

**MINUTES**  
**ST. CHARLES COMMUNITY 708 MENTAL HEALTH BOARD**  
**THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 2016**  
**COMMITTEE CONFERENCE ROOM – MUNICIPAL BUILDING**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Chairman Barb Gacic, Michael Cohen, Carla Cumblad,  
Ron Silkaitis, Ron Weddell, Mary Hughes, Carolyn Waibel

**ABSENT:**

**OTHERS:** Tina Nilles and Tracey Conti

**1. Call to Order**

Chairman Barb Gacic opened the meeting at 5:32 p.m.

**2. Announcements**

**Barb:** Welcome to everyone as we again take on the task of discussing the agencies that have submitted applications for funding requests for FY16/17 of the 708 Mental Health Board. Before we call on our guests I would like to cover a few areas of housekeeping. As I've said several times I believe we are all here because we truly believe in the mission of the board. I know we all have our own agendas and our reasons for being board members, but there are specific areas of some agencies that come before us that hits our hot button, and others that don't; but as we walk through the door into our meeting I would like to ask you again to leave your individual feelings towards the agencies outside. I also ask, although we may have differences of opinions, we keep our personal feelings to a minimum as we can see in the greater political arena in the counties, state and federal, it doesn't do anyone any good. Please be objective as we go through the process tonight and again next Thursday. We are fortunate that our funding is up \$18,400 from last year which is the first in six years that it's been up. So we are in better shape than we have been for a number of years and although our needs are great, the agencies seem to understand our plight and we have two new agencies that have requested funding in the amount of \$25K between those two new agencies and our requests are down \$54,330 from last year. Everyone is pretty much asking for what they had gotten with a rare few exceptions. As always when I'm taking funding votes, I will not be voting as chair and Ald. Silkaitis will be allowed to vote.

**3. Guests**

**Barb -** I want to welcome Judge Hull here tonight. Most of us know of him or at least have read about him in the newspaper. I do want to say personally that I was happy to read in Wredling's application that I saw you and Judge Bowles presented your program to the students at Wredling. That's an incredible thing you do throughout the community reaching out to these young people.

One question I have is tell us about the Ecker Center and the Kane County Drug Court?

**Honorable Judge Clint Hull:** I grew up in St. Charles, went to Davis Elementary School, Thompson Junior High, and graduated from St. Charles East High School in 1985. I have four kids that brings my family here. I never planned on leaving and I love the community. One of the greatest things is to be able to give back to the community and I was prosecutor from 1993 to 2009 and became a judge in 2009.

The reason I'm here introducing myself is that for the last 3-1/2 years I've been named the presiding judge of the Treatment Alternative Court or Mental Health Court which is directly related to what you all are doing. Our Treatment Alternative Court staff can only serve, funding wise, 20 people – that's our cap. We can only serve people that are charged with felony offenses. In the criminal justice system the felonies are the most serious crimes; so people who need mental health treatment, and we have many that can benefit from our services, but since they haven't created a serious enough crime, we can't let them in. It's sort of backwards that they have to commit something really bad before they can get into the program.

Ultimately this is a 2-year process with three phases. Phase 1 which is 3 months and they see us every week. Phase 2 is 9 months where we see them once every 2 weeks, and the last phase is a year where we try to re-integrate them into the community and the goal is when they leave our program they leave with a job, understanding their mental illness, medicated, and knowing they have the support of the community when they leave. This is a great program: Ecker Center, AID, Gateway, all those organizations are part of this team. We have experts there who help out and tell us what is best for each individual. This is a team approach in a courtroom environment. We have good days and bad days where people aren't taking their medication. We tell them when they come in that our goal is to get them out of the program without ever spending a day in jail, and that saves taxpayers' money and is better for the community as a whole.

We meet every Thursday at 2:30 p.m. in Courtroom 305. The number of people depends on how many are in Phases 1 2, and 3. We spend 1-1/2 hours getting updates and feedback on the people participating in the program. There are tears some days, the courtroom can be an emotional place and we do celebrate successes.

