

**LYONS TOWNSHIP MENTAL HEALTH COMMISSION  
REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES  
January 24, 2022**

The Regular Board Meeting was held on Monday, January 24, 2022 at the Lyons Township Community Room, 6404 Joliet Road, Countryside, Illinois, 60525. Meeting was called to order at 6:01 p.m. by Anthony Przeklasa.

President Anthony Przeklasa asked for the Roll Call.

Commissioner(s) Present: Anthony Przeklasa, Rev. Jeffrey Clemons, Sophia Mallis, Hon. Russ Hartigan, Steve Palmer, and Nicholas Kantas.

Commissioner(s) on Zoom: Bill Seith, Al Dorbiala, and Mike Porfirio.

Staff Present: Ron Melka, Executive Director; and Jazmin Lopez, Administrative Assistant.

Agency Director(s) Present: Alan Morales, The LeaderShop.

Agency Director(s) on Zoom: Bill Dwyer, Helping Hand; Diane Farina White, Community Support Services; Angela Curran, Pillars Community Health; Desiree Scully, Aging Care Connections.

Guest(s) Present: Shelly Lustrup, NAMI's Director of Recovery Support; Erin Hall, Principal, and Charlotte Arcus, Social Worker, Seventh Avenue Elementary School; Michelle Halm, Director of Buddy's Place, Pillars Community Health; Erin K. Kiernat, Del Galdo Law Group, LLC.

**AMENDMENTS/APPROVAL OF AMENDED AGENDA:**

A **MOTION** was made by Palmer and seconded by Hartigan to approve the Amended Agenda. Ayes: Unanimous. Nays: None. Hearing no Nays, the Agenda is approved.

**REVIEW/APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

The Minutes of the Board Meeting held on November 15, 2021 were reviewed.

A **MOTION** was made by Mallis and seconded by Kantas to approve the Minutes of November 15, 2021 as presented. Ayes: Unanimous. Nays: None. Hearing no Nays, the Minutes were approved.

**PILLARS COMMUNITY HEALTH PRESENTATION:**

Angela Curran, President and Chief Executive Officer and Michelle Halm, Director of Buddy's Place gave a wonderful presentation on their Buddy's Place program. Principal Hall and Social Worker Arcus gave a moving testimony on the impact Buddy's Place has had on the student body at Seventh Avenue Elementary School. As always, the Commissioners are thankful for Pillars Community Health's presentation and impact on our community.

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT:**

Ron referred to his written report found in the meeting packet. Ron gave a summary of HB 2448 – Mental Health Authorities Validation, which corrects inconsistencies between the Community Mental Health Authority Act and the PTELL Act. The agency liaisons have received their respective agency quarterly report. Ron reported that he facilitated a Mental Health First Aid training on December 14 for Fire/EMS officers at the Proviso Township office and received positive evaluations. He will facilitate another training for Public Safety and police officers on February 10. On January 20, President Przeklasa, Rev. Clemons, Sophia Mallis, Jazmin and Ron met with Superintendent Dr. Touilis and Principal Cotter of Argo Community High School to discuss behavioral needs of the students. Ron will reach out to some of our agencies and see how we can provide assistance.

### **AGENCY REPORTS:**

**Angela Curran, President/CEO of Pillars Community Health** reported that she just received the CARF Report today and will forward to the Commission soon.

**Bill Dwyer, President/CEO of Helping Hand** reported that they had a busy November and December. Helping Hand hired their first licensed social worker, who will do marriage and couples counseling for people with disabilities. They have their Gallery Night event on February 2. Bill reported that their hiring has improved due to paying more – past what they are getting reimbursed by the state. One of their long-term resident Robert, passed away and a staff member did too. Robert had dementia and was in his 80s. He was hospitalized and staff was with him at all times and feeding him, and singing songs.

**Diane Farina White, President and CEO of Community Support Services** reported that staffing crisis continues. December thru the second week of January, COVID hit them hard with staff and clients testing positive; about 20% of staff tested positive. One staff member had been severely ill for the last three weeks. They continued with their group respite program. They had staff cover all of the houses and paid out big COVID bonuses to keep staff happy. They are planning in-person events in April.

**Alan Morales, Executive Director of The LeaderShop** reported that they have been 100% fully staffed since October. They have five after-school programs now, one is taking place via ZOOM. They are having their Annual Party for Youth event in late April and will be in person at The Stadium Club in McCook.

### **OLD BUSINESS:**

NONE.

### **NEW BUSINESS:**

#### **Change in Banking Signatories**

Ron gave an update on the change in banking signatories. All signatures have been received and forwarded with the corresponding documents to First Midwest Bank. We are still waiting for information from U.S. Bank regarding changing signatories as they are requesting for proof of government entity. Ron advised that it may be easier to change banks altogether.

#### **First Midwest Bank CD**

Ron checked with all banks and interest rates are floating between 0.05% to 0.1%. First Midwest will give 0.2% on the CD that is renewing and does not see a reason to change. Ron suggested banks are not changed until interest rates increase.

A **MOTION** was made by Mallis and seconded by Seith that the First Midwest Bank Certificate of Deposit is rolled over on February 24, 2021 in the amount of \$140,260.80. Roll Call: Sophia Mallis, Bill Seith, Al Dorobiala, Nick Kantas, Steve Palmer, Mike Porfirio, and Tony Przeklasa. Ayes: Unanimous. Nays: None. Motion Carried.

**TREASURER’S REPORTS:**

Treasurer Sophia Mallis presented the Treasurer Report for December 20, 2021 as follows:

Beginning Balance as of October 31, 2021:	\$2,481,155.26
Receipts during November 2021:	\$ 48,577.43
Disbursements during November 2021:	\$ 327,399.19
Ending Balance as of November 30, 2021:	\$2,202,333.50

Treasurer Sophia Mallis presented the Treasurer Report for January 24, 2021 as follows:

Beginning Balance as of November 30, 2021:	\$2,202,333.50
Receipts during December 2021:	\$ 23,008.20
Disbursements during December 2021:	\$ 320,996.25
Ending Balance as of December 31, 2021:	\$1,904,345.45

A **MOTION** was made by Palmer, seconded by Clemons to approve the Treasurer’s Reports dated December 20, 2021 and January 24, 2021, as presented. Roll Call: Steve Palmer, Jeffrey Clemons, Anthony Przeklasa, Sophia Mallis, Russell Hartigan, Mike Porfirio, Nicholas Kantas, Al Dorobiala, and Bill Seith. Ayes: Unanimous. Nays: None. Motion Carried.

**REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MONTHLY PAYABLES:**

**REVISED DECEMBER 13, 2021**

Sophia Mallis presented the revised list of Twenty-Four (24) Payables totaling \$322,308.44 dated December 13, 2021.

**JANUARY 24, 2022**

Sophia Mallis presented the list of Thirty-Five (35) Payables totaling \$331,627.10 dated January 24, 2022.

A **MOTION** was made by Mallis and seconded by Clemons to approve the Monthly Payable dated December 13, 2021 and January 24, 2022 as presented. Roll Call: Sophia Mallis, Jeffrey Clemons, Anthony Przeklasa, Russell Hartigan, Steve Palmer, Mike Porfirio, Nicholas Kantas, Al Dorobiala, and William Seith. Ayes: Unanimous. Nays: None. Motion carried.

**COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC: NONE**

**ADJOURNMENT:**

A **MOTION** to adjourn the meeting was made by Palmer and seconded by Seith at 7:15 p.m. All in favor. Ayes: Unanimous. Nays: None. Meeting was adjourned.

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Anthony Przeklasa, PhD  
Commission President

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Russell W. Hartigan  
Secretary