

**Minutes of the
Winnebago County Mental Health Advisory Committee
Wednesday, September 10, 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 Vella (RR Star), Mike Bacon

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

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Mr. Bacon took a moment to introduce the new Public Health Administrator, Dr. Sandra Martell. Mr. Bacon provided a brief overview of Dr. Martell's background and she in turn provided a brief introduction, including her background in working on behavior health issues in the Cook County area.

REVIEW OF August 27, 2014 MHAC MEETING MINUTES:

The minutes for the August 27, 2014 MHAC Retreat were reviewed. There was a motion made by Matthew Toohey and seconded by Donny Parham to accept the minutes from the Retreat as presented, with all members voting aye.

REVIEW OF RETREAT SUMMARY AND RECOMMENDATION

Mr. Bacon provided handouts that have been compiled by Karen Fiery (Facilitator at the August 27 Retreat). The recommendations to combat the opioid epidemic in Winnebago County are organized by the break out groups from retreat activities on August 27. They are categorized by prevention, treatment / aftercare, lifelong management, and systems (police / fire, housing, PDMP advocacy, education, and funding). The committee members discussed a variety of recommendations and much appreciated Karen Fiery's work in compiling this information.

ESTABLISH PROCESS FOR MHAC TO PRIORITIZE AND DEVELOP FINAL RECOMMENDATIONS

The discussion on prioritizing recommendations led to the suggestion to develop teams to address different actions to enact the priority recommendations that emanated from the retreat and many prior discussions that MHAC, Behavior Health Summit, League of Women Voters, Rockford Health Council, Board of Health, and other community health workgroups. These teams represent important categories for action steps to increase the potential for moving the community forward around strategies to more effectively address behavior health service gaps in the community. The teams include wellness, community engagement, coordinate with and linked to Winnebago County's Summit II to a range of recommendations soon to be released.

After further discussion, these teams would be better organized around data / survey information, messaging / marketing, and recommendations for County Board. The makeup of these workgroups was discussed with all members volunteering for one or more of the teams.

A number of other ideas were also discussed, Donny Parham for instance, recommended involving the neighborhood groups and neighborhood network that has been developed across the community. Dr. Billman mentioned the utility of focus groups that are currently being organized with the support of the County as part of the Behavioral Summit II. Angie mentioned other community groups interested in this process and initiative including the League of Women Voters and local board of realtors.

REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES / COMMISSIONS

Mr. Eaton updated MHAC on an ADHOC Committee that met at Rosecrance on September 8 for the purpose of briefly reviewing the need for a more comprehensive behavioral health service network and opportunities for funding such a network. There were many questions regarding the opportunity represented by this ADHOC Committee and hoped that it could be formalized and facilitated on a routine basis going forward. Mr. Eaton agreed that Mary Ann Abate could be assigned to facilitate these committee meetings and organize their meeting schedule. There was further discussion about the opportunity represented by the prior discussion that such workgroups and teams become a sub-committees of the Mental Health Advisory Committee. All thought that this would be most appropriate and could be part of the MHAC umbrella. There was further discussion on how best to facilitate the ongoing support for these important action steps but somehow need a connection to MHAC.

OTHER MATTERS / INFORMATIONAL ITEMS:

Mr. Bacon referred all to the attachments, to the email packet, and to the information included in the handouts at today's meeting. Including material from SAMSA on Managing Chronic Pain in Adults in Recovery from Substance Abuse Disorders.

There being no other matters before the Committee, the meeting adjourned at approximately 9:10 a.m.

NEXT MEETING:

There was a reminder of the next meeting, Wednesday, October 8, 2014.

Respectfully submitted,

J. Maichle Bacon (Winnebago County Health Department)

Approved by the Mental Health Advisory Committee: _____
DATE