River Forest Mental Health Committee

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

Present: Phillip Buta, Elizabeth Davies, Elizabeth Dunne, Jonathan Howard, MD, Melinda Peterson, Kathryn Schmahl, Kristin Sneeringer, Jessica Starck, MD, Carla Sloan, Supervisor

Absent: Jean Meister, Helene Connolly (Township liaison)

Staff: Sarah Schwarting, LCSW, Mental Health Administrator,

1. Melinda called the meeting to order at 6:32pm and conducted roll.
2. Public Comments, Phil Carmody, Opportunity Knocks
   * Phil provided an update on the work that Opportunity Knocks is doing and how funds provided by the MHC are used:
     1. Day programs are 4 days per week on site
     2. Getting ready to plant the farm for a new season
     3. Seeking to expand to a residential service offering, providing independent living and supporting the individual’s goals; seeking state licensure
     4. Interested in offering affordable housing in the community, while not interested in owning all properties
     5. Recently developed a new website which was shared visually with the committee
3. Beth Dunne moved to approve the minutes from February 7th, 2023, Melinda seconded and the motion was carried.
4. Township Report – Carla Sloan:
   * Funding new youth programs in the upcoming year
   * New website is 85% complete
   * A designer has been hired to create a resource guide
   * New senior programs include mahjong and pickle ball
5. Mental Health Administrator Report – Sarah Schwarting:

* A report of lack of usage is going to be sent to the people we contract with for the HUB stating that our agencies don’t get the desired outcomes from the service prior to a March 16th meeting.
* 211 is having some roll out struggles, but it is thought that eventually this will be the primary service that replaces the HUB. 211 has a 39 person navigation team, and has received 3400 calls so far, 3500 agencies are in the 211 database.
* Yesterday, a roll out of new Positive Youth Development (PYD) resources was conducted and I will have these materials to the committee by no later than Thursday of this week.
* The orientation packet is complete.
* Quarter 3 checks were mailed at the end of February.
* It looks like site visits went well and all agencies are receptive to us coming back again this fall.
* The D200 Parent University registration link is now live.
* Governor Pritzker approved 1.5 million in spending for children’s behavioral health, including a resource site similar to the HUB.
* The PYD marijuana prevention town hall had about 13 community participants, and the conversations were primarily solution focused for keeping kids off any type of marijuana.
* The NAMI LOFT – a crisis center similar to the Living Room model, will open for teens in Brookfield this weekend.
* Kathryn hosted a lovely coffee/breakfast in her home on February 24th, it was well attended by most committee members!

1. Addiction Recovery Team ­– Melinda Peterson:
   * Partnered with Way Back Inn
   * Meetings at Grateful House monthly, Melinda welcomed all to attend
   * Interested in expanding addiction recovery presence and involvement
   * Seeking existing local events to raise awareness including the River Forest Memorial Day Parade
   * Melinda is starting a walking club through the River Forest Park District, which will be publicized in the upcoming Fun Guide
   * PYD meeting is tomorrow, Melinda invited all to attend
2. Other Updates from MHC Members:
   * Welcomed Phillip Buta to the committee
3. Old Business: None
4. New Business:
   * Review of consistency of agency site visit reports
   * Review of grant funding requests
   * Committee requested to review site visit reports before voting on grant requests
5. The next meeting will be Tuesday, April 4th at 6:30pm at the River Forest Community Center.
6. Melinda motioned to adjourn and Kathryn seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 8:13pm.