

**DEKALB COUNTY COMMUNITY MENTAL HEALTH BOARD  
MINUTES OF MEETING  
October 18, 2004**

**Board Members Present:** Bob Krogman, Norm Gilbert, Doug Fraley, Julia Fullerton, Jeannette Vaupel, Mary Petruchius, Regina Parker, Maureen Russell and Opal Zitka

**Board Members Absent:** none

**Other Persons Present:** Staff: Jerry Lane and Sue Halbrader  
Ben Gordon Center CEO Mike Flora and CFO Jerry Strachan, and board members John Lewis, Tom Brotcke and Chuck Kaiser

The Community Mental Health Board meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by President Bob Krogman.

**AGENDA**

Mr. Fraley moved to approve the agenda, seconded by Mrs. Vaupel, all in favor.

**INTRODUCTIONS**

Members of the Ben Gordon Center Board and the Community Mental Health Board introduced themselves.

**MINUTES**

**MR. GILBERT MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 21, SECONDED BY MRS. ZITKA. ON A VOICE VOTE, THE MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**CORRESPONDENCE AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- Mrs. Zitka distributed informational materials on bills presently pending in the Illinois Senate.
- Mr. Lane announced the Association of Community Mental Health Authorities of Illinois' Fall Retreat will be a planning and strategy session attended by staff.
- Mr. Lane circulated a meeting notice for the DeKalb Continuum of Care at the DeKalb County Health Department building in the Multi-Purpose Room, 2550 North Annie Glidden Road in DeKalb on Tuesday, October 26 at 11:00 a.m. A quarterly update and a five-year plan will be discussed in addition to a Domestic Violence Exemption for the Homeless Management Information System in Illinois. At issue is that the massive federal data base for domestic violence has

the potential to compromise the anonymity of clients.

- Mr. Lane said that the Comprehensive Youth Services have been called to meet by Kishwaukee Hospital to discuss diverting youth from hospital to community-based services when the individual is inappropriate for hospitalization. The meeting is scheduled for Friday, October 29 at Kishwaukee Hospital.
- Mr. Lane informed Board members that the draft of the mental health plan proposed by the Illinois Children's Mental Health Partnership may be reviewed on-line. The Plan was to go to the Governor on September 30.
- Mr. Lane announced that the Training Consortium met
- Mr. Lane said that on December 8, 2004, a training on "Trendy Drugs in Illinois" will be held at Rosecrance Griffin-Williamson Campus, 1601 University Drive in Rockford, from 8:30 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. Call Rosecrance at 815-391-1000 to register, or a registration form is available in the Board office. The fee is \$50.
- Mr. Lane said the Drug Court Task Force has found a grant opportunity that would fund Drug Court in part. The Grant needs the Chief Judge's approval. More on this issue as things develop.
- Mr. Lane has been named Rotary's Citizen of the Month and will be honored at a luncheon at the Fargo on Wednesday, October 20, 2004, at noon.
- Mrs. Fullerton told the Board she passed the Bar examination, and will be sworn in on November 4, 2004. Everyone expressed their best wishes and congratulations.

## **FINANCE REPORTS**

**MRS. PARKER MOVED TO APPROVE OF THE AGENCY CLAIMS FOR OCTOBER 21 AS SUBMITTED; SECONDED BY MR. GILBERT. ON A ROLL CALL VOTE THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**MRS. PARKER MOVED TO APPROVE OF THE OCTOBER 21<sup>ST</sup> OFFICE CLAIMS AS SUBMITTED; SECONDED BY MRS. FULLERTON. ON A ROLL CALL VOTE THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

## **COMMUNITY INPUT**

Board President Bob Krogman welcomed Mike Flora, Jerry Strachan, John Lewis, Chuck Kaiser and Tom Brotcke to the meeting, and explained that the Community Mental Health Board had invited them to ask questions regarding planned renovations at Ben Gordon Center.

Mr. Flora said demand for services has risen to 3,500 consumers annually, resulting in the demand for more staff and more space. In addition, the lease for space presently rented in the Crumb-Halstead Center will end in January, when Ben Gordon Center must vacate. At this time Ben Gordon Center employs twenty-four therapists but has only twelve therapy rooms. BGC operates on a \$1.3M budget with 70 staff. In comparison, the Janet Wattles Center in Rockford has a budget of \$12M, 269 staff, and saw 3,700 unduplicated clients in 2003! Mr. Flora has met with a number of officials to find ways of procuring greater State funding for BGC, to date to no avail.

Funding continues to be a problem for Ben Gordon Center, in part because funders, both private and not-for-profit, believe that all the needs of a county-owned facility are covered by taxes. The present proposal is for \$801,924 if construction is completed at one time, \$908,909 if done serially. Although the project is more expensive if done one piece at a time, it is the most practical approach because fund raising is slow.

