leninger, seconded by Susan Thornton to approve the Treasurer's Report as presented
Ayes: McClure, Leninger, Escatel, Guyon, Peterlin, Thornton, Weber. Nays: None. Motion carried.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT: Don recognized CiCi Chalus, who will be retiring so this is her last 708 Board meeting. He commended her for the work she's done with CASA over the years. CiCi commented that she loved her job and will be moving to Mississippi. To a question from Lois G. regarding the situation with DCFS and CASA that CiCi included in her report, CiCi reported that they had their conference, and it was tense as there are still issues. Discussion was held.

Don reviewed the attached Executive Director's Report PowerPoint slides including:

- National Level –
 - Funding, Grants, Legislation Monitoring: Don commented that it is important to keep an eye on grants, so we continue to monitor them.
 - Demand for services: 50% increase in service requests for children/adolescents
 - Overdose deaths: overdose deaths are down a bit nationally; harm reduction programs make a difference
 - School based wellness programs; some of the programs in the schools actually makes mental health of the kids worse due to raising awareness. We will continue to follow and report on this.

- State/Local Level
 - House Bill HB 444 the Community Mental Health Act did pass. It made technical corrections to the Act. Will follow and continue to report on. Our role as a 708 Board has changed significantly; we don't have the authority perceived in that law, nor the funding.
 - ACMHAI
 - HB4475: improves parity in Illinois; would help in getting services out to the community
 - Opioid Abatement Settlement Dollars –Don reported that he is on the advisory workgroup for Region 2. He informed that LaSalle County is getting those dollars through the State's Attorney's office, but he has not heard a word about what is happening with those dollars. Dave commented that he has heard some of the funding in other counties is beginning to flow. Noelle Sliker informed that NCBHS will be getting opioid dollars from Fulton County and North Central will provide an Outreach/Education worker.
 - Healthier LaSalle County Work Group/Behavioral Health Workgroup participation (LaSalle County Health Department). We continue to be involved. They are currently looking at the needs assessment that happens every three years through the Health Department.
 - Mendota Grant for youth prevention, education: Don reached out to them and they are in planning phase.
 - OSF Ottawa: Don discussed current changes that OSF St. Elizabeth is planning.
- Stats report in packet
- Community Education & Linkage Program – website/social media (not included in packet) Don reported usage of our website/social media fluctuates.
- HMA Grant Prospector Service: Don informed that they have developed a service that looks at all the grants that are coming available. We can subscribe for \$400 a month, which is in our budget so Don will sign us up for a one-year subscription and assess whether the service is helpful or should be discontinued after the 12-month trial period.
- IABH Affiliate Status: Don discussed that affiliate status for \$1500 a year would give us better information about mental health and substance use system than we are currently getting. We have funds available in our membership budget line which was approved by the Board and will utilize that funding for a one-year trial period.

Motion by Ella Weber, seconded by Lois Guyon to accept the Executive Director's Report. Motion carried.

FUNDED AGENCY WRITTEN REPORTS/UPDATES:

Written Reports Included in Board Packet/Distributed Today

- Youth Service Bureau
- North Central Behavioral Health Systems
- Friendship
- Horizon House
- Streator Unlimited
- SRRC
- Safe Journeys
- CASA

Members discussed the funded agency reports which were mailed with the board packet with comments by the various agency representatives on programs, etc. Lois G. commented that she is astounded at the amount and breadth of issues that the Directors have to deal with and it is commendable what they are all doing.

NCBHS: Dave asked about North Central's breakdown of crisis services, specifically 462 intake appointments; filled 97% and 44% failed. Noelle S. confirmed those numbers are about average. Noelle noted that sometimes it is taking a little longer to get in due to workforce shortages. Also, when someone is in a behavioral health crisis they call and then what they might need when they schedule the appointment might have been resolved by the time of the appointment. Don asked about the Illinois CCBHC grant program that North Central chose to withdraw from. Noelle explained that we decided to be part of the learning collaborative for CCBHC, and we are working on a plan for the old Hygienic building to house specialty services like behavioral health urgent care. There will also be a behavioral health urgent care clinic in Ottawa.

Discussion was held about inpatient psychiatric beds. Don stated that it is good that Ottawa OSF plans to keep their psych beds and also that there are some good programs being developed that are in lieu of hospitalization.

