



## OGLE COUNTY COMMUNITY MENTAL HEALTH (708) BOARD

### MINUTES OF THE February 1, 2024 Meeting

On February 1, 2024 Dorothy Bowers called a meeting of the 708 Board to order at 7:30 a.m. at Ogle County Sherriff's Office Training Room, 202 South First Street, Oregon, IL 61061 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 Sherriff's Office. 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  
Jenae Bothe *(Zoom)*  
Judy Tatlock *(Zoom)*

#### **ABSENT:**

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

#### **OTHERS PRESENT:**

Easterseals - represented by and Christi Star *(Zoom)*  
HOPE - represented by Ruth Carter *(Zoom)*  
Kreider Services – represented by Laura Watters  
Lutheran Social Services of Illinois - represented by Chris Mills *(Zoom)*  
Rockford Sexual Assault Counseling, Inc. – represented by Michelle Pauley  
Sauk Valley Voices of Recovery- represented by Gerald Lott and Heather Tomlinson  
Serenity - represented by Kathy Groenhagen  
Shining Star – represented by Jessica Cash *(Zoom)*  
Sinnissippi Center's Inc. - represented by Ashley Koza and DeAnne White  
Village of Progress – represented by Brion Brooks and Sheri Egan

The Chair announced that we have a quorum.

**Proposed Agenda December - Approve**

Renee Barnhart moved to accept the agenda as presented.  
Cindy Bergstrom seconded.  
Motion carried unanimously.

**Minutes: December 2023 - Review and Approve**

Cindy Bergstrom moved to approve the meeting minutes as presented.  
Renee Barnhart seconded.  
Motion carried unanimously.

**Agency Vouchers: February and March 2023 - Review and Approve**

Renee Barnhart moved to approve the vouchers as submitted.  
Judy Tatlock seconded.  
Motion carried unanimously.

**Financial Report: February and March 2023 - Approve**

Cindy Bergstrom moved to approve the financial reports as presented.  
Renee Barnhart 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 asked if all agencies have been able to access and post. Sheri Egan with VOP needs to be added. It was discussed that posts that are made through the Meta-Business application go through so the agencies that were having trouble will try to utilize that method and report back if it does not work.

708 Website Page (Judy Tatlock) – Status

[https://www.oglecountyil.gov/residents/health/mental\\_health\\_708\\_board/index.php](https://www.oglecountyil.gov/residents/health/mental_health_708_board/index.php)

Judy will submit to me what the updates have been so I can use those to update the 708 Brochure.

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

Human Service Directory – Review – Corrections have been provided to Justine for the next run on the HSD:

Board Members terms ending – Amy and Judy both have been renewed with terms ending 12/31/27.

Funding Application – Brick and Mortar – follow-up (Cindy) – For fiscal year 24-25 the board will continue to use the current application. During the funding processing it has been asked of the

agencies to take note of things that they feel would be beneficial in building the new application for FY 25-26.

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

Agency Financial Situation – Due

Funding Applications – Send to agencies – Justine will send after meeting and they are due April 4<sup>th</sup>

Ad to paper for Funding Hearings – submitted

Public Education training – Cindy – Mentioned presentation to schools about agencies and having school kids mingle with the VOP consumers for exposure to their needs.

Statements of Economic Interest – being mailed soon – Members will only have to complete one if they sit on multiple boards. I will mail them out as soon as I receive them.

Court Reporter - confirmed

**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 on Zoom. Angie Day is the contact at [AngieDay@sinnissippi.com](mailto:AngieDay@sinnissippi.com)) – Laura Watters will forward the minutes to Justine.

**Agency Reports**

Newspaper Article

February – LSSI

March – Serenity

**Shining Star – Jessica Cash**

Shining Star is on track for their fiscal year and proud to announce their upcoming 2024 MDT Crimes Against Children Conference on April 23, 2024 at the Dixon Elks Lodge, Dixon, IL. The conference will be a one-day with keynote speaker, Timberlee Jahn, sharing a survivor's perspective of childhood trauma and resiliency. Following Timberlee will be nationally known presenter, Andrea Zaferes, who presents on aquatic related matters. Andrea will be presenting "Identifying and Investigating Pediatric Aquatic Abuse, Punishment, Sexual Assault, and Homicide". Andrea is a wealth of knowledge on a topic that is rarely discussed and trained on.

**HOPE of Ogle County – Ruth Carter**

HOPE is on track for the fiscal year and are very thankful for the 708 funds. They have made budget modifications and staffing cuts due to the combined \$228,664 cut in VOCA and VAWA funding for fiscal years FY24 through FY26.

