

MEETING MINUTES
ST. CHARLES 708 COMMUNITY MENTAL HEALTH BOARD
WEDNESDAY APRIL 19, 2023 – 5:30 PM
MUNICIPAL BUILDING, COUNCIL CHAMBERS
2 E. MAIN STREET, ST. CHARLES, IL

1. Call to Order

Chair Poremba called the meeting to order at 5:30 PM

2. Roll Call

Members Present: Bryant, Denz, Poremba, Rosenberg, Silkaitis, Weddell

Absent: Litchfield

3. Approval of Minutes March 22, 2023

Chair Poremba asked if there were any amendments to the minutes or a motion to approve.

Motion to approve by Silkaitis second by Weddell

Voice Vote Aye: 6 No: 0

Motion Carries

4. Chair Report

None

5. Organization Presentations

A. Day One Pact – Dan Dahlke 5:40PM

Mr. Dahlke gave a brief overview of the organization, citing the organization is working with record numbers of children this year. Coupled with changes in requirements by the state caseloads will remain high through summer months going forward.

RW: Asked for clarification of the funding ask.

DD: The ask is for partial funding.

KP: Asked the difference between this organization and Easter Seals

DD: Described the similarities and differences.

B. Joshua Tree – Amy Singer/Reggie Whiting 5:50PM

Mr. Whiting gave an overview of programming offered and described the reasons for the funding ask. Their relocation to the space with the Kane County Cougars will remain; they will now have a small fee for rent monthly, which they had not had when they were based in the space with the church.

RW: Inquired about the residents served.

Mr. Whiting: Shared the areas served which are typically St. Charles, Geneva, Batavia however they have served further North Kane.

KP: How many are you currently serving?

Mr. Whiting: 17

C. CASA Kane County - Jim DiCiaula 6:00 PM

Mr. DiCiaula shared current numbers of Kane County children served has more than doubled since 2019. The cases are showing more severe than past cases. Caseload is coming in more quickly than can be closed. They are currently seeking to increase their volunteer base. Mr. DiCiaula discussed some initiatives he is pursuing in advocacy for the children they serve.

RW: Asked the age out for the program.

JD: Technically 21. 6% of the pool is 18-21. Many more services are available for those willing to stay past 18 years of age. Approximately 5 of these are St. Charles residents.

MB: Asked how they are working to find more volunteers.

JD: Described several avenues they are pursuing, stating new volunteer class sizes are approximately 25.

D. Living Well Cancer Resource Center – Angela McCrum 6:10 PM

Ms. McCrum offered updates for their organization which include a second location in Warrenville. Utilization of support continues to offer many virtual options but is starting to see people return to the centers. Ms. McCrum states service to St. Charles residents has been steady over the years with slight 1-2% increases annually.

E. Lazarus House – Sue King 6:20 PM

Ms. King stated average typical stay, had previously been, about two months. Recently they are finding that approximately 20% of guests are needing to stay for about three months. Mental illness is also seeing increases in the guests served. They are looking to be able to increase capacity to house.

KR: How many children do you house?

SK: Currently they have five including a teen, all living there with a parent.

RW: Referred to the level of detail about a specific priority from last year and how much better this detail has helped in reading the priority, offering thanks to Ms. King for implementing that feedback from last year.

F. Ecker Center – Kim Petit 6:30 PM

Ms. Petit shared a new crisis stabilization program which opened in Elgin in March of this year. The new space is designed to be non-clinical in the environmental feel but can offer up to 23 hours of services or a place to stabilize. Intake and therapy are now available at the St. Charles location. Same day intake is new this year. Ms. Petit shared a list of all programs and services available with board members.

RS: Asked if there has been an increase in requests for gambling intervention services.

Ms. Petit: Not currently.

KR: Asked about the intake process.

Ms. Petit outlined their process.

G. Elderday Center – Michael Cobb 6:40 PM

Mr. Cobb discussed the growth of the Elderday program, stating that while they are not a memory care center some of their clients, referred to as pearls, do have varying degrees of dementia. Elderday is a dementia friendly option for their clients. This year celebrates 33 years of Elderday. Currently five clients are residents of St. Charles.

KP: Asked if assessments done show positive trending in reduced depression.

MC: Yes, overall, they show reduced depression.

CD: Inquired about planning for increased ability to take on more clients, as dementia is on the rise.

MC: Stated yes, and they plan to hire staff to address, including nurse practitioners, as they see numbers increase.

RW: Asked if there is a minimum age for attending.

