



OGLE COUNTY COMMUNITY MENTAL HEALTH (708) BOARD

MINUTES OF THE December 7, 2023 Meeting

On December 7, 2023 Dorothy Bowers called a meeting of the 708 Board to order at 7:30 a.m. at Sinnissippi, 1321 N. 7th Street, Rochelle, IL 61068 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 Serenity. 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*)
Judy Tatlock (*Zoom*)

ABSENT:

Kathe Wilson - *708 Vice-President*
Amy Zbinden Henkel
Joseph Simms

OTHERS PRESENT:

Easterseals - represented by and Christi Star (*Zoom*)
HOPE - represented by Ruth Carter
Lutheran Social Services of Illinois - represented by Chris Mills (*Zoom*)
Rockford Sexual Assault Counseling, Inc. – represented by Michelle Pauley (*Zoom*)
Sauk Valley Voices of Recovery- represented by Gerald Lott and Heather Tomlinson
Serenity - represented by Lynn Knodle (*Zoom*)
Shining Star – represented by Jessica Cash
Sinnissippi Center's Inc. - represented by Sarah Schulfer-Popp
Village of Progress – represented by Brion Brooks

The Chair announced that we have a quorum.

Proposed Agenda December - Approve

Marcy Haushahn moved to accept the agenda as presented.
Renee Barnhart seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

Minutes: November 2023 - Review and Approve

Marcy Haushahn moved to approve the meeting minutes as presented.

Renee Barnhart seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

Agency Vouchers: December 2023 - Review and Approve

Renee Barnhart moved to approve the vouchers as submitted.

Marcy Haushahn seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

Financial Report: December 2023 - Approve

Renee Barnhart moved to approve the financial reports as presented.

Judy Tatlock seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

Officer's Report:

President - Dorothy Bowers – Nothing to report

Vice President - Kathleen Wilson – Not Present

Unfinished Business – Discussion and Possible Action:

708 Facebook Page Committee (Judy Tatlock) – Status

<https://www.facebook.com/OgleCountyMentalHealth708Board>

Judy reported that we have seen an increase in usage as more agencies have access to post. Justine submitted a schedule for agency posts and a list of agency contacts for admin. All agencies can post more often than on schedule.

708 Website Page (Judy Tatlock) – Status

https://www.oglecountyil.gov/residents/health/mental_health_708_board/index.php

Judy sent the link for the website that has been started through the Ogle County Board's website in November and again this past week. She asked that people review what is there and provide input on what they should post moving forward. A number of people did respond. She did ask that if people have reviewed and saw no changes to drop her a note to confirm their agency information is acceptable.

Instagram: Judy asked if anyone was familiar with application, as this might be a social media outlet to follow up with. It seems to be used by a younger crowd, so it would be another target market.

She will be compiling all information she has received and submitting it to Kris Gilbert for the county website.

One-Year Plan – Visiting Lion's Club (Renee) – Follow up – Renee has a scheduled time to present at the Lion's Club.

One-Year Plan: Review and Approve

Marcy Haushahn moved to approve the One-Year Plan as submitted.
Renee Barnhart seconded.
Motion carried unanimously.

Cindy asked if we do public education presentations. Dorothy stated in the past they have but have not been since Covid. Cindy: Can we add this to the agenda monthly so we can brainstorm more places that might need educated on the 708 Board and the agencies that provide service.

Human Service Directory – Review – Justine stated that both the English and Spanish version have started to run in the papers. She is hoping that listings are checking their information and people will reach out for corrections or additions accordingly. Dorothy is on the Ogle County Board of Health and they run an HSD. She is curious if we can correlate the two and save some money by joining forces to run them together. Justine asked for a contact that she can discuss that option with. Melissa Spangler is the Health Administrator and might be a good contact to start with. Cindy stated that the Fifteenth Judicial Circuit is requested to do a resource guide by the Chief Judge. Their version encompasses what the 708 shows but also has additional resources, i.e. attorneys. Cindy will send Justine that version.

Agency Brochure – Review – Justine stated that now with the addition of Sauk Valley Voices of Recovery they will be supplying information for an insert until printed copies have all been distributed. They will be included at time of further printings. Justine will correct the digital version and send out when up to date. Gerald has supplied the information to the addition.