HOPE has not rehired a full-time adult counselor, a part-time domestic violence advocate and the Business Coordinator cut her hours back. The employees did not receive staffing raises this fiscal year as well.

Cuts have been made on travel and training expenses. This has limited the amount of travel counselors have made to the Oregon and Polo outreach offices limiting services to victims in-person. Administrative staff negotiated with the IT service HOPE uses to keep costs level as their IT costs took a sharp increase. We have relied more heavily on light maintenance with the periodic assistance of our maintenance volunteer and overall have reduced costs of day-to-day operations.

### **Sinnissippi Centers, Inc. – DeAnne White**

Sinnissippi had a clean audit for FY23. The current budget situation is stable and expected to be at a breakeven point once the January budget numbers have been tallied. They continue to look for property to open another office in Ogle County as the Oregon and Rochelle offices are at capacity, currently. Preferred location in the Northwestern portion of the county—Byron or Davis Junction.

### **Sauk Valley Voices of Recovery – Gerald Lott and Heather Tomlinson**

SVVoR is on track for the fiscal year.

Gerald reported that they are having a ribbon cutting for the new location in Rochelle at noon on February 13<sup>th</sup>. The office is now open Monday through Friday 8 AM to 5 PM.

The next Sober Night Out will be held on February 11<sup>th</sup> at Mama Cimino's for the Super Bowl.

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

The Village of Progress's 6-month finances are largely on track with the budget projections made at the beginning of its fiscal year. No significant variations are expected during the next six months.

Brooks also informed the 708 Board that the Village held an all-staff in service at the Village Bakery in January. Topics discussed included autism, dementia, and seizure disorders. The Village also received approval of a grant request for a new medium duty bus. These grants are offered through IDOT and have been the source of the Village's transportation buses for decades. The grant program was put on hold during Covid and only recently restarted. Still, it may be another two years before the granted bus is physically delivered.

Finally, Brooks noted that the Village and Kreider Services submitted a formal proposal with IHDA to create an integrated neighborhood in Mount Morris. This first phase of the project would consist of 12 duplexes (24 living units) in which people with intellectual/developmental disabilities would live alongside others without disabilities.

### **Easterseals – Christi Star**

Midterm Report Easterseals

June 1, 2023 – February 1, 2024, Ogle County 708 Mental Health Board Grant Report

Describe the major activities of the program: Information and referral, training opportunities for parents and professionals, caregiver retreats, respite program, social activities for families, sibling

workshops, book club for moms of child with disabilities, summer camp for children with special needs at Nash Recreation Center.

During this time, 315 families and their children were served.

Events for 2023 included:

- A Summer Camp at Nash Recreation Center in collaboration with Florissa and the Oregon Park District
- Volcano Falls Family Social Event
- Back to School backpacks filled with school supplies were given out to 85 children in our program. This was in big part to the donations we received from the Ogle County Probation Center.
- Ogle county Back to School Resource Fair August 14, 2023, at Monroe Grade School
- Training on PUNS in collaboration with The Service Inc. of Illinois
- A Training on how to receive support within the school system in collaboration with Family Matters
- A sibling workshop and family fun event at Nash Recreation Center in collaboration with Florissa, Starnet, and Oregon Park District.
- Sensory Santa visit at the Oregon Public Library in collaboration with the Oregon Public Library
- Moms Book Club in collaboration with the Winnebago Public Library

**Respite:** Are Respite program remains full during this time, we have also chosen our next respite family and are working with them to find a respite provider. We continue to maintain a waiting list for interested families.

**Program Financials:** Through regular budget meetings with our finance department our budget spending was maintained at level funding. An \$18,000 grant we received last year from the William S. Howard Charitable Trust ended June 2023. We did receive a \$500.00 mini grant from United Way of Ogle County to spend on family activities beginning in September 2023 and ending February 2024. We are currently applying for more grant funding from other agencies.

**Upcoming Events:** Future events will include a mom's morning out event at Nash Recreational Center, Parent trainings in collaboration with The Arc, Caregiver retreat the first weekend in May in Galena, Summer Camp at Nash Recreation Center, and an away Epilepsy Summer Camp in collaboration with The Epilepsy Advocacy Network and The Ramp.

### **Lutheran Social Services of Illinois – Chris Mills**

Chris reported that they are in good shape with their grants but they did not forecast correctly on the Youth Works and that program has suffered from \$20,000 in cuts.

