



OGLE COUNTY COMMUNITY MENTAL HEALTH (708) BOARD

MINUTES OF THE August 6, 2020 Meeting

On August 6, 2020 Dorothy Bowers called a meeting of the 708 Board to order at 7:30 a.m. utilizing Zoom meeting ID 394-790-2090 and a physical presence at Ogle County Sheriff's Office Training Room, at the call of the secretary and notice given to each board member and notice posted at the Ogle County Courthouse and Ogle County Sheriff's Office. Dorothy Bowers presided.

The secretary called the roll:

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

Dorothy Bowers (President/Ogle County Board Liaison)
Kathleen Wilson (Vice-President)
Renee Barnhart
Marcella Haushahn
Amy Zbinden Henkel
Bill Sigler

ABSENT:

Margaret Tyne (Secretary/Treasurer)

OTHERS PRESENT: Brion Brooks of the Village of Progress, Ruth Carter of HOPE, Ashley Koza and Patrick Phalen of Sinnissippi Center's Inc., Chris Mills of Lutheran Social Services of Illinois, Maureen Mostacci of Rockford Sexual Assault Counseling, Inc. and Angie Theisen of Serenity.

The Chair announced that we have a quorum.

Approval of Agenda: **Kathleen Wilson moved to accept the agenda as presented. Marcella Haushahn seconded. Motion carried unanimously.**

Review and approval of the May minutes was done. **Marcella Haushahn moved to approve the meeting minutes as presented. Kathleen Wilson seconded. Motion carried unanimously.**

Review and approval of the agency vouchers for August 2020. **Kathleen Wilson moved to approve the vouchers as submitted. Marcella Haushahn seconded. Motion carried unanimously.**

The financial report for August 2020 was presented. **A motion was made by Bill Sigler to approve the financial reports as presented. Marcella Haushahn seconded. Motion carried unanimously.**

Officer's Report:

President - Dorothy Bowers stated no one on the Ogle County Board has approached her with questions on the 708 and she has nothing to report with the HEW committee. They also have been conducting meetings via Zoom.

Vice President - Kathleen Wilson – nothing outside of the agenda contents.

Unfinished Business and Possible:

708 Video Committee (Renee Barnhart, Bill Sigler and Kathleen Wilson) – Kathy sent the email asking what everyone thought should be the most important thing covered in the outreach content and the purpose for the 708 board. Consensus is to not do the video and work on the website. Getting the information to those that are suffering ASAP is the focus. Covering all the agencies that offer assistance and their contact info.

Brent Jameson can host the site yearly with an annual fee between \$250-\$400. Different features will come at a greater cost. Unlimited Website, Unlimited Storage, Site Back up of main privacy protection, malware protection and Faster Website loop times are options. We would need to provide him with features and content of website. Kathy feels that the brochure information would be a good start. Utilizing links to agency websites would be available. Dorothy is unsure if we can piggy back the Ogle County Board Website but she will check into it.

Renee does not feel that we would get enough traffic as a standalone website. Kathy feels that a Facebook page would be a better option and attach it to an Instagram account. Keeps cost lower and allows for more administrators.

Kathe feels we should check into similar boards for inspiration on content and ease of use. Collar counties or even Kane may have something to look at and she will check into that and let others know.

Kathe is hopeful that the agencies will have 1 or 2 nice photos for submission. Or Brent can come and take quality photos.

Renee feels that if we can link it to the Ogle County Board website and do the Facebook page with access to all the agencies it will be the most effective. Also, that it will be very beneficial for the agencies to add events and fundraisers and other news as it happens. Dorothy asked if Renee could create the Facebook page and if she could be part of the committee and she accepted both. Renee, Kathy and Bill will have a conference call.

Kathe asked if people had ideas to share on Facebook content to email the info to her.

Dorothy asked if we are going to get set up with Brent for the \$250-300 or let that stand for now. Kathe feels we should start with the Facebook page and move forward with other avenues at a future date.

Renee stated we could use the Human Service Directory as a resource.

Vacant Seat – Promote position to fill – Dorothy reached out to Haylee. She has not responded to date. There was an applicant that applied and was turned down by the HEW committee. The applicant was currently receiving Sinnissippi services and Dorothy felt it was a conflict of interest because SSI is one of the largest benefactors of the 708 funds. Bill and Kathe both asked that Dorothy approach Haylee again because it is felt she would be a good asset to the 708 board. Ashley Koza talked with her a couple of weeks back and she sounded interest so she mentioned that maybe she did not get the message and felt that she should be reached out to again.

