

MEETING MINUTES
ST. CHARLES 708 COMMUNITY MENTAL HEALTH BOARD
WEDNESDAY April 17, 2024
5:30 PM Dens A&B
2 E. MAIN STREET, DENS A&B

1. Call to Order

Chair Poremba called the meeting to order at 5:30 PM

2. Roll Call

Members Present: Denz, Litchfield, Muenz, Poremba, Rivard, Weddell

Absent: Rosenberg

Mr. Rivard left the meeting at 7:00 PM

Others Present: Agency Applicants

3. Approval of Meeting Minutes

A. March 20, 2024

Motion to approve by Rivard second by Muenz

Voice Vote Aye: 6 No: 0

Motion carries

4. Chair Report

Chair Poremba shared a clarifying question about Fox Valley Special Recreation application. In May there will be guests to the meeting; Sue Sanders and Mike Castro from the Equity & Inclusion Sub-Committee are attending to discuss a collaboration.

5. Agency Presentations

5:40 PM Lisa Ewers – Easterseals

Speaker: Theresa Forthofer

Serves approximately 3200 clients annually with 30-40 clients coming from St. Charles.

5:50PM Amy Daeschler – CASA Kane County

Served 663 children last year with 63 from St. Charles in 2023.

Q: approximately how many children are placed per volunteer.

A: They try to keep children in the same family together with 1 CASA volunteer representing, so it depends on the size of the family. They have a great need for more volunteers. Post-Covid, volunteers are wanting to spend more time with their family or travel and fewer people are volunteering while at the same time case numbers are unfortunately increasing.

6:00 PM Clair Culton – Fox Valley Hands of Hope

Speaking: Jonathan Shively

Q: Where do referrals typically come from?

A: Typically, word of mouth but they also are referred

Q: Is the waiting list for the individual or to get into groups?

A: A little bit of both. They are working for ways to reduce waitlists.

Complexity of cases is also changing, growing more challenging. More people experiencing unexpected loss.

6:10 PM Eric Majewski – St. Charles Police Department

Cases for 2023 have been stabilized from previous years. This is attributed to finding and connecting people with the services they need as well as adjusting staffing consistency of the social worker. 369 total clients were served in 2023.

Q: What is the timeline from referral to connection with service/referral.

A: It is situationally dependent

Q: At what point are social workers brought in to situations?

A: Officers are made aware in certain situations to notify social workers.

Q: What type of follow up is done after referral for services?

A: Unable to answer unless there are further incidents & calls for the social worker again.

6:20 PM Julie Purcell – Lazarus House

Speaking: Sue King

In the last month and a half, they've experienced a 15% increase in request for emergency shelter. They were at 140 in February and are now at 165. They're receiving many calls from people in need stating other shelters are full. Lazarus house has seen a 19% increase of St. Charles residents in the last six weeks. Currently there are 112 St. Charles residents at Lazarus House. There is also a rise in individuals over the age of 65 as well as whole families seeking shelter. Last year at this time they housed 19 children, this year they currently have 31 children being housed.

Q: What if a family comes with a pet?

A: Pets are not able to be housed unless it is a service animal. Through a partnership with Anderson Animal there are foster homes available.

Q: For HPS services, approximately how many calls are received per year?

A: Approximately 22 per month x 25 people who take the calls.

Q: Do children in the shelter attend school?

A: Yes, there are partnerships with the local school districts who send a bus to pick up and drop off the kids. Parents are responsible to see them on and off the bus.

6:30 PM Christie Plotzke – Assoc. For Individual Development (AID)

Speaking: Lore Baker

Receiving an increase in requests from through the police department including many requests for assistance with homelessness. The request this year includes funding for .5 of a position for a person to work street outreach services.

Q: How does AID work with Lazarus House?

A: AID has a focus on people who are currently truly homeless and living on the street versus seeking assistance for housing of their own accord as they would for Lazarus House.