DHS site reviews for Youth Works has been positive and they are using the Ogle County program as a choice example for other areas.

Jackie Smith that has been the coordinator for the Project Lead program is moving on so they are seeking someone to fill her shoes.

The CCBYS program now has its own supervisor and is experiencing positive growth. Kindra Plett was hired in January is doing an amazing job.

### **Rockford Sexual Assault Counseling – Michelle Pauley**

ICASA (Illinois Coalition Against Sexual Assault) asked Michelle to do a 3-hour child play therapy session training event for approximately 30 people.

They have been working with the Ogle County Health Department on their social determinants of health grant and on the stigma work group.

They have finished the EMDR training hours and Michelle has completed professional trainings for OCEC and Oregon School district on trauma and the window of tolerance.

They are on track for the fiscal year and greatly appreciate the 708 funds. They are essential for the satellite office.

ICASA will be rallying at the capitol to increase funding for SA services statewide due to loss of VOCA funding and more funding loss in the future.

### **Serenity Hospice and Home – Kathy Groenhagen**

Serenity Hospice and Home is beginning its 2023 financial audit. The auditors will perform fieldwork at the facility on March 12th and 13th.

While the public health emergency (PHE) caused by the COVID-19 pandemic ended on May 11, 2023, there is a lasting impact on the hospice industry. Initially, hospice providers were forced to adapt quickly to new regulations and guidelines to ensure the safety of patients and staff. This meant limiting family visitation, moving to telehealth consultations, and procuring personal protective equipment (PPE). Additionally, the pandemic caused a strain on hospice staff, many of whom have worked long hours and experienced significant stress.

The hospice industry received a 3.8% market basket rate increase in 2023. This is not meeting the increased costs of healthcare. Clinicians have received up to 20% wage increases over the past two years to comply with minimum wage regulations and market conditions. Medical supplies and procedures experienced a 38-40% increase. Increased costs for Health Insurance is \$30,943 and increased costs for building and liability insurance is \$16,245. Staff turnover, salary increases, and rising costs of supplies and services continue to impact the organization's financial health.

Coming out of the pandemic, bereavement support has become even more crucial as individuals grapple with the lasting effects of COVID-19 on grief and loss. The pandemic brought unprecedented challenges to the way people cope with grief and loss. The pandemic has resulted in various losses, including losing loved ones, income, routine, freedom, trust in others, and future plans. These losses can complicate the grieving process and impact individuals' emotional well-being. As we transition out of the pandemic, we must continue to prioritize and enhance bereavement support services.

Pastor Dana Cox began her role as Bereavement Coordinator in training in late January. She brings a wealth of knowledge and compassion to her new position and will be replacing Cathy Warren as the full time Bereavement Coordinator in July. Cathy will be moving to part time, where she will continue to facilitate groups and handle bereavement mailings. Both Cathy and Dana are in the initial planning stages for an adult overnight grief retreat/camp. In addition to sessions, the retreat would include hiking, spending time

outdoors, campfires, yoga, etc.

Serenity recently received a \$3,800 grant from the Lee County Citizen's Fund for services provided in Lee County.

Planning has started for the 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Art Dash, which supports bereavement and integrated services. This event will be held on April 10th at the River's Edge Experience.

Census has been down in community and up in Serenity Home for the month of January.

**Public Comment:**

Laura Watters from Kreider is interested in pursuing 708 funding for the FY24-25. They serve Ogle County clients through their respite program.

**Upcoming Meetings**

- May 2 – Location Ogle County Sheriff's Office
- May 23 – Location Ogle County Sheriff's Office
- June – No Meeting
- July – No Meeting

**HEW** – February 13, 3:00 PM (*2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of the month*)

**County Board** – February 20, 5:30 PM (*3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of the month*)

The next regular meeting will be Thursday, April 4, 2024, 7:30 AM.

- In person:* Ogle County Sherriff's Office Training Room  
202 South First Street  
Oregon, IL 61061
- Zoom:* Meeting ID: 394-790-2090  
Passcode: 708708  
One Tap Mobile: 1-312-626-6799

**Adjournment**

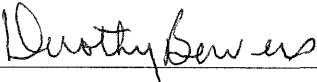
8:21 AM

Respectfully submitted,

Justine Messenger  
Secretary to the Board

815-238-1829  
occmh708bd@gmail.com

Approved: April 4, 2024

  
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Dorothy Bowers, President

Renee L Barnhart  
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Renee Barnhart, Secretary/Treasurer

