River Forest Mental Health Committee

Minutes February 7th, 2023 at 6:30pm - In Person Meeting at the River Forest Community Center

Present: Supervisor Carla Sloan, Kristin Sneeringer, Melinda Peterson, Jessica Starck, Jonathan Howard and Elisabeth Dunne

Absent: Jean Meister, Kathryn Schmahl, Elizabeth Davies

Staff: Sarah Schwarting, Mental Health Administrator

1. The meeting was called to order at 6:37pm and roll was called.
2. There were no public comments this month.
3. Elisabeth moved to approve the meeting minutes from January 3, 2023, Jonathan seconded, and the motion carried.
4. Township report:
* Carla reported that the Township is again sponsoring the LOSS survivors of suicide support group, meeting at the River Forest Civic Center on the 3rd Monday of every month from 6-8pm.
* We are also hosting pickleball and Mah Jong for seniors. Celebrating Seniors Week will take place in-person May 11-18.
* The Parent University, open to all parents, will meet in-person at Oak Park and River Forest High School on April 19th, with keynote speaker Dr. Doug Bolton.
* There will also be a marijuana prevention town hall meeting at Gwendolyn Brooks Middle School in Oak Park on Thursday Feb 9th from 6:30-8pm.
1. PYD Report: The Positive Youth Development report is that we have been working on the Marijuana prevention town hall.
2. Administrator’s report:
* The HUB may be discontinued; several conversations with agencies have determined that the HUB is not as useful as anticipated as a closed loop referral system. Some agencies find DCFS’ Spider platform to be a better database. 211 is also an informational resource that has been launched in Cook County and will likely become the main resource system for consumers.
* The World Health Organization released its 2022 Mental Health Report, and their vision proposes a world where mental health is valued, protected, and promoted.
* Quarter 3 checks will be mailed after the February 21, 2023 Board of Trustees meeting.
* The Behavioral Health and IDD consortiums are officially back on a quarterly schedule and on the calendar for April, July, and October.
* We are currently sharing info with Oak Park Community Mental Health Board regarding data which we are requiring from the agencies which the Township funds.
* Some site visit reports are already in.
* Some of our agencies did not have the River Forest Township logo on their website, but this will be amended by the end of this week.
* It is fundraising season for local agencies; the invites to these events will be shared with the committee in case anyone wants to attend.

 ART/Community event report:

* Kelly O'Connor reached out recently to set up our first ART meeting for 2023.
* NAMI is having weekly meetings that might be of interest - this is on Harrison and Oak Park Ave in Oak Park.
* Monday 1 pm Meditation meeting
* Monday 3 pm Boundaries meeting
* Tuesday 2 pm - Wellness
1. Other committee member reports: None.
2. Old business - Questions on site visits: We decided there would be a template for site visit reports that would be made for future site visits. We also decided that site visits for the FY2025 funding cycle would be held this year in the Fall, so that agencies have a chance to discuss funding prior to submitting their funding application.
3. New business: The committee requested a copy of contracts be sent to them. Additional information was also requested for new member packets including: a sample contract, a sample funding application and an explanation of the difference between fee for service and flat grant agency awards. We also discussed the challenges which agencies are having with providing services due to the staff shortage.
4. The next meeting will be March 7, 2023 at 6:30pm.
5. Kristin motioned to adjourn, Jessica seconded, and the meeting was adjourned at 7:43pm.