

Community Mental Health Board of Oak Park Township
Meeting Minutes
March 19, 2024, 7:00 pm

CALL TO ORDER

Vice President Jaimee Reggio called the meeting to order at 7:02 P.M.

ROLL CALL

Present: Richard Carroll Jaimee Reggio
Gustavo Espinosa Nancy Staples
Janet Graf Ann Schreiner (Zoom)
Bruce McNulty Trustee Tim Thomas
Liz Raleigh

Motion: Gustavo moved to accept virtual attendees and Richard seconded.

Vote: A voice vote was taken and the motion was approved.

Staff Present: Cheryl Potts, Executive Director
Laura Brookes, Associate Director of Contracts & Partnerships
Melissa Lobring, Office Administrator

Guest Present: Evan Michel, Oak Park Township Manager

AGENDA APPROVAL

Motion: Richard Carroll moved to approve the amended agenda to include a discussion about Sarah’s Inn and Tim Thomas seconded.

Vote: A voice vote was taken and the motion was approved.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

CONSENT AGENDA APPROVAL

Motion: Richard Carroll moved to approve the consent agenda as presented and Bruce McNulty seconded.

Vote: A voice vote was taken and the motion was approved.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

Welcome to Evan Michel

The Board welcomed Evan Michel, the newly hired Oak Park Township Manager, who introduced himself and provided information on his background.

Sarah’s Inn Legal Update

Cheryl gave an update on legal questions regarding CMHB’s ability to review Sarah’s Inn client files under the Violence Against Women Act (VAMA). After CMHB’s lawyer at Delgado Law Group reviewed the information and met with the lawyer for Sarah’s Inn, it was determined that VAMA

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restricts CMHB from reviewing client information. Delgado Law is writing a formal opinion for us. Their recommendation is for Sarah's staff to testify by affidavit that they have verified data/residency requirements for all clients served by CMHB funding and that Sarah's Inn would risk losing funding if violations occur. This would ensure compliance with the Community Mental Health Act. The lawyer will also recommend language for future contracts. The Board agreed this is a reasonable solution, and Cheryl noted that this is a true exception as Sarah's Inn is the only domestic violence agency that CMHB funds.

Agency Fundraisers/Galas

Cheryl shared a list of agency fundraiser events scheduled this spring and invited board members to sign up to attend an event if they are available. CMHB historically purchases two tickets to fundraisers to show support, network with agency staff and other partners, and learn more about an agency's work. Richard, Evan, and Tim attended the recent UCP Seguin Gala where the Township, CMHB, and Village of Oak Park were presented with the Life Without Limits Award and reported that it was nice to celebrate community partnerships and see the impact of services on families and individuals served. Cheryl asked that Board Members please sign up to attend at least one event this season.

FY25 Workplan Review

Cheryl gave an update on the CMHB strategic plan "report card," explaining the color codes and how this workplan flows into the updated Annual Action Calendar.

Highlights of the workplan include:

Goal 1- Increased education going well through community trainings at the CRC and school events like Parent University. Public awareness campaign is halted due to D97's Portrait of a Graduate this year. CMHB would like to do more outreach to increase behavioral health screenings in nontraditional settings.

Goal 2- Opening a Living Room in Oak Park remains a top priority. CMHB is working with Thrive to reduce waitlists, and NAMI is working with peer support specialist. We still need to work with schools/colleges to encourage pathways to jobs in behavioral health and are working on plans to increase 988 community awareness.

Goal 3- There are plans to bring in Lori Baker from AID for an I/DD housing discussion and a Pathways to Employment event with the OPRF Chamber of Commerce. Parent caregiver trainings have been going well.

Goal 4- Efforts to increase media presence continue.

Goal 5- Collaborations between organizations is happening with various consortia groups. Work continues to improve post traumatic violence response/post crisis intervention (Alternative Call Taskforce).

FY25 Strategic Initiatives

Cheryl reviewed the Special Projects Ideation document for FY2025, which focuses on areas of the strategic plan that we have not yet met and how to move forward in these areas. Cheryl asked the Board to think about ideas now and possibly finalize the list in April or May. Staff

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projects listed are areas in progress from the work plan. Janet noted the need for pilot projects to be measurable and the need to be thoughtful about how long CMHB funds the projects, ideally setting that timeframe when the initial grant is provided. Bruce inquired about NAMI's readiness to open a Living Room in Oak Park, and Cheryl explained that they are ready but finding space is an issue. Bruce also stated there is a big need for post-trauma programs, as individuals currently have nowhere to go, and Richard echoed the need for supports/referrals to fill this gap in services. Ann noted the workforce challenge in providing any new services. Cheryl will research the three major areas of need interest discussed (Living Room, trauma-based treatment program, and workforce development) and come back to the Board. The Board also discussed I/DD job training and parenting skills training/support groups as other possible areas.

ACTION ITEMS

None

INFORMATION

- **Executive Director's Report**
 - Cheryl reviewed highlights from the February 2024 Executive Director's report.
 - Reminder for board members to complete Statement of Economic Interests (Cook County ethics website).
 - Cheryl will be on a leadership panel hosted by the Village of Oak Park for Women's Month at the CRC on March 22nd.

- **President's Report**
 - N/A- President Staples was not present.

- **Township Report**
 - Trustee Thomas reported from the Township Board Meeting last month. New Township Manager Evan Michel was welcomed and introduced.
 - The Township Decentennial Report will be coming out soon; due in June.

ADJOURN

Motion: Jaimee moved that CMHB adjourn the meeting and Bruce seconded.

Vote: A voice vote was taken and the motion was approved.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:20 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted,
Liz Raleigh, Secretary/Treasurer