



## OGLE COUNTY COMMUNITY MENTAL HEALTH (708) BOARD

### MINUTES OF THE August 3, 2023 Meeting

On August 3, 2023 Dorothy Bowers called a meeting of the 708 Board to order at 7:30 a.m. at Easterseals, 730 N. Church Street, Rockford, IL 61103 and utilizing Zoom meeting ID 394-790-2090. At the call of the secretary and notice given to each board member and notice posted at the Ogle County Courthouse and Easterseals. Dorothy Bowers presided.

The secretary called the roll:

#### **BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Dorothy Bowers - *708 President (Zoom)*  
Renee L. Barnhart - *708 Secretary and Treasurer (Zoom)*  
Cindy Bergstrom *(Zoom)*  
Jenae Bothe *(Zoom)*  
Marcella Haushahn *(Zoom)*  
Amy Zbinden Henkel *(Zoom)*  
Joseph Simms  
Judy Tatlock

#### **ABSENT:**

Kathe Wilson - *708 Vice-President*

#### **OTHERS PRESENT:**

Easterseals - represented by Kathleen Kurtz and Christi Star  
HOPE - represented by Ruth Carter *(Zoom)*  
Lutheran Social Services of Illinois - represented by Chris Mills *(Zoom)*  
Rockford Sexual Assault Counseling, Inc. - represented by Erica Engler *(Zoom)*  
Sauk Valley Voices of Recovery- represented by Gerald Lott and Daniel Stewart  
Serenity - represented by Lynn Knodle *(Zoom)*  
Shining Star – represented by Jessica Cash *(Zoom)*  
Sinnissippi Center's Inc. - represented by Patrick Phelan *(Zoom)*  
Village of Progress – no representation

The Chair announced that we have a quorum.

#### **Proposed Agenda August - Approve**

Jenae Bothe moved to accept the agenda as presented.  
Marcy Haushahn seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

**Minutes: May 4 and 18 - Review and Approve**

Marcy Haushahn moved to approve the meeting minutes as presented.

Renee Barnhart seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

**Agency Vouchers: August 2023 - Review and Approve**

Renee Barnhart moved to approve the vouchers as submitted.

Marcy Haushahn seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

**Financial Report: August 2023 - Approve**

Renee Barnhart moved to approve the financial reports as presented.

Amy Zbinden Henkel seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

**Officer's Report:**

President - Dorothy Bowers – Kathe Wilson has turned the funding application into the county clerk's office.

Vice President - Kathleen Wilson – not in attendance

**Unfinished Business – Discussion and Possible Action:**

708 Facebook Page Committee (Renee Barnhart and Amy Zbinden Henkel) – Status

Justine will make schedule for agencies to post to keep it active. There has been some activity and some agencies are utilizing. It is starting to get a following.

708 Website Page – Status

(Cindy Bergstrom) Kris Gilbert linking to County Board Website

Justine will make contact with Steven Varble Productions 217-245-5131 – Touched base 4-21-23

One-Year Plan – Visiting Lion's Club (Dorothy and Kathe) – Follow up – Dorothy has not gone to the Lion's club and has not heard if Kathe has.

Vacant seat – Judy Tatlock is the newest member to the board with her appointment on June 20, 2023 to expire on 12/31/2023.

**New Business - Discussion and Possible Action:**

Brochure – Review – Informed Gerald Lott that when they are approved for an agency, we can make an insert to put with the brochures until they are used up.

Funding Application – Review and Approve – Request when submitted that all pages are numbered from the agencies for quick reference during hearings.

Zoom – Renewal – Justine suggests to upgrade the Zoom contract. They are putting limits on how many minutes and shareable information if you don't upgrade. This will be an issue at funding hearing time for sure. Once upcharge is calculated Justine can email board for pre-approval for reimbursement as it is paid through a personal account.

### **Liaison Report:**

Joe Simms – Ogle County Board Liaison – Had questions on two of the funding applications. Sinnissippi - sounded like part of the request was for brick and mortar. Village of Progress request for 3% raise was a “just because” it had not had one in a while. Dorothy stated that the 708 board has already approved but Joe said this is coming from the county board. Patrick from Sinnissippi answered that it was expansion of services for the new site, not brick and mortar. Joe said that he would inform Chairman Frinfrock at next meeting of clarification.