I just wanted to come here to introduce myself and thank you all for what you're doing. I'm not here asking for any funding. The funding you give out to the different agencies really makes a difference. Where the people in our courtroom really suffer is with housing. If they don't have a secure place to go, it's really hard to concentrate on getting your mental health, food, and medication. I hope my next path will be to help the mental health needs for kids that are in our community.

**Michael:** What is the percentage of people who have started the program and successfully completed it?

**Clint:** Right now under 50% but that's a 10-year history. Our percentages are getting better because now we're looking at who we can target and have a successful benefit from the treatment. Some people are not immune to treatment.

**Tina:** Before we go on, I would like to introduce Tracey Conti, who is my right hand in the office. I am officially handing over the baton to Tracey to be the lead person in assisting all of you with the Mental Health Board as I step away.

**Barb:** Introduced Chief Keegan. We met on December 1 at City Hall and then I requested a legal clarification with the City Attorney to make sure this was something we could do. We met December 8 at John McGuirk's office and he sent us an email stating it was legal which is in Chief Keegan's packet. I also checked with the INC. Board, NFP and they were okay with it and said this was a legitimate funding as well. Chief is here tonight to give everyone an idea of what he is requesting and why, ahead of next week's meeting, since he won't have enough time to go through everything next week.

**St. Charles Police Chief Jim Keegan:** I've been chief here for the last 18 months and Michael has known me for the last 20+ years. I was Police Chief in Streamwood previously and been a police officer for 24 years. One of the single most important things I did in Streamwood was to bring in a social worker. It was so successful that by the time I left we had two full time social workers. When I first arrived in St. Charles, I contracted with AID which is a funded 708 participant. What we currently have now is an on-call social worker available to help folks in need whether it's an emergency type situation, death notification, or someone who needs to be placed for a mental health order; or if something were to happen over the weekend that it could be stabilized until Monday and then we would call them.

What I've seen is that we have so many social worker agencies in St. Charles such as, Ecker, Renz, AID, TriCity, Lazerus House, the list goes on. We don't have that continuity with one agency. We have 54 police officers and often times it's a myriad of officers that are dealing with the same situation and there's not that one repository, a social service group that we can deal with today and maybe it's a different person tomorrow. There's just no continuity with my staff. On any given day one of my guys calls AID and you get a different person. It's a great asset to have but I'm not building that relationship internally so it's not taking off where I want it to be. I've evaluated everything my first year and like Streamwood we have quality of life issues that need attention.

Oftentimes the police are the first point of contact that someone has. When someone is in need whether its medical assistance, police intervention, or quality of life issues; people are programmed to call 911. We get there and a lot of times it isn't a crime and people need to be linked with social services. It could be mental health issues which are very prevalent these days, it could be a chemical or substance abuse issue. Just this past week we had two heroin saves on the same person within 18 hours of each other. It could be victim advocacy and the person could be a victim of a crime and might need to be linked

to resources through the State's Attorney office for order of protection, or neighborhood issues, such as being agoraphobic (not leaving their house) or feed feral cats – these are issues we deal with. We have elderly services where some folks are in need of subsidized utility billing or maybe Catholic charities – meals on wheels. There are services that we could link them to that right now there is a gap and many more.

How can I get to where I want to be in having that point of contact - that key person? I want to start out small. I don't want to take away any funding that any of the other groups have relied upon over the years. My intention is how to bridge the gap and my goal within the next 3-4 years will speak for itself and once the community and social services get a feel and taste of what a social worker can do, this is going to be a catalyst to bring someone in full time. With that being said, I approached Barb and Mr. McGuirk and the city forefathers. Right now I allocate \$15K out of my budget to have an on-call social worker through AID. What I'd like to do is ask the 708 Board to consider matching funds for the next year. I've already been in contact with AID and they would bring that same social worker type concept into our building and into the community. I'm shooting for 20 hours a week but will settle for 16 hours. If I could get two days a week to start with, I think that will be a solid foundation and that person will be that catalyst that all the different funding entities are going to deal with; not only within St. Charles but also my staff and the community. We're still going to have the on-call person, so if that person is not here when something happens, we'll still have the availability to call someone in. Just to clarify, we're not going to do counseling, we're not going to take on folks who come in routinely and service the same people over and over again like in a counseling therapy session. We are to stabilize a quality of life issue, asses a situation, and try to find that person resources. That's why it's so important to have someone in-house. A lot of folks' problems today are quality of life issues. Mental illness and drug abuse are higher than they've ever been. If I've seen one change in my 24 years of being a policeman, it's that.

