

Livingston County Mental Health Board
708 Board Meeting Minutes
Due to the COVID-19 Pandemic the Open Meetings Act
was modified to include
Conference Call Meetings as Acceptable
January 21, 2021 @ 4:00p.m. by Conference Call or In-Person

708 Board Present: Jack Vietti, Ed Legner, Gary Beier, and Deb Moran (in person) as well as

Rose Smith, Debbie Studnicki, and Lynette Barnett (on conference call)

708 Board Absent: None

377 Board Present: Bob McCarty, Mary Etta Mullen (in person) and Vicki Day (on conference call)

377 Board Absent: None

Livingston County Board Members: Jack Vietti

Staff Present: Chris Myers, Janice Golliday, and Amy Zick

Guests: Joe Vaughan, IHR; Patty Haberkorn, Futures Unlimited; Susan Bursztnsky, Safe Journeys; and Amber Stensrud, Children's Advocacy Center (CAC)

The 708 Board meeting was called to order by President Jack Vietti.

Chris Myers introduced Amber Stensrud to everyone and then Amber presented an explanation of their services they provide in Livingston, McLean and DeWitt counties. Amber is the Senior Forensic Interviewer at the Children's Advocacy Center. They are based out of McLean County but have a small location in downtown Pontiac across from the courthouse. Their agency receives referrals from DCFS and/or law enforcement regarding children who have experienced domestic abuse (physical or sexual). CAC interviews the child in the interview room but there is a team of others from law enforcement, DCFS and the states attorney representative observing the interview from a different room. This way the child does not have to repeat their experience over and over causing more trauma. The 708 Board approved funding to help purchase new furniture for their interview room with the Youth Commission approving the rest of the funds to make this possible. Amber thanked the Board for their generosity. Most of the CAC funding comes from governmental grants. Some funding is generated from the county fines and fees.

It was moved by Gary Beier and seconded by Deb Moran to approve the November 19th, 708 Board minutes. Motion carried.

It was moved by Gary Beier and seconded by Debbie Studnicki to approve the November and December, 708 Board check listings. Motion carried.

It was moved by Ed Legner and seconded by Gary Beier to approve the 708 Board November and December 2020 financial statements. Motion carried.

Executive Director Report:

- Chris Myers reported Mosaic and Future Unlimited were very thankful for the gift card to various restaurants.
- OSF installed the rock wall funded by the 377 Board for the Infant Toddler Enrichment Program. A picture of the rock wall was passed around the conference room to view.
- Chris Myers was asked by the new President of ACMHAI to be the ACMHAI representative on the IL Public Health Executive Council meetings. She agreed to it. At the present time these meetings will be conducted through ZOOM.

Old Business:

- Chris Myers informed both boards the construction of the new H & E building is progressing. The concrete block section constructed inside the main frame is the conference room/storm shelter. There has not been a date as to completion of the building.
- Chris Myers and Gary Beier discussed the Premise Alert Program recently put in place. So far there have been a total of nine registrations. Gary reported he has added the Premise Alert Program information on their department Facebook page and it is on the Dwight Schools website as well. Chris stated the information has been added to the Facebook pages for City of Pontiac, Pontiac Police Department, and the Chamber of Commerce. It was suggested that it be discussed on the WJEZ Community Forum. Megan DeMoss and Chris are now working on the idea of getting acrylic literature holders that would be installed in school bathroom stalls with information regarding bullying, sexual/domestic abuse, drug use, etc. Students would have access to this information without others knowing their situation and know that there is help available.

New Business:

- The 708/377 Board Annual report is being created. Chris asked the board members if they had any requests of information they would wish to see in it. No suggestions were given. Chris anticipates the report will be ready for approval at the February meeting. If approved, Chris would present to the full county board in March.

Agency Comments:

Safe Journeys:

- Susan Bursztnsky received an email today getting approval to provide virtual counseling services. Other agencies have reported some clients really like this capability and others do not like the virtual counseling. Their staff continue to stay busy by offering services through elearning to the schools. It is a challenge for them.
- Susan sits on a statewide committee that try to support families if there is a death due to domestic violence.
- The main difference between the Children Advocacy Center and Safe Journeys is Safe Journeys vows to confidentiality of a child's report, no matter who requests the information. Both agencies have an important role in the community.

Institute for Human Resources:

- Joe Vaughan reported McCoy Construction will be constructing their new section on the eastside of the building with the main entrance also on the eastside.
- Since Bob Kinas retired there has not been a group class for domestic battery abusers. A young counselor has shown interest in taking over those services. Training via the state would be necessary to the counselor before providing these services. There is a definite need for these services. Right now services are out of county for individuals requiring it.
- IHR's marketer created their annual report which has gone from 17 pages to 22 pages.

Futures Unlimited:

- Patty Haberkorn reported they have been slammed with COVID-19 not only with staff but clients as well. It has presented a challenge with staffing and keeping it contained. The Dwight Center opened for one day and someone tested positive for COVID-19 so they closed. They will try again. Futures Unlimited hopes to increase the Pontiac attendance soon. Vaccines have been given to staff and clients.
- So far, they have received \$33,000 from their holiday mailer. New flooring has been installed at the Mary Beth Taylor Learning Center.
- The state rates will continue through March.

OSF:

- Not present.

It was moved by Ed Legner and seconded by Gary Beier to adjourn. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Rose Smith, Secretary