Ogle County Cares Coalition – (*Meetings fall on the first Monday of the month at 1 PM held virtually and at the annex building in Rochelle. Kim Crump is the contact at KimCrump@sinnissippi.com*) – Ashly Regalado was not present and there were no updates.

### **Agency Reports**

#### Newspaper Article

August – LSSI and Shining Star

#### **Lutheran Social Services of Illinois – Chris Mills and Ashly Regalado**

Nachususa has been sold and become part of the Lee/Ogle ROE and they are leasing back their office space. They will continue to provide services out of the same building.

They have been chosen as the “giving pump” recipient at the Grand Detour Shell Station. When using selected pumps part of the proceeds go to the Nachususa programs.

Staff is very busy getting ready for the school year. They are working towards getting their linkage agreements set up with the schools that they have had partnerships with. Looking forward to sharing the prevention lessons and helping to serve the youth that are at risk for runaway or lock out.

#### **Rockford Sexual Assault Counseling – Erica Engler**

RSAC is having their 4<sup>th</sup> Annual *Dispelling the Darkness* candlelight vigil and awareness campaign on September 12<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 PM located at Starlight Theater at Rock Valley College. Survivors share their journey either in person or by written messages and it becomes a very meaningful and moving event.

Michelle (Ogle County therapist and advocate) has been out in the community sharing many presentations. Educating people on what agency services are available and how to respond with disclosures with sexual abuse and assault and talking about the differences between normal and red flag behavior in children. She is also working on presentations for therapists covering different topics. Michelle will also be seeing individual clients as the school year starts. Utilizing outreach public awareness tables and the prevention team will be available in Ogle County.

Cindy stated that she had Michelle talk with the probation department providing them with the most current information for response. It was greatly appreciated.

### **Serenity Hospice and Home – Lynn Knodle**

Serenity had a very busy summer. Their census is significantly up with serving close to 100 individuals. Currently have a wait list for referrals. Almost back to full staff with only one open RN position to date. Multiple fundraisers have included the *Art Dash*, *Golf Play Day*, *Garden Luncheon* and *Butterfly Release*. The *Butterfly Release* (Bereavement Ceremony) had over 300 participants releasing to honor loved ones lost over the last year. They just finished the second *Cooking for One* class. This has been well received and Cathy will continue to provide periodically.

Another 8-week, Alan Wolfelt Grief Class is beginning in September. Also, a book club, with a grief-related topic, is being started.

A new volunteer will be working at the Shed once a week. She will be there working on crafts for individuals who just drop in.

They are preparing for some turnover with staff. Denise Watt will be retiring at the end of the year and Cathy Warren will be stepping back from her main roll and moving towards a more supportive roll in May. Current social worker, Raissa Baxter, LCSW will soon transitioning into the bereavement coordinator role in 2024.

*Angel Treasures III*, in Dixon is now open. The goal is for this location to sustain the innovative therapies that are currently covered by grants. I.E., music therapy, comfort art, virtual reality and massage therapy.

### **Shining Star – Jessica Cash**

Shining Star is having the *Night with the Stars* Fundraiser this Saturday at the Dixon Elk's Club, 5-9 PM. The live band Buzz by Sunset will play and it will include, a dinner, auctions and games. Looking forward to a fun night of gathering people while raising money and awareness.

Summer is a slower time with kids at home and not the exposure to teachers, as they are the typically the number one reporter.

They are hiring for a child forensic interviewer, currently. If people know anyone that has a social worker, psychology, criminal justice background that would be good talking with kids about sensitive topics please inform them of the full-time position.

They were chosen for the giving pump at the Dixon Shell Station on 38 for the month of August. A portion of those proceeds will go to them.

### **Sinnissippi Centers, Inc. – Patrick Phelan**

Patrick is departing Sinnissippi and heading to the Peoria area to become the CEO for The Center for Youth and Family Solutions. He will still be full-time until early September, then continue with a contractual relationship to see the transition through. Stacy Kemp, the current Chief Operating Officer, is going to become interim CEO.

