



Ogle County Mental Health Board

AGENCY REPORTS FOR SECOND QUARTER 2021



HOPE of Ogle County held its 7th Annual CincoK virtually this year and raised \$4486.00. 13 Ogle County sponsors helped to create additional awareness of HOPE services, allowing room for HOPE to advertise this event widely. Thank you to our sponsors and to all who registered, spread the word and contributed. SAVE THE DATE: 8th Annual CincoK, Saturday May 7, 2022.

This spring HOPE of Ogle County sent a mass mailer about HOPE services to Rochelle residents in Spanish and English as well as rural residents of Ogle County who live on the western side of Ogle County.

HOPE of Ogle County increased Ogle County Order of Protection assistance by 25% in fiscal year 2021. Court



services to domestic abuse survivors for over 20 years: **Kelly Kempson**/Court Advocate, **Connie**/Domestic Violence Advocate, **Cindy Tumminaro**/Domestic Violence Advocate, **Patty Troxel**/Domestic Violence Advocate, **Carol Benge**/Adult Counselor, **Addie Chattic**/Rural Outreach Counselor, and **Ruth Carter**/Executive Director.

Advocates provided the highest amount of Order of Protection assistance in the history of this life changing service to survivors of domestic abuse. Direct, unduplicated services hours provided to adults, teens and children also increased by 7% from fiscal year 2020.

Staff Recognition: HOPE of Ogle County recognized seven staff who have provided



The Village of Progress is on the move again!

Two events this past month have brought considerable joy and hope to the Village. The first is the advent of summer – warm breezes, bright sunshine, and a vibrant green landscape. The second was the successful vaccination of most of the people who work at and attend the Village.

With these two events now merged together, the Village is coming back to life with a variety of activities.

Our Village Bike Club has started back up after a year in hibernation. The Bike Club pairs local volunteers with those who attend the Village for rides through Oregon Park West. I'm happy to report that our volunteers were just as eager to resume the Bike Club as our men and women who ride with them.



In June, we had a group venture to Wrigley Field to watch the Cubs try to win a home game. At least the weather was great.

Special Olympics announced that they'll resume sports in the fall. And that means bowling, a favorite for many at the Village. Every week a group travels to Town & Country Lanes in Mount Morris to get in a couple games.



It hasn't been all play and no work this summer. We're excited to announce that we've partnered Crest Foods in Ashton IL. Twice a week a team of five men and women travel to Crest Foods to help them with packaging and production. Getting our people into the community and working shoulder-to-shoulder with Crest Food's employees has been a tremendous opportunity for us (and, we hope, for them).





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HOPE of Ogle County:

Contact: Ruth Carter 815.562.4323

Village of Progress:

Contact: Brion Brooks 815.732.2126

Serenity Hospice & Home:

Contact: Lynn Knodle 815.732.2499

Serenity Hospice's bereavement department has been very busy as groups begin to meet in-person again. The new Young Widows group continues to have steady growth and attendance. The kids programming is starting up again in-person this summer with camps in Oregon and Rochelle. Our bereavement coordinator will be attending training with Dr. Wolfelt, a nationally recognized expert in the field of grief and bereavement.

The Shed is now open on Saturdays. The Butterfly Release event for those who have experienced the death of a loved one is being planned for in-person this year on August 21st. We have a volunteer led barn sale fundraiser coming up July 22-25 in Oregon. See our Facebook page for details.

Easterseals-Family Support Services

Contact: Patti Mook/Kathleen Kurtz 815.965.5069

In April, Easterseals cohosted with several other agencies to present a virtual training, "Trauma-Informed Practice: Creating a Safe Haven Classroom". We also cohosted a virtual mom's retreat and the women learned how to make a Soul Collage. We also held a sibling workshop at Lowell Park and enjoyed Earth Day activities.

In May, we cohosted a virtual "Special Education Law" training with an emphasis on compensatory services for children who missed out on related services during the pandemic. On May 22 we held a family fun night at Lowell Park which included making a fairy garden, lawn games, learning about the stars and dinner-everyone had a great time.