Kathe also has an individual that may be interested who did hold a seat on the board for a short time. Due to family circumstances he had to step down but feels he is in a better position to fill the duty demand now. Dorothy asked Kathe to follow up with the gentleman and see if he is interested and then Dorothy will follow up with procedure to nomination.

Economic Interest – Justine has the proof of receipt that everyone turned in and will make copies to distribute to everyone. She also has a copy of the application the 708 board submitted to the HEW.

708 Board to present to the County Board – Usually done the month of September right before funding. Dorothy will set up with John for Kathe to present at the September meeting held on 9/15 at 5:30 PM. The meetings are still being done via Zoom so there is not physical presentation.

Ogle County Senior Citizens Tax Levy – applications are due by August 7th and 708 board was first to submit thanks to Kathe and Bill. 708 will be first on the agenda for the day of hearings. Tuesday, August 25, 2020, 8:20 a.m.

New Business, discussion and possible action:

Brochure – No comments

Funding Applications – Justine informed of questions regarding the verbiage of the application when it comes to references of fiscal vs calendar year. Section II.3 (worksheet) states fiscal year but in the application, it refers to calendar year. What are the possibilities of showing fiscal and calendar year along with future year projections? Kathe noted that projections has been done prior and was always a great source of frustration for the agencies. Kathe feels that it would be best to use calendar year. To include an entire fiscal year, she feels the data would be to outdated for current needs.

Ruth from HOPE feels that it is more accurate data for a full year to use the fiscal year for the agencies.

Brion from VOP spoke to the fact that not all agencies have the same fiscal year. He suggested that we contact the committee foundation of Northern Illinois and talk with their Director to see what they use and how they decided on it. Patrick from SSI concurs with Brion. Feels that if they use the fiscal year consistently for application presentation then it is easy to compare where they stand from prior years. He understands that the calendar year has the most current numbers but for SSI they don't look at things on the calendar year so the data seems artificial. Brion offered to contact other foundations and see how they operate if his research will be considered in how the board proceeds moving forward. Kathe accepted his offer and asked him to email his findings to her. Bill requested that all the agencies voice their opinion on fiscal vs calendar and when we review the application, they will have that information and decide how to proceed moving forward. Kathe would like to see section 8.1 be removed "Brief narrative showing the need for 708 funds". She gathers her information from the Section II.3 worksheet. *No changes will be made until further review per Dorothy.*

Midyear Review – Dorothy does not feel it is necessary for the agencies to submit a mid-year review moving forward. Kathe concurred so Justine will take it out of the list of items to address per month.

Functions, Responsibilities and Authority – Review – make correction on outline numbers as "1" repeats. Then resend to board.

708 Funding Hearing to HEW – August 26, 2020, 8 am – No Zoom, in person only. Agency representatives can come and sit in larger room and the door to the room can be left open at times but when agency applications are being discussed it will be done privately. Kathe requested the use of the down stairs meeting room but the attendees would still have to be limited for social distancing.

Liaison Report:

Shining Star – Dorothy Bowers reported that meetings are being done via Zoom. Nothing else to report.

Northwestern Illinois Children's Care Collaborative – Renee Barnhart offered to be the Liaison and asked to update this group to Ogle County Cares Coalition.

Agency Reports:

Newspaper Article – August – LSSI

Easter Seals – **Patti Mook** reported that the CFO and CEO unfortunately made the decision to cancel the mom's retreat because of the rise in COVID numbers throughout the state for this year. The one-day retreat in November has also been cancelled. Currently they are at a standstill because the agencies they collaborate with for speakers are all on a standstill too. They are hosting the sibling workshop on September 26th at the

Lowell Nature Center in Dixon. Having a meeting next week to figure out the topic and the activities that they will be covering. They will have to reduce the number of children attending and they will have to wear masks. Easter Seals was awarded some grant money through the Rochelle COVID relief grant. Allowing them to pay some utility bills for families and purchased some gift cards from Walmart to distribute. Families were able to use those for groceries and school supplies. A good percentage of the children they deal with are choosing to do the online learning. Notably because of health issues so parents are more comfortable with the option. The gift cards help with the purchase of needed items to make that a possibility. Patti is back to the office 2 days a week and then working from home the others. This will be continued until further notice.

Hope – Ruth Carter reported that their shelter is full but they allow only 1 person or family per room to social distance and the house next door is full as well. They have received some dollars from DHS to support the continued shelter overflow in a local hotel. Focus mainly on people with a greater risk to move to the hotel allowing for new clients to come into the shelter. Remote video and telephone conferencing are being continued along with some in person counseling for crises clients. The orders of protection have been increasing over the past several months being the busiest they have seen. Currently they are hiring for domestic violence advocate positions. Process of interviewing as we speak. The uptick was expected because a majority of survivors are isolated to begin with and the pandemic just adds to this. Mailings have been sent to the Rochelle and rural area to notify they are still open and offering services. This was funded by two different grants under a bulk mailing. They were contacted by a presumed abuser feeling targeted so the next mailing will be addressed as a bulk mailing and specify “if you know of someone being abused” trying to avoid putting survivors at risk.