**Mary:** You are preaching to the choir as far as I'm concern as I have no problem with this, but my concern is the funding. If we fund this for one year, what is your plan for funding this for a second year?

**Chief Keegan:** I want to start small and that is why I asked for the matching funds as a template. With the economic times of the State of Illinois, it wasn't prudent for me to ask you, the City, to fund this but with this mechanism that we fund here through city tax dollars, I wanted to incrementally approach the Mental Health Board. What I'm hoping is to bring this person on part-time to start with; I think the activity levels and service levels – the proof is going to be in the pudding. I would like to hopefully incrementally work with the City and the 708 Board and bridge that gap and in 3-4 years my goal is to have someone here full time. Once this gets in place and you see it working, it's just something I hope to build upon.

**Barb:** We don't want you to rely on the 708 Mental Health Board and then suddenly something happens next year that we can't fund you. Six years ago we had \$724K that

we were funding from this board, and last year we had \$501K – that's \$223K down, so everyone took a hit. We're hoping the economy has stabilized and we're seeing an uptick, but we don't want you to rely on it to the point where all of sudden you're in trouble because you are receiving money from us and then there's nothing and leaving your budget in the lurch as well.

**Mary:** I have no problem with the concept; I think we could really use this, but we hear grant requests every year and our budget is different every year and our requests are different every year. I was wondering if you had a contingency plan?

**Chief Keegan:** Yes and no. I've been here 19 months and the first year I did the call out for a contract and this year is for the matching funds. We had 49 cases that we've opened since May 1, 2015 and 82 have been serviced since we had the program for the on-call. I'm going to evaluate each year. I don't have a master plan to say that next year I'm going to ask for \$20K and the year after that etc. I think the activity levels are going to speak for themselves and justify the same funding from the City.

**Carla:** You've done a lot of training with your officers and I think it's really critical for your officers to know that once they have identified the signs of mental illness that they know where to point them in the right direction. I couldn't agree more to have someone in your facility to help your officers to help others. You might find other funding agencies to help expand your services, maybe the State's Attorney?

**Ron W:** Is your initial objective to have a contractual relationship with an AID agent transition into a City employee?

**Chief Keegan:** That's where I would like to see this going. I only have my past experience to go on, but once the community, my staff, and other entities see it; I don't know how we'll do without it.

**Michael:** This is a very unique position that I see other communities that has this set up and it's really amazing to see the work they do and how they connect together working with the residents with them being a liaison between community and other agencies. They can in a very short term stabilize a family and then refer them to a long term family therapy agency. This is a needed position. My question is would this be an AID person you would hire or are you going to do a whole interview process?

**Chief Keegan:** I gave the City Administrator and Mayor three different options and right now I'm going to pursue the AID contractual route which would be an AID employee. Our contract would be doubled which is why I'm asking for the funding, and then we would evaluate it to see what the case load might be and the feedback is. My goal would be to bring on a social worker at some point as a city employee with appropriate certification/degree. I would prefer to bring on a License Clinical Social Worker (LCSW).

**Carolyn:** Is that the path you took in Streamwood to bring on an employee?

**Chief Keegan:** In Streamwood I wrote a grant when I was a Commander and ultimately I convinced the Mayor to fund it through the city and brought on an Master in Social Work (MSW) who was a little cheaper for the budget who then became an LCSW later on. The program was so successful that I brought in a second part timer and an intern. Sometimes I had three in the Police Department.

**Michael:** What did their supervisor do for consultation? Did they do a monthly consultation with someone else that is licensed outside to help with cases they are working on at the City or would they just go to you?

