

**Minutes of the
Winnebago County Mental Health Advisory Committee
Wednesday, February 12, 2014 @ 7:30 a.m.
Rosecrance, 1021 N. Mulford, Rockford, IL**

Present: Phil Eaton, Richard Kunnert, Matthew Toohey, Carol Klint, Angie Goral, Donny Parham

Others Present: Dave Peterson, Harlan Johnson, and Mike Bacon

The meeting began at approximately 7:30 a.m.

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Mr. Peterson was welcomed by the Committee members with a brief round of introductions. Mr. Peterson really already knew those making up the Committee.

REVIEW OF January 10, 2014 MINUTES:

Mr. Bacon requested any suggested changes to the meeting notes from the January 10 meeting. There were no suggested changes. A motion by Matthew Toohey and seconded by Carol Klint to accept the minutes as presented with all members voting aye.

COMMUNITY BEHAVIORAL HEALTH NEEDS ASSESSMENT:

Mr. Bacon shared that this topic has been introduced to the County Board Chair, who expressed an interest in finding ways to support this initiative on behalf of the Mental Health Advisory Committee (MHAC). The packet includes a copy of the contract and scope of work. There was further discussion with Committee members supporting the work scope and estimated cost for the work to be accomplished. It was urged by members that this matter be dealt with on a timely basis, both for MHAC and the utility of timely information on this topic as well as for Health Systems Research (UIC) who could best complete this work prior to other studies that are developing over the summer and early fall. Mr. Bacon will keep the MHAC members posted on developments.

BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SUMMIT FOLLOWUP

Mr. Kunnert updated the MHAC on the Behavioral Health Intercept Model, including prevention, treatment and recovery which strives to put in place this spectrum of services across the community and to provide coordination to the extent that any human service intake point could enroll and refer clients. The Community Health Needs Assessment would help identify the gaps that are important to developing systems of care and follow up to address the Behavioral Health Summit's recommendations. There are already some best practices represented in the community, including the RIC that is an essential part of the recovery component. This component especially is designed to identify approaches to reduce recidivism and jail population.

Mr. Kunnert and other members commented on the Promise Built Community Model from Atlanta. A couple of members of the Committee provided an overview of the Purpose Built Community Model. A number of other aspects of follow up to the Behavioral Health Summit were discussed, In particular it was mentioned that MHAC could provide a locus for greater attention to these issues and a clearinghouse for evidence-based approaches to address such issues.

Carol Klint mentioned the importance of housing as a basic resource for serving those at greatest risk in the community. There was further discussion and clarification by Mr. Eaton that over the last 15 years Rosecrance has developed 160 housing units. While discussing its importance, there is the necessity of intense support and service infrastructure needs for this scope of service.

REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES / COMMISSIONS

There was a group discussion about the Transform Rockford and the efforts to look at root causes framed by the social determinants of health and wellbeing (i.e. education, housing, income, employment, etc.). The Transform Rockford initiative was briefly reviewed by indicating that the issue of health has not strongly surfaced as one of the root causes and/or focuses of attention.

A number of Committee members brought up the fundamental issue underlying all of this which is the necessity of funding (i.e. Carol, Angie, and Harlan). The alcohol tax discussion was resurrected. Mr. Peterson indicated that he might be able identify an estimate of revenue from a certain tax rate on alcohol. Mr. Eaton raised the strategic importance of the Singer closing and a plan to secure an appropriate level of resources to replace those lost services in the region. This remains still at this point in time, an important leverage point that could diminish as more time passes. There was discussion about meeting with key staff at DHS (mental health) in an effort to attract additional local funding opportunities through the State.

OTHER MATTERS:

Mr. Eaton reported on their work with the City of Rockford around a special use permit for their Crisis Stabilization Center that will also house the existing Triage Center, to be located on Mulberry and Winnebago. Mr. Eaton indicated a willingness to present a summary of this Center at the March MHAC meeting. The Center will include up to 80 to 90 staff, Saturday hours and 42,000 square feet of space.

MHAC members raised the issue of Mr. Bacon retirement indicating the importance of continuity and support for MHAC. Mr. Bacon indicated a willingness to do what he could to support the efforts of the Committee's work going forward, at least until there is the capacity for the Department's new Administrator and their staff to support these efforts. This would of course need the blessing from the County Board Chair and Board of Health.

NEXT MEETING:

There was a reminder of the next meeting, Wednesday, March 12, 2014.

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no other items of business, the meeting adjourned at approximately 9:00 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

J. Maichle Bacon (Winnebago Count Health Department)

Approved by the Mental Health Advisory Committee: March 12, 2014
DATE