6:40 PM Dan Dahlke – DayOne PACT

At 6:43PM

DayOne Pact has served over 3900 individuals in 2023, of those 231 are St. Charles residents. This is more than was expected. It is anticipated they will provide about 9500 services hours to St. Charles residents this year.

Q: What is attributed to the growth year over year these past several years?

A: The belief is that families are seeking services more than they had in the past.

6:50 PM Marty Keifer – Lighthouse Foundation

At 6:35PM

Lighthouse hired a dedicated nurse practitioner in 2023. A case manager works with individuals coming out of the Kane County Jail program to provide wrap around services to help them find housing and jobs.

Lighthouse has begun to serve individuals across Illinois with its virtual service options. They are currently running 13 virtual groups per week. They have individuals who are served with a monthly injectable version of Suboxone the cost of this medication is approximately \$1700 per month. Mr. Keifer discussed the Narcan dispenser machine available and free outside their building.

Q: Has the Narcan dispenser been utilized?

A: Yes, and the number of doses being used is trackable. It is being used daily.

Q: Does Lighthouse bear the brunt of the cost of the medication?

A: Yes, they are supported with grants but are offered at no cost to the client.

7:00 PM BREAK

7:10 PM Daphne Sandouka – Ecker Center for Behavioral Health

Q: The application stated 100 hours of service last year. Anticipation was 500 hours on this application.

A: Crisis stabilization program was reopened as well as mobile crisis response team services. They feel that based on awareness, and the model of need in Elgin, it's felt that increase will present itself in St. Charles as well. Ecker Center is also a provider for 988 services.

7:20 PM Michael Cobb – Elderday Center

Elderday is celebrating 34 years of services based in Batavia. They expect to serve between seven to eleven St. Charles residents this year. They are currently serving seven St. Charles residents. A second site in Elgin has been opened this year.

Q: Is funding from member dues from a sliding scale?

A: No, but dues are \$95 a day, in reality it costs about \$295 a day per member to operate.

7:30 PM Alysia Maggio – Community Crisis Center

Community Crisis serves victims of domestic abuse and sexual assault. They have tripled their staff in the past year providing 24x7 access to respond to partnerships with St. Joseph Hospital, Sherman and Delnor. Last year they served 45 clients from St. Charles. Clients are also staying in service longer than previous years, raising the number of service hours per client.

7:40 PM Eric Larson & Kyla Brittain – Elgin Youth Symphony Orchestra*

EYSO represents about 400 students across Northern IL with about 40 coming from St. Charles and several more coming from neighboring Geneva and Campton Hills. The EYSO difference program offers a holistic approach through music.

Q: Is EYSO still audition based, or has it changed?

A: There are auditions however they almost never turn away a student. The goal is to meet people where they are. They offer a "starter strings" program which currently has 84 students.

Q: How is EYSO specifically identifying those with disabilities?

A: They are not necessarily targeting the population however through the audition process there is a form that is completed asking about necessary accommodations and medications.

7:55 PM Alex Engelhardt – Fox Valley Special Recreation Assoc. (FVSRA)

In Feb they re-launched a resource library to the community. FVSRA is seeing a decline in staff as well as learning that colleges across the country are

cancelling programs that speak to the type of therapists FVSRA employs. Their programs for day camps for individuals with special needs continues this year as a counterpart effort to community park district day-camps with an effort to be competitive in price for parents of children with special needs.

8:05 PM Barbara O'Neil – HorsePower Therapeutic Riding

The increase in need this year has shown in middle and high school young ladies. Many begin a program here, leave to attend a treatment program and return after their program.

8:15 PM Amy Singer – The Joshua Tree

Currently serving 5 St. Charles residents as well as others from surrounding communities. They continue to rent their space from the Kane County Cougars facility.

8:25 PM Angela McCrum – NW Medicine Living Well

Living Well supports cancer patients and family members. They have been able to operate without a waitlist. Support groups are starting to be well attended again, while the virtual services continue as an option.

8:35 PM Sara Gray – NAMI Kane-South (KDK)

At 7:27PM

Sara discussed programming and the variety of support classes offered by NAMI. A recent family to family class saw 6 couples from St. Charles. NAMI partnered with Kane ROE this year presenting the Ending the Silence Program in efforts to prevent suicide.