**Chief Keegan:** Each and every case is different and if there's a case load that they needed help they could look at different resources such as Renz Center, Catholic Charities who could help with utilities, the next day it could be a hoarder. If she got to a certain point that she needed village resources she would talk to me about the situation. She knew every social worker in the schools, DCFS workers, homeless shelters, etc. I couldn't get my head around the whole 708 concept here at the City because in Cook County it's done through the township not the city. I met with Barb initially to find out how we do things here and had to familiarize myself in how things are done here in St. Charles.

**Barb:** I asked the question of how many officers currently have (CIT) and how many will have it once you have a social worker on staff so the officers are identifying they need to contact the system.

**Chief Keegan:** CIT is Crisis Intervention Team and right now we have 20-25% of our force. Just like my goal in 3 to 4 years is to have a social worker full time, I would like to have the entire force or at least first responders and patrol officer who are specially trained officers that know how to deal with signs of mental illness. They have mechanisms in place where we actually do the training where we bring in role players and these officers learn how to get down to the grass roots and learn how to deal with people's problems. It's the ability to talk to people and listen; that's what we teach our officers to get to their level and talk to them. Often times we deal with frequent fliers who are people that come in time and time again and it's because they haven't been able connect to the proper resource yet.

**Michael:** From my point of view in my line of work it is so helpful in knowing that this kind of resource is out there in Streamwood, Hanover Park, Elgin; it's unbelievable for us. Service providers benefit greatly with having a police social worker.

**Mary:** I do like the idea of having an AID contract at first because they have a vast array of services at their fingertips and the person would feel connected with all kinds of possibilities of support.

**Barb:** Also economically it's a good move as it saves you on the benefits so you can maximize the dollars.

**Chief Keegan:** I'm really hoping to build up a continuity with organizations within the City of St. Charles.

**Michael:** Is this funding request to go to just salary?

**Chief Keegan:** Yes, I've been working with AID and this \$15K contract pays for on-call salary for now and it was agreed upon by the Mayor, City Attorney and Barb. I do hope to see this growing over the years.

#### **4. Approval of minutes of November 15, 2015 St. Charles Community Mental Health Board.**

**Ron:** On the bottom of page 1 there is reference to MESA and should be MISA (Mentally Ill Substance Abuse).

**Carolyn:** On page 2 please add a statement that I had the opportunity to visit 10 agencies.

Motion by Silkaitis, second by Hughes to approve minutes of November 15, 2015 St. Charles Community 708 Mental Health Board as amended above.

**Voice Vote:** Ayes: Unanimous; Nays: None. **Motion passed.**

#### **5. Round Table Funding Request Application Discussions**

**Barb:** Do the agencies know they only have 7 minutes?

**Tina:** That was mentioned in the intro letter that went to all agencies with the application request. It stated *"Also note the board, in making a conscious effort to stay on schedule, ask that your presentation be limited to 5 minutes touching on highlights of what your organization has done that is new in this past year. The other 5 minutes will be Q&A directed by the Board members."*

**Ron W:** Based on that are the 3 minutes for comments or to get ready for next agency?

**Barb:** It's for comments – we just roll into the next one.

**Tina:** We want to stay focus in not letting them get too far off track and talk. We want to ask them what's new and what did they spend the money on that they received from us last year.

**Barb:** Let's talk through the applications and I'll start. I took notes on my thoughts and we can go around the table and comment. Last year we had two questions that we asked all the agencies and then one question that was agency specific. Don't know if you all want to ask the same two questions as last year, but my first question I have that might apply to a lot of the agencies is (there's an article in the paper that the Fox Valley – Aurora based and Central Kane County United Way located in St. Charles agencies are merging and it's happening August 1, 2016). According to the news press release they do not anticipate any funding changes within the next two years. The one not merging currently is Batavia, but they may ultimately decide they want to and Paula Yensen is retiring. As I went through the agencies' applications there are a lot of them that get some funding from both of these UW agencies.

**Mary:** The question that concerns me and there are rumors going around, but someone stated that AID may be good for 8 -12 months, but then didn't know what their budget would be like if the state issues don't get resolved. I'm sure there are other agencies with similar issues. I would like to know how many might be having this issue.

