

**Minutes of the
Winnebago County Mental Health Advisory Committee
Wednesday, July 10, 2013 @ 7:30 a.m.
Rosecrance, 1021 N. Mulford, Rockford, IL**

Present: Angie Goral, Dr. Marilyn Griffin, Carol Klint, Richard Kunnert

Absent: Phil Eaton, Matthew Toohey, Donny Parham

Others Present: Steve Guedet, Harlan Johnson, Eve Zahrndt

The meeting began at approximately 7:40 a.m. Because of some “new faces” the group went around the table with introductions.

MINUTES OF THE JUNE 12, 2013 MEETING:

The minutes of the June 12, 2013 Advisory Committee were sent out with the Committee packet. Dick Kunnert moved to accept the minutes as mailed. Dr. Griffin seconded the motion. The Committee approved the motion unanimously without discussion.

CASE HISTORY REVIEW (Rosecrance Video):

The Committee was to review a video developed by Rosecrance as model for a video to better tell the story of the importance of the availability of a comprehensive behavioral health service network. In the absence of Phil Eaton, the group did not review the video.

OTHER PRESENTATION MATERIALS: None

REPORTS FROM OTHER BEHAVIORAL HEALTH COMMITTEES:

Angie Goral had asked that an article from the Daily Herald be included with materials that went to the Committee. The article focused on the work of the Kane County Mental Health Advisory Committee and their support for creating a county-wide 708 board. The challenge that they are facing is that there are nine townships and municipalities in the county that already have their own 708 board and tax levy. The Committee agreed that this sort of fragmented structure is not what would be needed in Winnebago County.

OTHER MATTERS:

The Committee moved into a brief review and discussion of the critical need for additional local funding support for behavioral health services in the County. Angie Goral spoke to the fact that County resources are already stretched and that there is some division of the County Board as to how to focus those limited resource. She spoke of a recent presentation to the County Board about the need for more resources for the juvenile justice system. She pointed out the need for more and better interface between the mental health and the justice systems.

Dick Kunnert spoke to the increasing dysfunction within the community with children not being ready for school, the large number of single parent households, and the number of individuals coming in and out of the jails. The question was raised (again), "what can the group do in the face of all of these "negatives"?" Angie Goral stated that we need to sharpen our focus and target our efforts on a plan. She felt that we needed to better make our case for "why".

Dick Kunnert shared a discussion at a recent meeting with the Rockford Police Chief. He shared that the top 20 individuals responsible for crime, use of police resources, etc. have significant issues with chronic alcoholism. The discussion revolved around the development of a 12 bed "wet house" where these individuals could live. There would be no expectation that they would quit drinking, but rather would be "controlled" at a substantially reduced cost than the "public chaos" they create.

NEXT MEETING:

There was a reminder that the next meeting of the Committee would be on Wednesday, August 14, 2013.

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business before the Committee, the meeting was adjourned at 8:40 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Steve Guedet (Winnebago Count Health Department)

Approved by the Mental Health Advisory Committee: August 14, 2013
DATE