MC: States usually clients are at least 55-60 with the current oldest being 98.

H. NAMI KDK – Sara Gray 6:50 PM

Ms. Gray spoke ahead of her scheduled time at approximately 6:20 PM and ahead of Mr. Cobb as she arrived early and there was open time available.

Ms. Gray discussed the boundaries that NAMI KDK serves and their mission. Ms. Gray shared a PowerPoint for FY2024 and discussed. Ms. Gray discussed a partnership initiative with Kane County United.

MB: Asked about the funding amount difference from the first page to the individual priorities on subsequent pages.

SG: Clarified the front page is total cost and the subsequent numbers are funding are the ask, which is not the full amount of the cost.

BREAK 7:00 PM

I. Scene 2 - Amy & Randall Bennett 7:10 PM

Ms. Bennett introduced their organization as a non-profit counseling service. The organization was born of frustration for lack of high quality services available for people who could not afford to pay in full for service. Their organization will run a 2-week summer camp this year targeting executive functioning skills for kids who are unable to find success in regular summer camps. The team hopes to be able to offer scholarships to the students who are unable to afford attending. The program will cap at 10 kids and run July 10-21st.

CD: Asked how many kids they anticipate being from St. Charles

AB: Discussed the places they will target market to invite kids, including schools.
RB: States he believes they will serve 5-6 kids from the St. Charles area.
RW: Discussed funding disbursement occurs in August which would miss the July date noted for the camp this year. Would they plan to hold funds over to the next year?
AB: Discussed they have a spring fundraiser they could rely on and could hold these funds for a program next year.

J. St. Charles Police Department – Eric Majewski 7:25 PM

Deputy Chief Majewski discussed mental health and substance abuse calls on the rise with daily responses to these types of calls. DC Majewski shared a PowerPoint presentation and discussed their partnership with AID to provide social work resources to residents as part of their response. Statistics and demographics were shared as well as some actual scenarios from types of calls responded to over the past year.

KR: Asked how long social workers have worked with the STCPD

DC Majewski: The program started part time in 2015.

MB: Asked if the police department foresees needing more support or if needs are being met with current resources.

DC Majewski stated that often times there are interns available that offer support, which has been very helpful.

Chief Keegan also spoke in appreciation for the work the in house social worker fulfills to identify all of the different resources available, many who spoke or will speak this evening. Chief Keegan states they can respond to a call and work to stabilize a situation but the work of the social worker in making those connections and referrals, which can sometimes take hours helps to reduce repeat response needed from the police department. Often times they are responding to the same individuals.

K. Fox Valley Hands of Hope – Jonathan Shively 7:35 PM

Mr. Shively shared a few specific success stories from their organization. Mr. Shively discussed a portion of their volunteer pool are people who have suffered loss and felt support from Fox Valley Hands of Hope and now give back. Mr. Shively shared different programs and services offered by Fox Valley Hands of Hope.

RW: Asked about the change from hospice to grief loss and asked where are hospice care referrals going?

JS: Stated there are other providers offering these services so that was a discontinued focus in 2015, shifting their focus and niche to grief services.

L. Suicide Prevention Services – Stephanie Weber & Stephanie Dewinski 7:45 PM

Ms. Weber shared that Suicide Prevention Services is now 25 years old and shared some initiatives for the organization this year. Their work with schools is showing an increased demand, and many schools are asking that they provide one social worker per day in their buildings. Ms. Dewinski shared a specific story that has spanned her six years with the organization.

M. AID – Lore Baker 7:55 PM

Ms. Baker discussed the priorities on the grant application for which they are requesting funding. In 2020 AID began a program to help people experiencing homelessness. Their findings include that the top three areas in Kane County experiencing homelessness are Aurora, Elgin and St. Charles.

RW: Asked about the connection with the homelessness prevention program with Lazarus house.

LB: Stated they do connect with them as a resource to get people on a continuum of care, this program more readily connects with rapid response funds at the county level for people who are homeless. This type of program is often a direct solution to a call responded to by the police department.

N. HorsePower Therapeutic Riding – Barbara O’Neil 8:05 PM

Ms. O’Neil discussed the services offered from their organization citing their programs serve many individuals with mental health related circumstances. Ms. O’Neil shared a personal story of an individual she has personally worked with from child, who has grown through the program over the last several years, and now become a lead volunteer for the organization and a college student. Their application is to seek support for scholarship funds for people who would otherwise not be able to afford. Approximately 34% of program participants do depend on scholarships.

RW: Asked about the end user of progress reports that were mentioned during the presentation.

