

**Minutes of the
Winnebago County Mental Health Advisory Committee
Wednesday, December 10, 2014 @ 7:30 a.m.
Rosecrance Ware Center, 2704 N. Main Street, Rockford, IL**

Present: Matt Toohey, Angie Goral, Dr. Charles Smith, Phil Eaton

Others Present: Rick Pollack, Dave Peterson, Dr. Penny Billman, Dr. Sandra Martell, Harlan Johnson, Gary Halbach, Melissa Westphal, Peggy (Unitarian Universalist Church) and Lee (Shelter Care Ministries), and Mike Bacon

The meeting began at approximately 7:35 a.m.

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Everyone was welcomed to the new Rosecrance Ware Center Facility.

REVIEW OF November 12, 2014, MHAC Meeting Minutes:

The minutes for the November 12, 2014 MHAC were reviewed. There was a motion made by Angie Goral to accept the minutes as corrected (Sue Vella (RRStar) spelling), and seconded by Matt Toohey, with all members voting aye.

Review/Tour of Rosecrance Ware Center:

Mr. Eaton provided an introduction to the activities at the newly located Ware Center and the reception that it has received from clients, staff and neighbors alike. Mr. Eaton then provided a walk-through of the renovated facility that serves about 5000 clients on an ongoing basis. Committee members and others present congratulated Mr. Eaton on the transformation of this facility and the opportunity it represents for a more comprehensive center for the mental health services and integration with substance use disorder services.

UPDATE FROM TEAMS (i.e. DATA/SURVEY, MESSAGING/MARKETING, FUNDING AND RECOMMENDATIONS):

Data/Survey Team: Dr. Billman reported that the Data / Survey Team has not met over the past month but are compiling preliminary Survey findings that should be available at next month's meeting.

Messaging/Marketing Team: The Messaging/Marketing Team didn't meet on November 17. Melissa Westphal provided a brief overview of their work. Some of their work also touched on the issue of funding and the importance of being able to discuss the modest cost impact of a successful 708 referendum on an average home. Melissa also indicated their plans to develop a brochure that would review how prevalent behavioral health issues are across the community.

Recommendations Team: Mr. Bacon indicated that the Funding/Recommendations Team has not met since their meeting in November, but should be meeting prior to next month's meeting.

OTHER MATTERS / INFORMATIONAL ITEMS:

Discussion followed on a range of issues from the importance of developing a more accurate picture on service gaps, findings from a preliminary survey and the utility of requesting additional materials from ACHMAI that could be useful and a comparative look at the cost associated with the provision of more comprehensive behavioral health services at the community level. There was further discussion about funding and the necessity of linking a variety of funding sources to cover the cost to address the gap in local behavioral health service. It is important in our messaging and communication to the community, to elected officials and community partners to emphasize that behavioral health is essential for overall health, prevention works, treatment is effective and people recover from mental health and substance use disorders with service needs being met. There was concern expressed about the likely changes in the State's budget, particularly as it relates to funding human health and social services.

There was additional discussion about the utility of looking more closely with the Transform Rockford Initiative and doing what we can to be sure behavioral health concerns are represented in the overall long-range effort. It was suggested that it would be useful to invite someone like Mike Schablaske to one of our upcoming monthly meetings. Harlan provided additional input on the current format for organizing this work effort. There was further discussion that the work needing to be done prior to the January MHAC meeting, including contacting ACHMAI for their support materials available to local MHACs, findings from preliminary survey work and efforts to clarify areas of behavioral service gaps locally.

There being no additional items of business before the committee, there was a motion for adjournment with all present voting aye. The meeting adjourned at approximately 8:50 AM with everyone offering happy holiday wishes.

NEXT MEETING:

There was a reminder of the next meeting, Wednesday, January 14, 2015 at Rosecrance Ware Center located at 1021 N. Mulford Road, Rockford, IL.

Respectfully submitted,

J. Maichle Bacon

Approved by the Mental Health Advisory Committee: _____
DATE