

708 Community Mental Health Board Meeting
729 S Mclean Blvd, Elgin, IL
Meeting of Sept 21, 2022, Minutes

The meeting of the Elgin Township 708 Community Mental Health Board was held in the lower level of the Township Building. The meeting was called to order by Board Chairman Sosnowski at 7:03 p.m. Chairman Sosnowski led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Roll Call: Board Members Chairman Andrew Sosnowski, Vice Chairman Michael Warren, Trustee Alex Lopez, Secretary Farrah Stephen, Michelle Diaz, Blaine Miner, and Suzanne Rozycki were present. **Quorum was established**

General Announcements: None

A. Approval of Minutes- A motion was made by Mr. Warren to approve the minutes. Mr. Miner seconded the motion. The motion passed 6-0-0.

B. Introductory Remarks by Chairman to Committee

1. Suzanne Rozycki was sworn in by Supervisor Ken Bruderle and given the opportunity to introduce herself.
2. The Open Meetings Act was reviewed. A few important points were emphasized:
 - Members are barred from meeting in groups.
 - Members must take caution when sending emails, as emails can be called in for review.
 - During meetings, the members should talk to each other and not the community,
3. It was agreed that public comments would be held at the end of the meeting.

C. New Business

2. Community Mental Health Act (405 ILCS 20) and Our Goals
 - All board members should read over and become familiar with the Community Mental Health Act (405 ILCS 20).
 - The board must decide how it will obtain the needs assessment.
Options presented by Chairman Sosnowski
 - Hire a firm to complete the assessment.
 - Join the INC Mental Health Alliance, which will complete the assessment for this board.
 - Have the board complete an assessment without using a firm.
 - Also, other organizations in the community can be invited to learn about the benefits of a needs assessment and invited to contribute to its cost. In exchange, they would receive a copy of the assessment for their usage

- Mr. Miner motioned to invite the local community organizations to listen to the proposal and join in on the cost of the assessment. The motion was seconded by Mr. Warren.

Discussion- Extensive discussion was held concerning the benefit of including other local organizations in obtaining the needs assessment. Chairman Sosnowski stated the board should establish a timeline for moving forward with our decision.

He suggested:

- The Elgin Township Mental Health Board (Elgin TMHB) gathers information from Hanover Park Township Mental Health Board on how they have previously completed their assessments.
- After that, the Elgin TMHB explores multiple firms that complete assessments and selects one.
- Once their assessment is complete the board can understand the needs of the community from a non-biased viewpoint and set goals.
- Then the Elgin TMHB can request a tax levy and also pursue funds from other non-profit organizations and through fundraisers.
- Community input from local organizations can fill in the gap of any missing information the board needs about the local community needs.

Mr. Miner withdrew his motion to invite the local community organizations to listen to the proposal and join in on the cost of the assessment.

- Ms. Stephen motioned for the Board to not join the INC board. Ms. Diaz seconded the motion.

Discussion- The main points discussed included INC Alliance would like to have the Elgin Township Board join their organization because the Elgin Township Board could bring in a disproportionately large amount of money that would help provide for the general needs of all the members of the alliance. The Elgin board would lose its power to support the Elgin Township community since it would only get one vote on the INC Alliance's decisions on how to use the funding and joining the INC board would allow members of other townships to use Elgin's resources – which Elgin is not prepared to do at this time.

The motion passed 7-0-0.

- Discussion- Understanding the Levy- After the needs assessment is obtained, the Board will recommend the percentage of the levy to the Elgin Township Board. The referendum would not exceed 1.5% of the assessed value. Before requesting money, the Elgin Township 708 MHB would have to present the needs of the township to the Elgin Township Board. Subsequently, local organizations can present their proposals to the Elgin Township 708 MHB on how they can achieve the needs of the township through their organization. To ensure proper

use of the funds, the organizations would be accountable to the Elgin Township 708 MHB.

- Mr. Lopez recommended that the board identify other funding sources and suggested the board ask other boards what resources they have used. Additionally, since the upcoming levy proposal would be in December, it was suggested by Mr. Lopez that the board not attempt to obtain a levy this year so that the board can gather all the needed data to support the request.
- It was suggested that Chairman Sosnowski and Supervisor Bruderle research and review assessments from other boards, as well as other sources of funding for the board.
- Mr. Warren motioned to have multiple examples of community needs assessments available for review one week prior to the next board meeting or as soon as possible before the next meeting. Mr. Lopez seconded the motion.

The motion passed 7-0-0.

- Chairman Sosnowski will bring someone to the next meeting if he thinks they have valuable information for the board.
- Ms. Rozycki will communicate with The Association of Community Mental Health Authorities of Illinois (ACMHAI) to confirm the board status and benefits of membership.
- Supervisor Ken Bruderle will communicate with other boards and agencies to gather information on grants, and money from private organizations and the state, this includes American Rescue Act monies received by Kane County He also recommended members attend the 1-hour symposium to gather information and network.

D. Board Members Comments: Chairman Sosnowski passed out a simplified version of the Community Mental Health Act (405 ILCS 20) for the board members to review.

E. Public Comments: None

F. Announcements- The next regular meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, October 19, 2022, at 7:00 p.m. at the Township Offices, 729 S. McLean Blvd., Elgin, IL 60123.

G. Adjournment/Recess: Mr. Lopez moved to adjourn. Second by Mr. Miner. Motioned carried 7-0-0. Meeting adjourned at 8:10.

Respectfully submitted by Secretary Farrah Stephen

Farrah Stephen, Board Secretary

Date