**Barb:** Last year's #2 question was how are you preparing for future state budget cutbacks? Referred to spreadsheet: blue referenced agencies receiving state funding and red referenced agencies who do not receive any state funding.

**Carla:** As I recalled some of their answers on what they're going to do specifically with the state funding – it didn't seem dire.

**Mary:** That was back in February before the budget really blew up in May and I think there have been some changes.

**Carla:** So for us making our decisions, if someone was about to close their doors, would they have a higher priority for us, or how would we be able to verify that?

**Mary:** I think we should be aware if someone says their closing next month, that's something we need to know.

**Barb:** We don't fund these kinds of things, but schools don't know if they're going to get funding, they may have to close their doors in March, and some seniors may not get to graduate (IMSA for example).

**Mary:** Some agencies do have contingency plans; some have lines of credit.

**Ald. Silkaitis:** Some may not want to tell us those things especially if there is possibility they will have to close their doors. The larger agencies can probably survive somewhat but these smaller ones – perhaps they should merge due to their budgets.



**Barb:** Some are doing that but some are also very diverse. They attract different clientele and different needs. Renz Center would not be the same as for AID. Any thoughts on what any of you would like to ask?

**Carla:** As I look at how much money we have and every one of these organizations are very worthy; we've had a request for \$24K more from two new agencies and we have \$19K more. I just wonder, as I read through the applications that they all sound pretty much the same as last time; I was making a table about their service hours, how many people they served, etc. and it's all very similar. I don't feel like I want to quibble on \$1,000 here and a \$1,000 there. I came up with I would just give them all what they got last year and then fund the other two agencies and be done with it.

**Mary:** I agree.

**Carla:** We can ask questions and get a little more information, but they're all worthy. They have all followed the directions and checklist given to them. If we gave them the same amount of money, they would be okay with that.

**Tina:** That would greatly simplify the process and alleviate the headaches of quibbling over a few extra dollars to one or two other agencies – that's just my opinion.

**Carolyn:** I'm supportive of that.

**Mary:** I'm very supportive of the police social worker.

**Barb:** Discussion on dividing up some of the money between Wredling and new agency Snowball. I do have questions for Snowball based on their application submittal. They did comment they did not receive any funding the last time they applied to us and there's no indication on how the kids are recruited, what other organizations do they apply to for funding? Why are they using the Community Foundation 501C(3) letter?

**Carolyn:** They have applied to the Youth Commission several years in a row and we have declined as we did not feel they qualified within our parameters as they couldn't bring enough to the table on what their program was about and what their finances were being used for specifically to help the kids in the program. There's been a lot of history with the Youth Commission knowing Snowball to be exclusive in their choosing of students. This is hearsay in the experience over the years with the Youth Commission. So we've declined their funding as we don't consider them to be of an equal opportunity player organization to help every child/person that may be in need. I'm not trying to deter you from your decision making; I was just filling you in on what the Youth Commission feelings are. Snowball is a good organization.

**Michael:** In my organization we are actually taking three kids to Snowball but we are not asking for \$10K. We're taking three freshmen and someone has been working with them in the schools and we're paying the cost of \$200 each. It's a weekend thing and the

staff is free and it's based on development leadership skills where they can learn how to do all of this and bring it back to their school. It's also to help keep kids in positive activities and away from drugs and alcohol.

**Barb:** I also did not feel they had a complete application – looks like there were some gaps in it.

*Round table discussion of some of the requests numbers not adding up and total dollars to be able to fund is not accurate. Our money situation is not as much as we thought we had. We are off by \$22K.*

**Ron Silkaitis:** Looking at the agenda, why are CASA and TriCity Health Partners not coming? Combined they are asking for \$20K.

**Tina:** Requests of \$10K and under are not required to come. TriCity and CASA did come last year.

**Barb:** Also with TriCity Health Partners, she thought with so many people coming to present it was helpful to us to not take time away from others. We can change this to have agencies come.

