

**Minutes of the
Winnebago County Mental Health Advisory Committee
Wednesday, October 8, 2014 @ 7:30 a.m.
Rosecrance, 1021 N. Mulford, Rockford, IL**

Present: Dr. Charles Smith, Donny Parham, Carol Klint, Matthew Toohey, Dick Kunnert, Angie Goral, Phil Eaton

Others Present: Dr. Sandra Martell, Melissa Westphal, Dr. Penny Billman, Susan Bello (RR Star), Mike Bacon

The meeting began at approximately 7:35 a.m.

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Mr. Bacon made sure all of the committee members were introduced to others present. It was further explained that he had taken the liberty of inviting the Winnebago County Crime and Public Safety Commission to present the findings and recommendations to reduce the jail population. This was a study of key stakeholder perspectives. Ms. Lytwyn and Mrs. Cook-Kendall presented a summary slide presentation and delivered hard copies of their executive summary from their report.

PRESENTATION: KEY INFORMANT INTERVIEW FINDINGS FROM WINNEBAGO COUNTY CRIME COMMISSION (JAIL REDUCTION INITIATIVE)

The stakeholder interview findings revealed three reasons for the high jail population. They include the economy, sociological reasons and mental health / substance abuse issues. Jail statistics indicate that 76% of individuals incarcerated have issues with addiction or substance abuse. Further 14% of men and 31% of women have severe mental illness. Those without insurance coverage in this setting have little meaningful treatment options available. The findings further suggest that the community as a whole must embrace behavioral health services more fully. Improvement in the availability of these services has been identified as a crucially needed step.

Recommendations stemming from this report include: 1) increase funding and support of behavioral health services. Winnebago County is the only metropolitan area in Illinois without such funding. 2) Restore staffing to peak levels that existed prior to budget cuts, and 3) continue to increase the collaboration between the local criminal justice system and behavioral health community-based organizations.

Committee members and others present had a number of questions for the presenters and for the other crime commission members present. All indicated the utility of this report and its recommendations.

REVIEW OF September 10, 2014 MHAC MEETING MINUTES:

The minutes for the September 10, 2014 MHAC were reviewed. There was a motion made by Carol Klint and seconded by Matt Toohey to accept the minutes as presented, with all members voting aye.

UPDATE FROM TEAMS (i.e. DATA/SURVEY, MESSAGING/MARKETING, FUNDING AND RECOMMENDATIONS)

Dr. Billman presented an overview of the data / survey subcommittee. They have met once and are hoping to integrate information from the Behavioral Health Summit II and information from the planned focus groups previously discussed at the MHAC. Methodology and the results will be shared as this process proceeds. Further information will be forthcoming.

Angie Goral reported on the work of the marketing subcommittee. Discussion focused largely on methods for disseminating information to the public and the utility of having a trifold brochure along with other means. Use of social media best practices and key messages for dissemination were touched on. More information will follow.

REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES / COMMISSIONS (i.e. NAMI, others, etc.)

Mr. Eaton presented an overview of the recent opening of Rosecrance Mulberry Center, 605 Mulberry Street. This center combines two current, closely linked programs, the triage and short-term crisis residential under the same roof. Mr. Eaton explained a bit about the naming of this facility so as to avoid the perception of stigma that could be associated with a facility that was labeled a Crisis Center. Rosecrance has always emphasized patient respect and dignity. In November this Center will also be adding four detox beds. This all has been enabled by a \$1.5 million dollar grant. Covering on-going operations will remain a challenge, especially without a local funding stream such as McHenry County 708 Board.

OTHER MATTERS / INFORMATIONAL ITEMS:

Mr. Toohey mentioned the State sponsored GoHit meetings being scheduled in various locations, with the first being at Kishwaukee Valley Community College in DeKalb County. This meeting could help in the understanding of the 1115 waiver for Illinois.

There being no other matters before the Committee, the meeting adjourned at approximately 9:05 a.m.

NEXT MEETING:

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

Respectfully submitted,

J. Maichle Bacon (Winnebago County Health Department)

Approved by the Mental Health Advisory Committee: _____
DATE