



OGLE COUNTY COMMUNITY MENTAL HEALTH (708) BOARD

MINUTES OF THE April 14, 2011 Meetings

On April 14, 2011 Kathleen Wilson, President called a meeting of the 708 Board to order at 7:30 a.m. at the Ogle County Sheriff's Office, Jefferson Street, Oregon, Illinois, at the call of the secretary and a notice given to each board member and on notice posted at the Ogle County Courthouse and Ogle County Sheriff's Office. Kathleen Wilson presided.

The secretary called the roll:

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Kathleen Wilson, President, Louise Hall, Treasurer Wendy Howarter, Laura Medlar and Dorothy Bowers, Ogle County Board Liaison

ABSENT: Seth McCanse

OTHERS PRESENT: James Sarver and Kim James of Sinnissippi Center's Inc., Craig Carpenter of Village of Progress, Lorrie Bearrows of Ogle County Hospice, Ruth Carter of Help Offer Protective Environment (HOPE of Ogle County) Kathleen Kurtz of Easter Seals Children's Development Center and Susan Loyd of Lutheran Social Services of Illinois

The Chair announced a quorum.

Approval of Agenda: **Dorothy Bowers moved to accept the agenda as presented. Louise Hall seconded. Motion carried unanimously.**

Review and approval of the March minutes was done. **Wendy Howarter moved to approve the March meeting minutes as presented. Seconded by Dorothy Bowers. Motion carried unanimously.**

Review and approval of the agency vouchers for April was done. **Louise Hall moved to approve the vouchers for April as submitted. Dorothy Bowers seconded. Motion carried five ayes, no nays and one absent.**

After reviewing the financial reports for April. **A motion was made by Dorothy Bowers to approve the financial reports for April. Louise Hall seconded. Motion carried five ayes, no nays and one absent.**

Officer's Reports:

Kathe Wilson shared a letter that she had written on behalf of the Ogle County Community Mental Health 708 Board to LOTS commending them for the service that they provide and wanting them to share with their board and bus drivers etc how much we appreciate the service that they are now providing to the Ogle Community.

Newspaper article for April is Children's Development Center Easter Seals.

Unfinished Business:

Dorothy Bowers had nothing to report regarding our newsletter to the County Board.

Louise Hall of the Community that Cares Program reported that she would be attending a meeting later today. They have a very detailed plan as to how they are going to plan services on this four-year grant. Initial plan is to go through KSB Rural Residency Program and possibly the CGH Hospital of Sterling and the Sterling Health Department. Once the planning stage is accepted and it goes into full funding then parts of this will be part of the full application. There could be 50 participating agencies in the four counties.

Dorothy Bowers of the Shinning Star Program reported that the next meeting will be this next Friday coming up and we will be talking about fund raising and things like that.

Dorothy Bowers handed out letters to the HEW Committee inviting them to attend the Funding Hearings in May.

The video " A Crises in Caring " reported Hospice would be showing at the volunteer training.

Human Services Directory and Agency Brochure are still being delivered.

Dates were confirmed for the funding hearings.

Kathe Wilson told everyone about a new book that the Oregon Public Library has called Psychiatric Tales by Darryl Cunningham and reported it is a very interesting book.

New Business:

Funding applications were received from Lutheran Social Services of Illinois, Easter Seals Children's Development Center, Ogle County Hospice, Hope of Ogle County, Sinnissippi Centers, Inc., Village of Progress and CASA.

Agency reports:

Susan Loyd of Lutheran Social Services of Illinois – Susan Loyd reported the state is in the process of shifting from DCFS to the Juvenile Justice Program and that is to happen in July.

Susan Loyd also reported that they had 56 youth contacts and a total of 119 contacts, which comes to about 1 ½ per family.

Lorrie Bearrows of Ogle County Hospice – Lorrie Bearrows reported that Movie Night, Lunch and Learn, Walking Program and Out to Dinner programs are going very well. Kathy Warren the Bereavement Coordinator has a real knack for bringing people together. They are real excited to see the number of people that are participating. Actually Kathy is to the overwhelmed stage and I will be looking for someone to help her, because there is too much for one person to handle. We do have a couple of volunteers that help support her. We have more and more people coming to us and it is not just the families that have used Hospice. It is people from all over the community.

We do have a new booklet that I will be bringing to the next meeting called “We Care Lets Plan”. Developed by our service department which purpose is to give everyone the opportunity to plan for the future. Looking for a donation to help cover cost.

They are having their Volunteer Appreciation Breakfast today.

Craig Carpenter of the Village of Progress – Craig Carpenter reported that the State of Illinois catch-up that they made in December was the last they have received and now are due from the state over \$330,000.00.

In subcontract work they are down a little bit this year. Last year was the best year that they ever had and they made \$560,000.00, but this year looks like maybe we will the year around \$410,000.00. Wahl Clipper is down a little bit but it is still good with the economy as it is.

