

**MINUTES**  
**ST. CHARLES COMMUNITY 708 MENTAL HEALTH BOARD**  
**Thursday, January 19, 2012**  
**City Council Chambers – Municipal Building**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Chairman John Rabchuk, Barb Gacic, Maureen Lewis, Terry Murphy, Mike Penny, and Mary Hughes

**ABSENT:** Nancy Kane Richards

**1. Call to Order**

Chairman John Rabchuk opened the meeting at 6:03 p.m.

**2. Approval of minutes of February 24, 2011 St. Charles Community Mental Health Board meeting.**

**Tina:** These were sent out last year for your review.

Motion by Terry Murphy, second by Mike Penny to approve minutes of February 24, 2011 St. Charles Community Mental Health Board meeting. **Voice Vote:** Unanimous, motion approved.

**3. Identify and discuss any Board vacancies that may be created in 2012.**

**John:** Terry and Barb, your terms are up in April this year and you'll automatically be reappointed unless you say otherwise. It's a 4-year term.

**Tina:** In some cases when someone comes in new to this board, they take over the term of whom they are replacing, so they may come up for renewal sooner than four years based on whose position they took.

Barb and Terry are both fine with renewing their terms.

**Maureen:** How are we dealing with me being the Council liaison. Does that open up my position?

**Tina:** No, when Cliff resigned as Council liaison, he created a vacancy and we placed Ald. Martin in to fill Cliff's position. At that time you were just appointed as temporary acting alderman for Ward 5 until you were elected. When you were elected, you took over as Council liaison. Ald. Martin was released which created a vacancy that Mary Hughes came back to fill. So you are still in your present term which will come due in 2013.

#### **4. Elect officers of Mental Health Board**

**John:** We have three officers of the Board of Directors that are elected for annual term: President, Vice President, and Secretary which that is covered by City personnel (Tina). Currently I am President and Terry is Vice President. Are there any nominations?

John stated that when his term is up in 2014 he is not sure that he will stay on. "I really enjoy doing this, but I also really believe that other people should take on new roles and that there is a purpose for terms."

Motion by Mike Penny, second by Barb Gacic to re-elect our current President and Vice President to remain as officers of the St. Charles Mental Health Board. **Voice Vote:** Unanimous, motion approved.

#### **5. Additional Items**

**John:** The other topic of discussion is funding. Undoubtedly we are going to have significantly less money to work with this year. Finance Director, Chris Minick's guess is somewhere in the \$590K range which is about 5-6% less than last year due to the property tax rates have gone down and due to foreclosures.

Last year we allocated \$634K and take \$40K off of that it is more close to 8% reduction. Undoubtedly, I have talked with some of the agencies throughout the year and they are going to be asking for more because they are hurting bad from state reductions, private donation reductions, federal reductions, etc. Their needs have gone up substantially. Lazarus is overwhelmed with people, Crisis Center is busting at the seams, and AID has had to close a lot of their centers and so on. I just want to reiterate, that it will be more important than ever as we consider funding requests to really look hard at the mission of the board. If you don't have a copy of the bylaws, Tina will forward one to you and I would encourage you to read it ahead of time and have that in your head when you are talking to those agencies. All these agencies have great needs and have good programs, and they do a lot of good, but does it really fit our charter.

When you go through the list the things to focus on are the mental disorders, development of disabilities including mental retardation, cerebral palsy, epilepsy, autism, substance abuse and drug abuse.

**Tina:** We have two new agencies that have applied this year: Marklund and National Alliance for the Mentally Ill for DeKalb, Kane and Kendall counties (NAMI DKK). I also had a conversation with Peg Coker for Volunteer Literacy and she is not sure if she should come as she is not sure her organization fits our criteria.

**John:** My personal feeling is that we can't say up front not to apply. She needs to apply, if they want to.

**Maureen:** I have had a tour of their facility and it is wonderful what they do, but it is not what we do.

**Tina:** I will tell her it is her decision.

**John:** Last year we had requests at \$760K and your deliberations, as a board, we cut it back by almost \$130K from what the requests were. In previous years we actually gave out more because we had surplus dollars.

**Terry:** When I first joined four years ago, you had just embarked on the A, B, C classifications and we didn't fund anything that fell under the C category. The Board has done a really good job at using our mission as a filter for these.

**John:** As the money goes down and expect it will again next year due to property values, this is going to be a tougher allocation process.

**Maureen:** Might we consider funding our A's at the level of what they are asking and then dividing up what is left to B's.

**John:** Could be, there are multiple ways to do this. That is one alternative to consider. Realistically, the Board needs to consider each application, every year they have different programs and do different things. We've seen big changes over the years, such as Easter Seals, as to what they've done and what they don't do anymore. You really need to go through the packets this year with a fine eye on it and look at what's new, what are they doing. Their cover application form asks them to identify this.

On the surface, Marklund fits us very well, but I have no idea how many St. Charles residents are involved out there. Then there is NAMI who does a lot of direct service and advocacy which is similar to DayOne Network. They don't provide services as much as they help people find the services.

That makes another consideration, do we just go to pure service providers as opposed to agencies that are somewhat of a clearing house provider.

##### **5. Assignment of Agency Visits**

It is time to once again to go and visit some of these agencies – everyone picks a couple for this year and we do the same next year, we will get them all covered. Please schedule these meetings prior to our annual meeting on February 23. Just write up some notes on your visit and submit them to Tina.

Here is the list:

Maureen – Renz and Ecker Center  
Barb – Suicide Prevention and Living Well  
Mike – Lazarus and TriCity Family Services

708 Mental Health Minutes  
January 19, 2012  
Page 4

Terry – CASA and Marklund  
Mary – TriCity Health Partnership and Easter Seals  
John – Fox Valley Hospice and ElderDay  
Nancy – Crisis Center and AID

**Adjourn**

Motion by Mike Penny, second by Terry Murphy to adjourn the meeting at 6:35 p.m.  
**Voice Vote:** Unanimous, motion approved.

Respectfully submitted

Tina Nilles  
Recording Secretary