Friendship House: Dave M. stated that Friendship House has some residents that are receiving residential services without state support. Tony B. confirmed that there are about a dozen such residents who were not diagnosed by age 18 so are not able to get state assistance. Friendship House uses 708 funds to support them. Michelle stated that Horizon House has a couple of such clients too.

OLD BUSINESS

708 Guidelines Revision Workgroup Update – Don presented:

- *What we've done thus far.....*
 - Identified need to change guidelines and overall program and budget application materials
 - Sought legal consultation on revisions to annual contracts and what may be required in guidelines
 - Reviewed available guidelines of 15 to 20 708 boards in Illinois
 - Discussed 708 Board operations, processes and guidelines with a number of 708 Executive Directors
 - Have started drafting rough outlines of potential guideline revisions
- *CONCLUSION: Guidelines/operational policies of 708 boards in Illinois range from very specific/detailed requirements and guidelines to a very broad funding approach with minimal detailed requirements.*
- *System transition concerns in making changes this year*
 - Due to township referendums, Mental Health Act is under scrutiny and current legislation is in play.
 - Temporary impact that ARPA funds had on service delivery providers
 - Major influx of federal dollars to mental health system
 - State rate increases have greatly impacted financial performance of programs
 - Workforce issues continue
 - Agency workloads with changes
- *Recommendations*
 - Continue existing guidelines for upcoming fiscal year
 - Request cost report from agencies for 2024 fiscal year
 - Utilize cost report as tool to meet with agency directors to better understand how rate increases, etc. have/will affect funded programs
 - Assess any new funding requests within existing guidelines and in consideration of changes underway
 - Revise guidelines following work with agency directors in early Spring

NCAT Funding Request Follow-Up

Don reported that he had communicated with Kim Zimmerman, the NCAT Director, and they are willing to enter into a standard agreement for units of transportation services.

Don read the recommended motion.

Motion by Gary Peterlin, seconded by Susan Thornton to authorize the Board President and Executive Director to enter into contract with NCAT for \$5,000 at agreed upon units of transportation services.

Roll Call:

Aye: Gary Peterlin, Lois Guyon, Pamela Beckett, Jack Leninger, Susan Thornton, Sara Escatel, Ella Weber

Nay: None

Epilepsy Network Funding Request Follow-Up – Don informed:

- They had requested funding for Case Management and Summer Program
- Encourage them to reapply following discussion/coordination verification with existing I/DD providers.

NEW BUSINESS

FY 25 Funding Process Timeline

Don highlighted the FY25 Funding Process Timeline, as included in packets and sent to Directors:

- Monday, June 17th through Friday, July 19th: *Program/funding applications completed by agencies*
- Monday, July 22nd through Friday, August 16th: *Review of applications/meetings with individual agencies*
- Wednesday, August 28th: *708 Board Meeting to review applications/hear applicable presentations/approve*
- Last Two Weeks of September: *Scheduled County Board Finance Committee meeting to present 708 budget*

Discussion was held. Motion by Lois Guyon, seconded by Ella Weber to approve the FY25 Funding Process Timeline. Motion carried

CESSA Planning Meetings

Don reviewed the CESSA Planning Meetings, which is a national movement and law for mobile crisis teams. It will take more time than originally anticipated. Don stated he serves on the regional planning committee. Illinois Valley Regional Dispatch (the 911 system for our area) will host a meeting in August. We received a request for assistance in paying for the cost of these meetings.

- Crisis System Planning
- "Hyperlocal Planning Meetings"
- Request for Assistance with Planning Meetings

Motion by Susan Thornton, seconded by Gary Peterlin to authorize the 708 Board Executive Director to expend up to \$1,000 of our program line expenses to assist in these CESSA planning meetings.

Roll Call:

Aye: Gary Peterlin, Lois Guyon, Pamela Beckett, Jack Leninger, Susan Thornton, Sara Escatel, Ella Weber
Nay: None

ADJOURNMENT: there being no further business or discussion and upon motion and unanimous approval, the meeting was adjourned at 2:30 p.m.

Next Meeting: Wednesday, August 28th at 3:00 p.m.

Secretary: _____
John Koehler

Date: _____

President: _____
Dave McClure

Date:  _____
8/7/24