The conversion is now complete and we are still looking as to where that is going to lead us as to the shift. The Block Grant is completely gone away and everyone who is being funded is “Fee for Service”. The majority of our consumers (about 22) were converted to Fee for Service from the Block Grant and 11 consumers that were not converted and these 11 are only coming in on a call in bases, when we have work for them and they are not funded by the state or federal. Our concern is that no new individuals are being funded for services even if they meet the criteria that the state has put out there for people. At this point now they go into the PUNS (Priority Urgency Needed Support) waiting list, which has about 30,000 people on this list statewide at this point. There are 65 individuals from the Northwest Area of the State of Illinois were pulled out of that area in the last six months. At that rate it will forever before we see new consumers coning in. When someone moves out they will not be automatically replaced. They could have you on the list for ten years and never be selected. It is almost a random selection that they are doing. At this time the only way that we would get another consumer is if they came from another place in Illinois where they have already been in the program. Really hope that this changes in time.

Ruth Carter Director of Hope – Ruth Carter reported that they are about five months behind in State Funding.

This past quarter they have been able to do some in service training. Our goal is to be able to reach out to some of those agencies and fill in the gaps for our clients. One of them was through Tri-County Opportunity Council. HOPE clients have used their financial services and can now try to receive funds through their Social Services Block Grant. It is kind of a goal related motivational program. We had the Prairie State Legal Services come and talk to our staff about what services that they provide in Ogle County and they are really limited their services are because they service six counties. We need to reach out the attorneys in the county and find someone to help these clients.

On a positive note we did have three of our staff were featured in the local newspaper lately telling who they are and what they do.

The carpet is complete in the transitional home. They are still waiting for the funding to come through on this project.

Kathleen Kurtz of Easter Seals Children's Development Center – Kathleen Kurtz reported that they have just gone through CARF (Center Accreditation for Rehabilitation Facility) and hope to be accredited for three years. They looked at the Family Support Program and basically looked at everything that you do. At the exit interview yesterday there were no recommendation, but do want us to review the Clients Rights annually.

We will be hosting a Family Fun Night this week at the Carlson Ice Rink.

Patty Hobbs our Family Support Coordinator has married and her new name is Mook.

Jim Sarver and Kim James of Sinnissippi Centers, Inc – Kim James was sharing with Jim Sarver and thought it would be interesting to the board about the changes in funding and how it is affecting the clients. Recently she had a the experience of accepting a client that needed help who had insurance, which was great, however the insurance had co-pays for everything and she had high blood pressure, diabetic and many different medical problems so the co-pays for her medication were over \$100. a month. So she couldn't afford her depression medication, so she was not taking any medication and had not taken it for about three months, because is was a toss up, I live on \$150. a month. Do I pay my rent or get my medication. It was a real issue as to how to get her the medication and I thought well I could send her to a psychic hospital to get her back on her meds, but why would you have someone go to an in patient facility. It was so disheartening because I did not know where to go to get her help. I was able to get her some funding through our Foundation, which is an option that we have but it doesn't solve the ongoing problem. Because she has insurance her counseling is \$50 an hour and she cannot afford \$50. an hour. It is really a dilemma and that was only one client that I must have spent two days with trying to figure out what to do. This speaks to what all of us are facing because there is no money to help them. It breaks your heart. How could you do this everyday?

Jim Sarver reported that recently they had visitors from the Department of Mental Health that were not on a witch-hunt or anything, but just wanted to visit the facilities that they monitor in the area. We talked with them about how the Department of Mental Health has restricted the monies in such a way that they really pull out of supporting people like Kim had just described. By restricting the money until after the service is provided and they have narrowed it down so narrow now as to what they are eligible for that they are making financial decisions when this is a medically necessary driven system. The medical necessity is ruled out and over powered by the financial side of it. The \$600,000. that they have narrowed down for us in funding is not available as in the past comes into question. They asked if we had any ideas. So I suggested. We are held to the same standard, same accountability and the same monitoring process. Why don't you do as you have in the past give us that \$600,000 and let us monitor and distribute the funds? When a person comes in and is in this situation then we are able to make a financial decision on their behalf to allow them to enter into some level of treatment and see where that goes. They said that they thought it was a good idea.

Jim Sarver reported that over a 8 month period of time their request for emergency services 24 hours a day had gone up 18% and I just got a report yesterday that the annualized activity that we have done face to face in the hospitals for emergency evaluations is 51% because we are not able to help the people that fall between the cracks. Not being on Medicaid and not enough to sustain everyday living needs and meeting their medical needs. Kim James added that most of the time it does result in an inpatient hospitalization. It takes our staff 7 to 9 hours or more to get them into a hospital. It is an all day event and very frustrating for the client. Recently at one of these cases we had two police officers that had to sit with us in the hospital for four while waiting to get approval for helping an individual.

Jim Sarver reported that they are already working on the article for the newspaper for May, which is Mental Health Month.

Jim Sarver has been asked by his Board of Directors to communicate with the 708 Board and 553 Boards that they are looking for someone to serve on the Sinnissippi Centers, Inc. Board.

There being no objection the meeting was adjourned.

The next meeting will be May 5, 2011 at the Ogle County Sheriff's Office, Training Room, Jefferson Street, Oregon, IL.

Respectfully submitted,
Cecilia M. Zimmerman
Recording Secretary

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Approved: May 5, 2011

Kathleen Wilson, President

Louise Hall, Secretary/Treasurer