

**Minutes of the  
Winnebago County Mental Health Advisory Committee  
Monday, June 26, 2017  
Winnebago County Health Department,  
555 N. Court Street, Room 115, Rockford, IL**

**Present:** Angie Goral (Chair), Dr. Sandra Martell (ex officio), and Matthew Toohey, Richard Kunnert

**Absent:** Philip Eaton, Dr. Charles Smith, and Carol Klint

**Guests:** Harlan Johnson, Debbie Montana – Winnebago County Health Department IPLAN Steering Committee, Marsha Conroy, -Aunt Martha, and the chairman

**Support Staff Present:** Sara Ruud (recorder)

Angie Goral called the meeting to order at 9:05 a.m.

**1. Introduction of Guests/Public Participation:** Angie Goral welcomed everyone and asked for a roll call.

**2. Approval of Agenda:** There was no approval of the agenda because there was no quorum.

**3. Approval of Minutes:**

The April 24, 2017 minutes and May 22, 2017 minutes could not be approved because the Mental Health Advisory Committee didn't have a quorum.

**4. Team (Sub-Committee) Activity Reports/Action Plans**

**a. Data**

Dr. Billman is going to release the data in SBSS format. There is concerns about releasing restrictions and individuals will need to be careful using the data.

**b. Messaging/Marketing**

The Messaging/Marketing Committee is going to be starting back up. Melissa Westphal will be working on getting information together to take back to the steering group.

**c. Finance – No report**

**5. Community Support Systems Framework**

Work group of Richard Kunnert, Matt Toohey, Dr. Charles Smith, and Dr. Martell has not met to review the role, structure, and governance of the Coordinating Agency. The thought is that it would look similar to a 708 board in terms of expertise but expanded in order to not limit it.

**6. Steering Committee**

The "Steering Committee" comprised of representatives from NAMI Northern Illinois, Hope Over Addiction, Mental Health Association of Rock River Valley, Access Services of Northern Illinois, League of Women Voters, and Rockford Regional Health Council met with Chair Angie Goral and Dr. Martell. The Steering Committee is charged with providing a recommendation to the Mental Health Advisory Committee on the funding option to address the priorities. The steering committee would like to pursue a local sales tax in the amount of ½ (.005) to 1 (.01) cent to support mental/behavioral health. There would enough funding under that option to start a support system. In order for the sales tax to be an option legislation would have to open up either state wide or loop it in to county specific. Than the levy of the tax would have to be associated with a public

referendum. There are other counties such as Lake and Cook County interested in this idea. No recommendation has been made because the steering committee was not present.

**7. Updates/Information Sharing**

Mental health could be considered public safety and without some type of help the people will end up in jail. The jail will provide assessments and in the long run provide treat for the patient. The down side to being put in jail to receive treatment is the effect it has on employment opportunities and other aspects of life. There is a need for the mental health services but the campaign needs to be built up over time. All options need to be thoroughly explored because if this is handled wrong it could become a political mess. There should be no surprises to the mayor or the chairman. No matter how the money is acquired it should not be government based and the county should remain in control of it. There should be no attachments to sales tax. The next step is to look at what type of language is needed to write a referendum. After something is officially wrote the group needs to talk to the legislators.

**8. Additions: N/A**

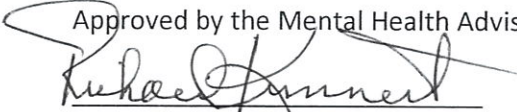
**9. Next Meeting:** July 24, 2017, 9:00 am – 11:00 am; Winnebago County Health Department, 555 N. Court Street, Room 115; Rockford, IL

**10. Meeting Adjournment:** There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 10:25 am.

Approved by the Mental Health Advisory Committee

7-24-17

Date

  
Richard Kunnert, Secretary

Winnebago County Mental Health Advisory Committee