Lutheran Social Services of Illinois – Chris Mills reported that LSSI is providing most services remotely bringing out a lot of creativity in the prevention workers. Still carry the same goals but finding different ways to get the word out and continue to educate and cover everything they were doing previously. The upcoming school year has a lot of unknowns so they are working with DHS to get creative. Reaching out to partnering schools to see about interest in giving schools the option of playing recordings of their workers teaching lessons, specifically the first semester of the year. With the expansion of the programs stemming from the 708 board support they are hiring to help fulfill the needs in Ogle County. There will be two workers designated to Ogle County for the Project Lead Substance Use Prevention Program. CCBYS program is continuing to offer and provide the crises services. Noting that it needs to be done in person when law enforcement is involved for the lock out and runaway services.

Rockford Sexual Assault Counseling – Maureen Mostacci had to leave meeting and Michelle Pauley was not present.

Serenity Hospice and Home – Angie Thiesen reported still dealing with COVID issues and currently have about 80-90 patients. Their staff is in about 70 different homes and/or facilities making things very difficult to keep them safe as they are not in control of those environments. They have gone to weekly testing for their staff to try and minimize risk and it is taking up a good amount of resources. All bereavement classes have an online

component. Some are starting to meet back in person following social distancing guide lines. The camps they had scheduled for the grieving children in conjunction with Pegasus have been cancelled. Hoping to start them back up as soon as they are comfortable hosting. Upcoming online classes covering anxiety and COVID and a survivors class for people that have had COVID.

Sinnissippi Centers, Inc. – Patrick Phalen reported they have also been dealing with the ups and downs of the pandemic. They have been doing more stuff in house recently but are concerned with the rising numbers and wondering if they will continue to be able to operate that way. Clinicians are mainly coming into the office to take care of appointments that need to be in person stemmed from people that have challenges engaging over video or don't have the technology to do remotely. Still using a lot of telehealth and learned that some clients are engaging more and showing more improvements because of this method. Reasons from lack of transportation of clients having a hard time getting to the office or people that are not comfortable coming in to the office because of exposure or stigma. SSI is recognizing the value of telehealth as a primary service provision for certain people. The lady's recovery home finally opened last month and is housing 3 ladies. School this year will be a challenge as they have approximately 20 clinicians for 41 schools. With just a couple weeks to the start of the year they unsure how they will proceed. Some are being welcomed to the schools, some schools have already stated they will not have any external personal onsite and others are just in limbo as well.

Sinnissippi (Oregon office) – Ashley Koza – added they just need to be flexible on how they do things moving ahead.

Village of Progress – Brion Brooks reported it has been a weird 6 months and they have had suspended services since March. They have just been authorized to do a soft reopening starting on Monday. They had to go through extensive risk benefit analysis with each of the consumers. Interviewing all of them and then a committee selected 15 people that can start attending VOP on Monday. The normal number is 85 -95 consumers. If that goes well, the end of October or November, they can ramp up the number of attendees. The reality is a large amount of the people that they serve can not socially distance and they are waiting for more guidance from the state on how to serve them going forward. Estimating that they are losing about a half million dollars a year with a 3-million-dollar budget that is not a small chunk of change. Good news is they do have a cash reserve that can absorb a lot of it. Not expecting to lose as much as things improve. Have a new hire at the Bakery that has autism and loves it. Each month they deliver individual care packages to each consumer allowing the bus drivers to stay in contact and reassuring them that they are missed and the VOP is there and cares. Utilizing virtual meetings and tours because of all the changes that have been made for social distancing, alleviating concerns for some with the unknown. Have done exercise classes and cooking classes remotely. For the cooking classes they provide a box of brownie mix and ingredients and then show them how to make the brownies. Game nights and Bingo nights have been done and also had a virtual farewell party for a person moving out of state. Everyone is anxious to get back to what they where designed to do.

Public Comment:

None

There being no objection the meeting was adjourned.

The next regular meeting will be September 3, 2020 via Zoom with physical presence.

Respectfully submitted,
Justine Messenger
Recording Secretary

815-238-1829 occmh708bd@gmail.com

Approved: September 3, 2020

Dorothy Bowers, President

Margaret Tyne, Secretary/Treasurer