Board Members terms ending email reminder and CC: June Jacobs – Amy and Judy both have terms ending 12/31/23. June Jacobs forwarded them the information to submit to the OCB to retain their positions and they will be voted on at the 12/12 HEW meeting and then forwarded on to the OCB 12/19 meeting for final approval.

Funds Balance FY 22-23 – Excess disbursements in November – Justine emailed everyone what the final distributions came to for the Fiscal Year Ending 11/30/23. The FY end balance was \$1.06.

Calendar – Set and sent to June for posting – Justine reached out to Susan Montavon at the Sheriff's Office to see about utilizing the training room for future meetings as opposed to travel to the agencies for the next fiscal year. To date she has not responded but Justine will follow up.

Letter to agencies – new monthly payment – Justine sent letters to all agencies confirming their new monthly payments for the FY 23-24.

Funding Application – Brick and Mortar – follow-up (Cindy) – Cindy had reached out to several other mental health boards and received copies of their application. The majority use an online application from Fondant or EAK Consulting. Kendall County created their own fillable version they upload to their website and then agencies complete it. Some of them seemed very direct/clear cut about needed information. She will send copies of what she has for people's input. Dorothy appointed Cindy in charge of a new application to be voted on at the February meeting. Cindy will keep everyone informed via email about finds and modifications to the current version.

Ruth Carter asked it to be clearer about the people that have been served in Ogle County. Is the definition: Residents that lived in Ogle County or is it the services they provide in Ogle County?

Dorothy said it is the people that are served in Ogle County. Brion asked if a Lee County resident that comes to Ogle County for services count as services in Ogle County and Dorothy said "yes".

Ruth mentioned that if Cindy could find an application that the agencies could actually fill out the sections that would be appreciated. When completing grant applications, many times, you have to print out the application then complete it in a separate document working on two of them at the same time. Other applications only allow you to print part of your answers. This obviously makes things more difficult than needs to be when putting together requests for assistance. Jessica stated that some also do not allow you to save as you go. All very important feedback for creating a new version.

New Business - Discussion and Possible Action:

Re-appoint Secretary to the Board

Re-appoint Justine Messenger as Secretary to the Board

Renee Barnhart nominated Justine Messenger as Secretary to the Board.

Marcy Haushahn seconded.

Dorothy Bowers moved to re-appoint Justine Messenger as Secretary to the Board.

Renee Barnhart seconded.

Motion carried unanimously.

Liaison Report:

Joe Simms – Ogle County Board Liaison – Not present

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. Angie Day is the contact at AngieDay@sinnissippi.com*) – Judy attended and said that each agency spoke a bit about themselves. When some had questions, they interacted well to try and help out. She provided the minutes from the meeting for review. A couple of the groups have potential interest in seeking funding through the 708 Board. The next meeting will be in February.

Agency Reports

Newspaper Article

December – Hope

Sauk Valley Voices of Recovery – Gerald Lott and Heather Tomlinson

Heather is the new ROSC Council Coordinator, replacing Daniel Stewart.

The Rochelle recovery center is going well. They are currently hosting three 12-steps programs weekly on Monday, Thursday and Friday evenings. An all-woman recovery group has been established for Thursday mornings. A new recovery coach has been hired and they are looking to transition from appointment only to fully staffed by the beginning of the year.

They are partnering with TASC (Treatment Alternatives for Safer Communities) Center for Help and Justice to hold a meeting on January 23rd at the DeKalb Mental Health Board meeting room, regarding a deflection program that will serve Lee, Whiteside, Ogle, DeKalb and Carroll Counties. This is a state program that assigns a person to assist police departments and other agencies when someone needs to escalate up in treatment.

Village of Progress – Brion Brooks

They are in the process of submitting the formal application for the innovative housing complex in Mount Morris, with the Illinois Housing Authority, due mid-January. They have a petition with Mount Morris to re-zone 16 acres to multi-family residential that will be heard in the beginning of January. Once approved they will be able to file the application. It is approximately a 10-million-dollar project that will be covered mostly by grant money from IHDA (Illinois Housing Development Authority). If approved the project will include 12 duplexes (24 units of housing) and a community building. Approximately half of the units will be homes for people with intellectual developmental disabilities. The goal is to break ground in the spring or summer of 2025 with a finished project completed in approximately a year. This is done in partnership with Kreider Services in Dixon.

