



# Mental Health Committee

## Minutes

*Tuesday, March 2, 2021 7:00pm*

*Held Remotely on Zoom*

**I. Call to Order/Roll Call/Meeting Norms** - Lauren Saternus called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. on Zoom. Committee members present: Lauren Saternus, MaryAnn Ogilvie, Jillian Bernas, Joanmarie Wermes, Stephanie Bertels, Mary Cloonan Walsh and Gina Raza. Associate members present: Cathy Skura. Township representatives present: Katy Trent. Absent: Trustee Diane Dunham and member Jonathan Rubin Public: Hoffman Estates Acting Chief of Police Kasia Cawley and Sergeant Scott Lawrence

**II. Welcome/Introduction of Visitors**

A. Hoffman Estates Acting Chief of Police Kasia Cawley and Sergeant Scott Lawrence - Chief Cawley shared information with the Committee about premise alerts and how they work. They are accomplished in two ways by families sharing information or officers sharing information. Premise alerts are for special needs at a residence. For example, in the event a hearing impaired individual or an individual with autism resides at the property. This information is attached to a case when calls are routed through the 911 center and helps officers respond appropriately. These are used in unique cases and approval is needed.

The Hoffman Estates Police Department participates in the Northern Illinois Benchmarking Consortium (NIBC) that requires officers to fill out forms for interactions where mental health may have been a factor. The HB3653 Law Enforcement Bill has requirements for tracking mental health issues that present in cases as well. The police department will need to design their own form to track these cases on a monthly basis and submit them to the state. This will help

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track cases that involve mental health issues and, hopefully, give the police important data.

The police department refers cases to the Hoffman Estates Health and Human Services Department. There are referrals for homelessness, alcohol, drugs, etc. When they are referred to HHS, case workers will reach out to the officer to discuss follow up so that there can be closure to the case.

The police department has a contract with Red Roof Inn. If there is an interaction with anyone suffering from the issues mentioned above and they would benefit from an evening in a safe place, officers have the ability to get them housing for short periods of time.

Sergeant Scott Lawrence is the Use-of-Force Trainer with the police department and coordinates all use-of-force, over the use of handcuffs, throughout the department. The Hoffman Estates Police Department has been teaching Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) training since 2012 and 90% of officers are CIT trained. Sargent Lawrence was one of the first ones to go through the 40-hour training. The CIT course is now taught at the Police Academy and the Hoffman Estates Police Department has a version they teach in their own academy.

They have an officer with sign language training and have third party resources for individuals with hearing impairments. Officers also use notepad and paper as they wait for backup.

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There has been an increase in mental health cases during the Covid pandemic.

Peer intervention is encouraged at the police department for officers to look out for one another and there is an employee assistance program. Officers can be required to go for a fit-for-duty evaluation if deemed necessary by leadership.

In general, bridging the gap between law enforcement and the community is important right now and the Committee can help with that.

Hoffman Estates is starting to look into providing social workers instead of a police response for certain cases, although this type of response might not make sense for the Hoffman Estates community since the cases are so few for a full-time social worker.

**III. Public Comments** - No public comments.

**IV. Approval of Minutes from 2/2/2021** - MaryAnn moved to approve meeting minutes and Gina seconded. Motion approved by voice vote.

**V. Announcements/Correspondence** - No Announcements

**VI. Old Business** -

A. Material Purchases - Lauren and MaryAnn worked with Katy to place orders for promotional items. They placed an order of 750 chip clips, brains and magnets and the total cost was within the budget approved. The items should arrive in April and will be stored in the clerk's office. This should fulfill the needs of the

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Committee for 3 - 4 years so that future budgets can be dedicated to programming.

- B. Community Mental Health Data - Review AMITA Report - Stephanie reviewed the mental health section of the report which is about 15-20 pages. In summary, supporting people with mental illness will require collaboration and the Committee is capable of contributing to this effort in small ways like helping to reduce the stigma individuals with mental health issues experience. Stephanie read the introduction to the mental health section of the report:

"Cook County's communities need a mental health system that aligns programs, public agencies, and funding to provide accessible, affordable, culturally competent, and trauma-informed prevention and early treatment services as well as crisis intervention through partnerships that include schools and the justice system. Building and maintaining that system will require investments in housing, workforce development, data-sharing infrastructure, payment reform, and eliminating stigma."

- C. 2021 Programming

1. February- Virtual Mental Health First Aid Training - Mental Health First Aid Training was held on February 17 and there were 7 participants in the virtual training. Stephanie participated in the mental health training and thought it was well done. She shared that it was extremely relatable since

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they use video scenarios and believes the information will be useful for her in the future.

### 2. Upcoming Livestream Sessions and Minds Matter

a) Speaker Approval - Jillian shared the list of speakers with the Committee and the suggested organization of the speaker topics which was met with a consensus. There will be a speaker every month on the third Wednesday of the month and four speakers highlighted in the month of May since it is Mental Health Awareness Month when we traditionally hold Minds Matter. The May presentations will be grouped under the heading Children and Mental Health. The presentations during the other months will go back and forth between technical and self-care topics. The topics submitted provide a diverse offering to the community.

b) Review Tasks and Assign Roles - Jillian will coordinate with Stephanie and the speakers to organize presentations and will encourage the speakers to record their presentations on Streamyard for easy uploading and sharing. Katy will help with the marketing efforts. Lauren mentioned it would be a good idea to partner with the Senior Citizen Committee to host the speaker identified for July.

### VII. New Business - No New Business

### VIII. Board and Liaison Reports and Review of Agency Bills

#### A. Board Liaison Report, Trustee Dunham

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- B. Mary Cloonan-Walsh - SHARE
  - C. Jonathan Rubin - Northwest CASA
  - D. Stephanie Bertels - Kenneth Young Center
  - E. Gina Raza - Life Span
  - F. MaryAnn Ogilvie - Villages
  - G. Jillian Bernas - Library
  - H. Lauren Saternus - Schools - Lauren thinks that the upcoming March presentation Stress and Healthy Teen Relationships is a good one to share with local schools.
- IX. Committee Member Comments** - Mary worked at Ecker Center for Behavioral Health when Karen Beyer was the Clinical Director of Health and Human Services for Hoffman Estates. Karen was instrumental in defending the privacy of police officer HIPAA information and a strong advocate for employee assistance programs.
- Stephanie recently talked to Cook County Commissioner Kevin Morrison about local mental health issues in Schaumburg. She also recommended that Committee members seek out a TED talk *I'm not sick, I don't need help* by Xavier Amador that was recommended by another participant in the Mental Health First Aid Training.
- X. Next Meeting Date** - Please note our next meeting is not the first Tuesday of the month due to the April 6 Election. The next meeting is Tuesday, April 13 at 7:00pm, Room 314/Zoom
- XI. Adjournment** - MaryAnn moved to adjourn the meeting and Stephanie seconded. Motion approved by voice vote. The meeting adjourned at 8:08 p.m.

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