8:45 PM Amy Bennett – Second Act Scene 2

Q: Did you end up posting your camp?

A: Last year was a year of challenge & rebuilding. They lost 2 social workers to more established organizations. They've hired a new social worker and are changing the program to run groups. The money awarded last year is still being held to focus on St. Charles residents. They're partnering with Lazarus House to do a parent / child social emotional learning group. They would like to run this on a monthly basis. Their plan is to pilot it this summer and ultimately offer it to all grade levels.

Q: Is it your hope that by reaching out to D303 schools that it will result in some type of referral basis?

A: They thought is, their group settings would be more inviting and then they could offer therapy to those who need more intensive.

Q: The hiring of 2 more therapists, were they hired by Intermissions or by Second Act Scene 2?

A: They are paid by Intermissions but when individuals are not able to pay, they receive services through Scene 2.

Q: Who is providing the services? Is it only Intermissions Therapy providing the services?

A: Yes

Q: Does Intermission take a portion?

A: Second Act would pay Intermission for that portion. Currently they pay \$85 an hour to Intermissions.

Q: What percentage is Intermissions getting versus all going to the therapist?

A: The Intermissions portion is going to be whatever the client has to pay?

Q: The 25 kids per week? Will they all be from St. Charles?

A: We want to target St. Charles yes.

Q: You've sent out flyers is there any contract in place yet?

A: We haven't sent out flyers yet but that is our plan.

Q: Funding likely won't arrive until August so would the same thing happen as last year?

A: We've held that money from last year, so we'd use that.

Q: How can you be certain funding serves the taxing body of St. Charles residents? The school district serves several areas for example, South Elgin and West Chicago.

A: We'd have to get the demographics.

8:55 PM Zoeie Kreiner – Support Over Stigma

At 8:25PM

The organization is one mission, saving lives through suicide prevention of our military, former and current. It is estimated that as many as 29% of members of the military have a form of PTSD. Of the Vietnam Veteran population, it's estimated to be as much as 47% which are many in St. Charles. They have almost 90 current first responders and former military that will take calls for this organization 24/7 currently. A recent study by Duke University estimates true number of military suicides to be 44-47 per day.

Q: Are all positions with the organization volunteer?

A: All are volunteers with the exception of some grant writers and providers that require a stipend.

9:05 PM Laura Poss – Tri City Family Services

Tri City Family started in 1967. As many others they have seen an increase to 3760 in 2023. 39% of clients currently are children. Tri City has gone back into schools to provide programming this school year. Partnerships continue to grow.

Q: Do you still have a waitlist?

A: We've been able to cut it down through opening another space as well as bringing interns on as full time therapists. Currently the waitlist is down to about 50-60 from 120 last year. A change in hours they see individuals has also helped.

9:15 PM Virginia Frank – Tri City Health Partnership

At 7:25PM

In 2023 they saw 6000 visits to their clinic over 664 clients. They expect to see more than 7500 in 2024. Tri City also provides the gap coverage for recently incarcerated before Medicaid begins.

Q: Priority #2, how are patients monitored?

A: If patients return, they are assessed again.

6. Adjourn

Chair Poremba asked if there were any other items or a motion to adjourn.

Motion by Muenz second by Litchfield

Voice Vote Aye: 5 No: 0

Meeting Adjourned at 9:00PM

ADA Compliance

Any individual with a disability requesting a reasonable accommodation in order to participate in a public meeting should contact the ADA Coordinator, Jennifer McMahon, at least 48 hours in advance to the scheduled meeting.

The ADA Coordinator can be reached in person at 2 East Main Street, St. Charles, IL, via telephone at (630) 377 4446 or 800 526 0844 (TDD), or via e-mail at jmcmahon@stcharlesil.gov. Every effort will be made to allow for meeting participation. Notices of this meeting were posted consistent with the requirements of 5 ILCS 120/1 et seq. (Open Meetings Act).