### **Village of Progress – Brion Brooks**

No representation

### **Easterseals – Christy Star**

Easterseals had the *Volcano Falls Family Event* in June. This is usually their biggest event and this year they had to put families on a waiting list and they ran out of passes. Next year they will try to budget to allow for more. The attendees included 78 adults and 96 kids. Had a wonderful response and many kudos through calls, emails and texts thanking them for a great time. They gave away gift baskets and goodie bags to the kids.

They are currently prepping for back to school. They are trying something new and filling 50 backpacks with school supplies to help some kids in need. They are gifting 150 one-year Discovery Center memberships to families, too. A Super-Hero back to school event will be hosted at the Winnebago Public Library on Saturday, August 12<sup>th</sup>. They are going to bake cakes, make personal door knob hangers and create masks for the kids during this two-hour event. They are working on some upcoming activities with Florissa and Starnet.

### **HOPE of Ogle County – Ruth Carter**

HOPE of Ogle County is currently planning their 40-year celebration to be held on Thursday, October 19<sup>th</sup> at SALT 251 from 5-8 PM. All are invited. During a cocktail hour they will recognize the folks that have contributed to HOPE throughout the years. Raising funds and awarding prize baskets and other similar things throughout the evening.

They have had some changes due to the recent cuts from the VOCA and VAWA funds. They were not able to hire a much-needed full-time counselor. The Latinx Outreach Counselor, Rural Outreach Counselor and the Childrens Counselor are providing some additional adult services to fill in the gaps. The new Children/Teen Counselor, Jeanine Holland, received her Domestic Violence training through Freeport is doing wonderful as she learns her position at HOPE. Vanh, the court advocate of 4-years, will be leaving Friday to pursue a legal office position in DeKalb, opening up a full-time court advocate position that they will be looking to fill.

The shelter is currently full as more families have been coming through. Five children are currently residents so the timing of Jeanine has been welcomed to provide the extensive services as they come in.

Bingo nights are being put together by AP Massage in Rochelle and the date to benefit HOPE is September 18<sup>th</sup> at Salt 251. Starting at 5 PM, the fee is \$15 per person for multiple rounds of Bingo. All proceeds will go to HOPE that evening.

### **Public Comment:**

#### **Sauk Valley Voices of Recovery – Gerald Lott (Executive Director)**

They have secured a location in Rochelle at 242 May Mart Drive in the Central Bank building. They will have a room for support meetings, i.e. 12-Step and other substance abuse and support

programs including their *Art of Recovery* classes. They received a state grant starting July 1<sup>st</sup> for the ROSC Council (Recovery Oriented Systems of Care) that is coordinated by Daniel Stewart. He will be making contact with other agencies to see if they would be interested in networking to provide services.

The *Recover-Con* event will be held at the Northern Illinois University all day on October 7th. The past year approximately 400 people went to Sauk Valley College for the event. They are encouraging other agencies to participate via resource booth or presentation. They will award 9 CEU's (\$22 with CEUs. Free without CEUs). The website ([www.Recover-Con.com](http://www.Recover-Con.com)) is up for registration. The key note speaker, Tara Conner, 2006 Miss USA, had her title removed when it was discovered she had used drugs. She is now a large advocate for recovery.

**Upcoming Meetings**

- September 7 – Hope
- October 5 – Shining Star
- November 1 – Serenity
- December 7 - Sinnissippi

**HEW** – August 8, 3:00 PM (*2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of the month*)

**County Board** – August 15, 5:30 PM (*3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of the month*)

**Adjournment**

8:11 AM

The next regular meeting will be September 7, 2023, 7:30 AM.

- In person:* HOPE  
321 W Avenue H  
Rochelle, IL 61068
- Zoom:* Meeting ID: 394-790-2090  
Passcode: 708708  
One Tap Mobile: 1-312-626-6799

Respectfully submitted,

Justine Messenger  
Secretary to the Board

815-238-1829  
occmh708bd@gmail.com

Approved: September 7, 2023

  
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Dorothy Bowers, President

  
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Renee Barnhart, Secretary/Treasurer