In June, we cohosted a camp at Nash Recreation Center for children with disabilities. Each day they had an art project and a swimming lesson. They also had the opportunity to do some science experiments, make a book, and learn about gardening and insects. We rounded out the month with the return of our popular "Sibling Night" at Volcano Falls. We are grateful for our community partners: Florissa, Kreider Services, Nash Recreation Center, Oregon Public Library, Ogle Extension Office and Master Gardeners.

Rockford Sexual Assault Counseling:

Contact: Erica Engler 815.636.9811

Rockford Sexual Assault Counseling (RSAC) has continued to provide services in our 3-county service area of Ogle, Boone, and Winnebago counties. Our Ogle County therapist, Michelle Pauley, is back from maternity leave and had a baby boy! We are so excited for her and her family! Michelle is resuming all sessions with her clients and continues to take referrals for new clients. RSAC continues to fundraise as well! Our next fundraiser, Dispelling the Darkness, was virtual last summer and will be in person and virtual on Facebook this year. You are able to purchase a candle and light it with us virtually or in-person on September 9th at 7PM at First Free Rockford. We are so excited to have people attend in person this year and show support for survivors everywhere. You can purchase your candle on our website. We look forward to you joining us! Look for our end of year fundraiser, too! Raising Hope with RSAC is our raffle fundraising group on Facebook where you have the chance to win some awesome prizes! The link is below to join the group. Raffle posts will start October 1st.

We also have our bi-annual newsletter coming out this month. If you would like to be added to our email list, please contact Michelle Pauley at mpauley@rsacil.com or go to our website and complete the online form.

Website- Rockfordsexualassaultcounseling.org • Facebook Group- <https://www.facebook.com/groups/raisinghopewithrsac/>

Ogle County phone: (815) 732-0000 • 24-hour crisis hotline: (815) 636-9811

LSSI:

Contact: Chris Mills 815.284.7796

LSSI is excited to have begun increasing in-person interactions with their co-workers and community members. For prevention staff in Project LEAD and Youth WORKS, this entails a lot of planning for this upcoming school year. The prevention programs are looking to maintain all current partnerships with Ogle County schools, while also seeking out new opportunities to provide youth prevention education through the Too Good for Drugs and Too Good for Violence curriculums.

Comprehensive Community Based Youth Services (CCBYS), which serves at-risk, run away, and lockout youth experiencing a crisis or needing discretionary counseling, is now serving youth through both in-person interventions and virtual platforms depending on the individual needs of the youth. Though safety measures are still being implemented for all persons participating in a meeting, previous restrictions that limited in-person services have been lifted and staff are encouraged to serve eligible youth in a manner that will provide them with the best services to meet their needs.

Sinnissippi Centers:

Contact: Patrick Phelan 815.284.6611

Sinnissippi Centers received a PAIP (partner abuse intervention program) grant from the state to continue our domestic violence group in Oregon this past quarter. We have been doing a hybrid model of in-person and virtual to make this work. Sinnissippi Centers also just received notification of award for SAMHSA's CCBHC Expansion Grant completed in March 2021. The agency conducted their "Stronger Together" social justice campaign during May and continued through June thanks to a grant from Healing Illinois. You may have seen the yard signs around Ogle County and the banners at our Oregon and Rochelle offices. We updated our Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Focus House and continued support with psychiatric services for Focus House youth.

Sinnissippi also received very complimentary remarks from the Joint Commission surveyor who visited the agency virtually for our every three-year accreditation survey. The Joint Commission looks at hundreds of standards during their surveys. Even though it was a virtual visit, the surveyor still had access to any staff they wanted to question and looked at all the materials needed for a full survey as if it were done in person.

Finally, Sinnissippi continues a gradual "back to normal" process partially indicated by planning for and implementing in-person youth summer groups this quarter. Overall, the agency is seeing more and more in-office presence by staff and more and more in person appointments by clients. We are following CDC guidelines asking any unvaccinated clients to wear masks while inside our offices.