Ben Gordon Center asked the Mental Health Board to assist them in the renovation. They have taken a number of bids, local and out-of-town, and decided to use the most economical local bidder. (The book of bids was left for MHB members perusal). Ben Gordon Center has managed to maintain its license, in spite of having no handicapped accessible bathrooms because they were grandfathered in by the State of Illinois. However, if the cost of renovation exceeds the original cost, Ben Gordon Center must upgrade the bathrooms, thus, at this time the bathrooms must be made handicapped accessible. In addition, fire codes call for a new sprinkler system and rewiring.

When asked what will become of BGC in another ten years, the BGC Board members said that expansion into the north end and the far south part of the county will become necessary. At the present location Ben Gordon Center is landlocked, and they will need a larger facility. Programs presently are running in Sandwich and Reality House is being used during the evenings to expand programs.

Ben Gordon Center has approached Monsanto about either purchasing or having them donate the old Ag building across Rte 23. Monsanto did not respond. The present arrangement with the Mental Health Board is a ten year lease agreement, renewable at the end. One option is for the Mental Health Board to propose a referendum, but the risk is that it could be turned down just as the jail expansion was, even though it is needed by the community. It is too late for this year, and an election year is bad timing anyway, and too late for 2005 as well. If the Board decided to have a referendum it could not take place until 2006. The DeKalb Community Mental Health Board also has the authority to issue bonds, but the problem is in finding ways to pay back investors.

After answering numerous questions from the Mental Health Board members, the visitors from Ben Gordon Center left the meeting. Discussion followed.

**MRS. RUSSELL MOVED TO APPROVE \$50,000 FOR BEN GORDON CENTER'S RENOVATION. IF THEY MATCH THIS AMOUNT, THE BOARD WILL MATCH DOLLAR FOR DOLLAR WHAT IS RAISED, UP TO AN ADDITIONAL \$50,000, SECONDED BY MRS. ZITKA.**

**ON A VOICE VOTE THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

None

## **OLD BUSINESS**

The search for a new Executive Director goes on. Preparation for the interviewing process continued with several Board members attending a workshop on Behavioral Interviewing with Dr. Terry Bishop of NIU. Members of the search committee have developed a format and questions for candidates. The Board determined that the top six candidates will be interviewed, beginning next Monday. If Board members cannot attend, the interview will be videotaped. The Board will review all six candidates and discuss their ranking. Times to meet will be determined by the schedules of candidates, as soon as possible. Board members will take home the list of questions to make the best determination of candidates.

The Special Projects request from the DeKalb County Training Consortium was discussed. LCPC, continuing education credits will be awarded to attendees.

**MRS. RUSSELL MOVED TO SET ASIDE \$850 IN SPECIAL PROJECTS FUNDS AS SEED MONEY FOR A SERIES OF LOCAL CONTINUING EDUCATION WORKSHOPS FOR MENTAL HEALTH PROFESSIONALS. THE FUNDS WILL BE REIMBURSED IF FEES FROM OUT OF COUNTY ATTENDEES EXCEED EXPENSES. SECONDED BY MS. PETRUCHIUS. ON A ROLL CALL VOTE THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

## **NEW BUSINESS**

**MRS. RUSSELL MOVED TO ADJOURN INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION, SECONDED BY MR. FRALEY.**

**MS. PETRUCHIUS MOVED TO ADJOURN FROM THE EXECUTIVE SESSION, SECONDED BY MRS. PARKER. ON A VOICE VOTE, ALL .**

**MRS. RUSSELL MOVED TO INCREASE THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S SALARY BY 5%, EFFECTIVE ON HIS ANNIVERSARY DATE, SECOND BY MRS. ZITKA. ON A ROLL CALL VOTE, THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**MS. PETRUCHIUS MOVED TO GIVE MR. LANE A \$1,000 BONUS, SECONDED BY MRS. PARKER. ON A ROLL CALL VOTE EIGHT YES, ONE ABSTENTION. THE MOTION PASSED.** Discussion of dinner meeting at 6:00 p.m. on Wednesday, December 1, 2004, to honor Mr. Lane. The location for the dinner meeting will be Johnny's Charhouse. Gifts and a plaque will be arranged for in the interim.

**MR. GILBERT MOVED TO ADJOURN THE MEETING, SECONDED BY MR. FRALEY. ALL IN**

**FAVOR. THE MEETING ADJOURNED AT 9:25 P.M.**

---

Secretary/Treasurer

C:\Files\Packets\Oct04.min