The Oregon Rotary Foundation had the Angel Ball last Saturday. This event supports the Rotary Foundation, VOP and Serenity. It had good attendance and the donations were equal to years prior.

The Village had a Halloween Party. They invited individuals from Rolling Hills Progress Center out of Mount Carroll, Kreider Services out of Dixon, OCEC and the Barbara Olsen Center of Hope out of Rockford. People played games, had lunch and danced. This is the second time the Village has taken the lead in having an activity that involves multiple agencies attending. Hoping that some of the other agencies will reciprocate.

An all-staff, in-service is scheduled for January 15th, covering Dementia Awareness and Care. It is common for those with Downs-Syndrome to develop Dementia later in life. They also are looking into another covering Autism Awareness and Care.

Easterseals – Christi Star

November was very busy preparing for the holiday season. November 16th, they had a virtual training evening in collaboration with Family Matters covering *Parent/School Collaboration Services Strategies*, with 16 people in attendance. November 18th, they collaborated with Florissa, Starnet and the Oregon Park District for the annual *Sibling Workshop and Family Fun Event*. Nash Rec Center hosted a total of 8 siblings that made Thanksgiving aprons as they discussed what they are thankful for, things that frustrate or upset them and how to best deal with those feelings. The favorite part was an hour of yoga taught by the Nash yoga instructor, Kara. Families joined for a lunch from Subway and a two-hour open swim. The following weekend they collaborated again with the Oregon Public Library for the *Sensory Santa* event. A tremendous turnout of 20 kids enjoyed time with Santa. Each family has 15 minutes with Santa and each child receives a stuffed animal and pick out a toy.

December has another *Mom's Book Club* meeting on December 12th at the Winnebago Public Library. "The Reason I Jump" written by a 13-year-old autistic boy, will be the book received and it will also include a cookie exchange. December 16th they are collaborating with the Dixon Park

District to do a *Breakfast with Santa*. The first hour will be sensory friendly and the second hour will be open to everyone.

HOPE of Ogle County – Ruth Carter

HOPE is receiving good response to the *Adopt a Family* program. Every one of their clients have been adopted out and they have additional donors lined up to cover families that may come in prior to the holiday. Bailey and Marissa have done an exceptional job at getting this organized.

A new domestic violence advocate has been hired. Anjelica Doering is local and bi-lingual and currently taking her 40-hour training. She will be helping in the shelter and also with the Domestic Violence Hotline.

Hope received the Rochelle Community Gratitude Award at the Rochelle Christmas Walk last Saturday.

Marissa Foss edited the holiday newsletter that was distributed and extra copies were provided for the 708 Board.

Lutheran Social Services of Illinois – Chris Mills

LSSI has been very busy with program activities. They are trying to finish up the education programs for both prevention programs with the semesters coming to an end. They are seeing the usual uptick in crisis around the holidays.

They were unexpectedly contacted by DHS about expansion on two of their programs. *Project Lead* (substance use program for youth) will be extending its 4th and 5th grade program into Whiteside and Carroll counties. They are finishing up the hiring process to cover the program and are hopeful that the network with the counties will provide an even stronger program. *CCYBS* (crisis program for locked out youth or runaways that refuse to go home) discretionary youth program will also be benefitting as part of a target funding to help divert them from the juvenile justice system. The funds will go to hiring one more full-time worker for this program and it will also have its own designated supervisor.

Outreach is very important to filling gaps when it comes to the at-risk population. They had a meeting with some probation departments this past week discussing information for services and contacts that went really well.

Rockford Sexual Assault Counseling – Michelle Pauley

RSAC is having a holiday party next week at JMK Nippon. It will include a white elephant exchange and a secret Santa.

The past couple of months has included a lot of training with multiple agencies covering *Window of Tolerance in Trauma* that she created herself. She will do presentations once a month but she will be focusing more on advocacy and individual counseling moving forward. Changes Counseling will be trained in *sand tray play therapy* later this month.

ICASA (Illinois Coalition Against Sexual Assault) has asked Erica and Michelle to do a 3-hour child play therapy training at their child therapy training event.

Referrals are continuing to come in for both school based and individual counseling. A significant number of referrals is also coming from her outreach. If anyone is interested in the provided training or wants her to come and discuss the services offered, please reach out.

