

708 COMMUNITY MENTAL HEALTH BOARD
729 S. McLean Blvd., Elgin, IL
Lower Level
Meeting of January 18, 2023, Minutes

The January 18, 2023, Elgin Township 708 Community Mental Health Board was held in the lower level of the Township building. The meeting was called to order by Chairman Andrew Sosnowski at 7:01 p.m. He then led the Pledge of Allegiance.

ROLL CALL:

Commissioners Michelle Diaz, Trustee Alex Lopez, Blaine Miner, Andrew Sosnowski, and Vice Chair Michael Warren were present. Secretary Farrah Stephen was absent. **Quorum was established.**

GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS:

The next meeting of the Elgin Township 708 Community Mental Health Board has been moved to Monday, February 13, 2023, so as to not conflict with the Elgin Township Board meeting.

A. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – DECEMBER 7, 2022, REGULAR 708 CMHB BOARD MEETING

A motion was made by Trustee Lopez to approve the December 7th minutes as presented, and they were seconded by Vice Chairman Warren. The minutes were approved 6-0-0.

B. OLD BUSINESS

1. DISCUSSION OF RECOMMENDED LEVY

The Elgin Township Board of Trustees levied \$40,000 so that the 708 Community Mental Health Board can fulfill its statutory duties, as well as begin the process of doing so.

2. STATUS OF CONTRACT FOR CONSULTANT

The contract that was drawn up with Amanda Teachout has been amended, and the updated version has been sent to all of the members of the Board for review.

3. DISCUSSION OF MISSION, VISION, AND BY-LAWS

Chairman Sosnowski previously sent a proposed version of the mission, vision, and by-laws to the Board. He will send them to Ms. Teachout so that she can use them to craft a new version.

C. NEW BUSINESS – DISCUSSION OF NEEDS ASSESSMENT PROPOSAL

Ms. Teachout distributed handouts of examples of needs assessment proposals from Northern Illinois University's Center for Governmental Studies and University of Illinois College of Medicine at Rockford, as well as the contract that Hanover Township has with NIU and Hanover Township's 2021 Community Needs Assessment. She stated that most 708 boards use NIU for their needs assessments.

Chairman Sosnowski stated that he would like to have community input via the use of focus groups and surveys. Additionally, he would like to see an analysis of how services within the township interact, information on gaps in addressing the three priority areas (substance abuse, mental health, and developmental disabilities), and a schedule of when the board will receive information.

Commissioner Miner stated that some people in need are excluded from services because some agencies won't take them – in essence, criminalizing them. Therefore, it would be helpful to see the exclusionary data regarding the prevention of access to services.

Commissioner Diaz stated that measuring the efficiency of the services would be useful, as would understanding the significance of the impact of the services already provided, and Chairman Sosnowski stated that having people who have utilized the services testify regarding effectiveness would help in this regard.

Further group discussion yielded that it would be helpful to have input from area pastors, law enforcement, fire departments.

Vice Chairman Warren expressed a concern regarding the potential creation of such a robust scope of work, as well as having a timeline that allows the Board to be able to digest the information. Chairman Sosnowski stated that they can start big, and then pare things down to something more manageable.

A consensus was reached for Ms. Teachout to bring back proposals in time for the February 13th meeting, if possible.

D. BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS – None.

E. RECOGNIZE PUBLIC COMMENTS

Deputy Clerk Mihalec reminded the committee about completing the required trainings in sexual harassment prevention, the Open Meetings Act, and the Freedom of Information Act.

Lore Baker, CEO for the Association for Individual Development, brought up the Elgin Human Services Council and its work with local tent cities and refugees, that 708 board funds projects/services that cannot be funded in any other way and that the agencies have to follow the funding requirements of their funders. She also stated that having an adequate workforces is the number one issue for social service agencies, that there are three mobile crisis response teams in Kane County that are tied in with the Federal government (Ecker and Family Services Association for the northern portion and AID for the southern portion of the county), that fire departments are another group involved in crisis responses, and that the Case Coordination Group from the Elgin Human Services Council meets once a month to discuss moving people out of homelessness. Additionally, she recommended the Board talk with the families and guardians of the mentally ill in its data gathering and that the Kane County Health Department is a great resource that is also taking a special look at Dundee Township.

F. ANNOUNCEMENTS

The next regular meeting is scheduled for February 13, 2023, at 7:00 pm at the Township offices, 729 S McLean Blvd. Elgin, IL 60123.

G. Adjournment/Recess: Commissioner Warren moved to adjourn. Second by Commissioner Miner. Motion carried, 6-0-0. The meeting adjourned 7:54 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Deputy Clerk Mihalec

Jeanette Mihalec, Deputy Clerk

Date