BO: Discussed how they track and assess over a period of time that also includes short and long term goals. They do work with the schools and students who are on IEPs to share that information and to build on short term and long term goals.

O. TriCity Health Partnership – Kim Lamansky 8:15 PM

Presenter was unable to attend due to an emergency.

P. Easterseals – Theresa Forthofer 8:25 PM

Ms. Forthofer spoke at approximately 8:05 PM to fill, ahead of schedule, presentation time available.

Ms. Forthofer shared via PowerPoint presentation their population of children served, services and programs as well as geographic areas they cover, which include areas of DuPage County. Ms. Forthofer states over the last two years

they have gone from two social workers to nine and are in the process of hiring their tenth.

Q. Community Crisis Center – Maureen Manning 8:35 PM

Ms. Manning discussed their service as a domestic and sexual violence agency since 1975. Their services are available 24/7/365 through their hotline service as well as a shelter. They also offer case management, individual and group counseling. They also do court and hospital advocacy work.

R. Lighthouse Recovery – Marty Keifer & Nate Lathrum 8:45 PM

Mr. Lathrum and Mr. Keifer presented information discussing the way funding received is utilized to serve their clients in terms of inability to pay. Current initiatives are increased numbers in their work with both Lazarus house as well as the Kane County Jail. They are currently seeking to hire a Psych Nurse Practitioner to help with caseload. They are also expanding their office space.

RS: Asked about their work with the county jail and service to St. Charles residents.

Mr. Lathrum discussed that they are tracking the data to be sure and can confirm the funding is strictly being used to serve St. Charles residents.

S. Tri City Family Services – Laura Poss 8:55 PM

Ms. Poss presented information citing statistics from the past year including specific statistics for St. Charles residents served. The need for mental health services continues to rise. Fortunately, over the last year, Tri City Family has been able to fill some of their need for counselors with local college graduates. Ms. Poss shared information on the types of partnerships they have with the community.

RW: Asked about the work that had been an initiative with the schools on a vaping program.

Ms. Poss stated if asked by the schools they would be receptive to that initiative again but at this time it has not restarted.

T. Kane County United – Carl King 9:05 PM

Mr. King introduced himself as a longtime community member previously serving as a local pastor which got his start in working with young people. He is now continuing that work recognizing the number of young people in crisis. A portion of the purpose of the program, is that it is led by young people determining and taking leadership for what their peer community needs. Eight students from St. Charles high schools were also in attendance and spoke during the presentation. Nami KDK and Kayla's Hope are partnering organizations.

KP: States they're curious about a location they're considering for their space. The students stated it is a location in downtown St. Charles.

RS: Asked which amount they're seeking for their initiative as there are two amounts listed on the application.

Mr. King stated \$5000 .

RW: Asked questions about their budget.

Mr. King stated Kane County Common Ground is a specific portion of Kane County United. Kane County Common Ground is seeking the funding.

U. Support Over Stigma – Zoeie Kreiner 9:20 PM

Ms. Kreiner discussed her organization is dedicated to helping active duty military and their families who are suffering from mental health related issues. Their organization is seeking to find a permanent physical location to run their programs and bring in teams of more than 60 professionals who are ready to help individuals with a variety of services including counseling, exercise therapies, resume writing and job search skills.

V. Fox Valley Special Recreation Assoc. – Alex Engelhardt 9:35 PM

Ms. Engelhardt discussed the work of their organization which largely supports park district programs allowing for greater participation for members of the community. Last year's ask was to cover 8 sensory bags, the organization gave out 22 bags for St. Charles residents. The request also covers training for individuals working with participants.

RS: Asked about serving St. Charles residents.

Ms. Engelhardt stated they estimate it to be about 85% but that data is not tracked.

6. Adjourn

Chair Poremba asked if there were any final questions or a motion to adjourn.

Motion by Silkaitis second by Bryant

Voice Vote Aye: 6 No: 0

Meeting adjourned at 9:31PM

ADA Compliance

Any individual with a disability requesting a reasonable accommodation in order to participate in a public meeting should contact the ADA Coordinator, Jennifer McMahon, at least 48 hours in advance to the scheduled meeting. The ADA Coordinator can be reached in person at 2 East Main Street, St. Charles, IL, via telephone at (630) 377 4446 or 800 526 0844 (TDD), or via e-mail at jmcmahon@stcharlesil.gov. Every effort will be made to allow for meeting participation. Notices of this meeting were posted consistent with the requirements of 5 ILCS 120/1 et seq. (Open Meetings Act).