**ACTION:** It's definitely something to discuss and put on a future agenda.

**Ron S:** With these two agencies not coming, does that affect what we think about them?

**Barb:** No.

**Ron W:** One question I have is we show having an \$8K surplus; can we use a portion of that?

**Barb:** Can you check with Chris if that \$8K surplus is over our \$520K on the balance sheet? We try to disperse all of our money and only keep a few hundred dollars in reserve.

**Tina/Tracey: ACTION:** So you want me to ask Chris if the \$8K showing on the balance is a true number and can we use it?

**Barb:** Yes.

**Michael: ACTION:** And again I would like to know that the money we give them – is it going into their bank account to fund everything, or as Chief Keegan stated all the money he receives will be going to the police social worker, not for anything else.

**Barb:** I don't want to get into restricted funding, that can present problems as well.

**Mary:** I do like the idea of giving them what they got last year; they're not getting cut and that's somewhat a victory and then we have some extra money for the new agencies and even the Class B group could get a little bit more.

**Tina:** Now onto the questions to be asked.

**Barb:** Question #1 last year was *"What do you see as need-specific to the St. Charles community?"* I take that to mean what are you going to use your funding for as need-specific for your agency?

**Michael:** That's a little confusing. How about *"What specifically is your agency going to use your funding for St. Charles residents?"*

*Ron Silkaitis left the meeting at 7:00 p.m.*

**Barb:** Second question last year is *"How are you preparing for future state cutbacks?"*

**Carolyn:** They didn't have answers last year, but they will this year.

**Barb:** Then we had a third question that was agency specific last year. I would like to have a question for Elderday regarding United Way?

**Tina:** Are you going to have agency specific questions for each agency? Think about your time – you may want to stay with just the two.

**Mary:** I agree, we can always just say is there anything else you would like to add?

**Carolyn:** Or, is there anything new in your programs that you would like to share?

**Carla:** I would suggest we limit it to two questions and if you have something specific Barb that you want to ask; you should eliminate question #2 and just ask that specific question. What concerns me is we have 10 minutes with no taking your coat off – how ya doing? I saw how it got so backed up that people were waiting for an hour for their 10-minute slot.

**Tina:** We need someone to mediate and be a time keeper so as not to let them speak so much but to answer the questions with some comments; and as Barb did last year, every few presentations you refresh the audience of the time process for the evening so they know when they come forward what the lay of the land is per se.

**Carolyn:** We give them three minutes to speak and then we ask the questions.

**Barb:** I have a question for Renz again as to why there is no gambling numbers for St. Charles, can they speculate on that? They are asking for \$68K - \$5K more than last year.

**Michael:** Do we know for what though?

**Carolyn:** A lot of people are asking for the same amount they did last year with a slight percentage increase. I went to Easter Seals and I had a debate on how many St. Charles people they really do service – I question their numbers?

**Carla:** I think you should start with the question, tell us what's special in your application that has to do with the St. Charles residents and they can just tell us that and talk for three minutes. You then ask your backup questions.

**Michael:** I just want to hear what they are using our money for and how's it benefitting the residents. I'm good with that.

**Mary:** I don't want to be rude to them because they are very proud of what they do and they should be because they are pinching their pennies three, four, or five times.

**Carla:** I'm certainly not intending not to let them talk, but just to give them some structure.

**Mary:** I like the balance of those questions last year as they were kind of a jumping off point. They got to say what they wanted to say anyways no matter what the questions were.

**Carolyn:** So do you want to start with the questions and if they get done with minutes to spare; we say is there anything else you would like to tell us? So they have a few more minutes to share with us at the backend.

**All:** Agreed.

**Michael:** Barb, I also liked last year when you let everyone know how much money we have to work with.

**Tina:** I'll get this last portion of these minutes out to you with the proposed structure and questions and the rest of the minutes will come later on.

## **6. Adjournment**

Motion by Wedell, second by Cumblad to adjourn meeting at 7:15 p.m.

**Voice Vote:** Ayes: Unanimous; Nays: None. **Motion carried.**

Respectfully submitted by  
Tina Nilles, Recording Secretary