Serenity Hospice and Home – Lynn Knodle

A *Blue Christmas Service* is being offered at the Oregon Methodist Church on Tuesday, December 19th, 6:30 PM to help those that have suffered loss over the holidays.

During the Candlelight walk this year many walked in to The Shed with questions about Hospice and Bereavement services. This was uncharacteristic of years passed but they are very encouraged about the awareness of what they are providing.

Giving Tuesday was very successful this year. They had a \$5,000 dollar match by the Lawrence Foundation to assist with the grand total of \$15,000. The Oregon Bowling team did a Bowl-A-Thon and raised over \$3,000 for their second annual fundraiser.

The census is very high and has been building for a while keeping their team very busy. Dr Appenheimer is retiring at the end of the year and they will be having a celebration for him at the end of January. The new medical director, Dr Joe Plescia, started in November.

They will be seeing some transition in the bereavement services with the retirement of Denise and Cathy Warren will be stepping down into a part-time supportive roll.

A holiday party at the Coliseum Museum is being planned and will include karaoke and food to make for a fun evening.

Shining Star – Jessica Cash

Forensic interviews have kept the staff very busy. They also have had criminal trials in Ogle and Lee that requires the forensic interview to testify. Requires preparation and they help the kids that will testify with the emotional mental health of having to face their offender. Many kids have not seen their offender since the incident and having to see them for the first time in the court room as they discuss what happened is very difficult.

Ruth from Hope assisted Jessica with some training in November at the Polo and Forreston Police Departments covering victim services, trauma responses and how to work with sexual assault, domestic violence and child abuse victims when calls come in. Providing resources that they can provide families and victims made for a well-received evening. The Police Chief provided good feedback and stated it was a very positive learning experience for all involved. New officers to the area and field attended and gained beneficial knowledge to better serve the area.

Jessica trained school resource officers yesterday in Ogle, Lee and Whiteside counties on child advocacy centers, how to handle disclosures when kids disclose at school and how to make the proper referrals.

Last night they had their annual client holiday party at the White Pines Roller Rink. They choose families from the past year of services that are in more need and could use a little extra support. Kids and families brought the number of attendees to 60 people. Dinner included with skating and a visit from a present bearing Santa makes for a fun evening for all. Families can have pictures taken with Santa and enjoy different crafts to put together. They consider this event a highlight for the year when they see all the smiles and hear the laughter that is present in the evening.

Sinnissippi Centers, Inc. – Sarah Schulfer-Popp

Sinnissippi is continuing to work on the CCBHC (Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinic) Grant and seems to be coming together well. The Rochelle office has expanded with the addition of three more clinicians. They received a grant last year for the sensory room and it is almost completed. It will help serve both children and adults. They are currently looking at 30 new client slots a week, starting in January at the Rochelle office.

Public Comment:

Aaqil Khan (Director of Revenue Cycle and Decision Support at KSB, Formerly Director of Project Open) – He is going to county boards and community boards to discuss the “Opioid Settlement Dollars” that are coming to counties. The grant started in 2019 for one-million dollars. The Feds want the funds to be used toward specific things and he is there to help Lee, Whiteside and Ogle counties navigate to receive the eight-million dollars that will be coming to our region over the next 18 years. His group is there to help with consulting and resources during that time. They are currently forming into a 501C3 called “Connected Communities”. Should anyone have questions or comments please reach out to aakhan@ksbhospital.com.

Upcoming Meetings

January – No Meeting
February 1 - Location TBD
March – No Meeting
April 4 – Location TBD

HEW – December 12, 3:00 PM (*2nd Tuesday of the month*)

County Board – December 19, 5:30 PM (*3rd Tuesday of the month*)

The next regular meeting will be Thursday, February 1, 2024, 7:30 AM.

In person: TBD
Zoom: Meeting ID: 394-790-2090
Passcode: 708708
One Tap Mobile: 1-312-626-6799

Adjournment

8:46 AM

Respectfully submitted,

Justine Messenger
Secretary to the Board

815-238-1829
occmh708bd@gmail.com

Approved: February 1, 2024

Dorothy Bowers

Dorothy Bowers, President

Renee L. Barnhart

Renee Barnhart, Secretary/Treasurer