

**LYONS TOWNSHIP MENTAL HEALTH COMMISSION
REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES
September 20, 2021**

The Regular Board Meeting (**ZOOM VIDEO/TELECONFERENCE MEETING**) was held on Monday, September 20, 2021 at the Lyons Township Mental Health Commissions' Boardroom, 6404 Joliet Road, Suite 204, Countryside, Illinois, 60525. Meeting was called to order at 7:01 p.m.

President Alan Dorobiala asked for the Roll Call.

Commissioners Present: Al Dorobiala, Tony Przeklasa, Steve Palmer, Mike Porfirio and Russ Hartigan.

Commissioners on Zoom: Bill Seith, Sophia Mallis, and Nick Kantas.

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

Agency Directors on Zoom: Bill Dwyer, Helping Hand Center; Diane Farina White, Community Support Services; Angela Curran, Pillars Community Health; Alan Morales, The LeaderShop; Debra Vershelde and Desiree Scully, Aging Care Connections.

Guest(s) Present: Terrence Casey, Del Galdo Law Group, LLC.

AMENDMENTS/APPROVAL OF REVISED AGENDA:

A **MOTION** was made by Palmer and seconded by Przeklasa to approve the Revised Agenda. Roll Call: Steve Palmer, Tony Przeklasa, Al Dorobiala, Sophia Mallis, Nick Kantas, Mike Porfirio, and Russ Hartigan. Ayes: Unanimous. Nays: None. Hearing no Nays, the Revised Agenda was approved.

REVIEW/APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

The Minutes of the Board Meeting held on June 21, 2021 were reviewed.

A **MOTION** was made by Palmer and seconded by Mallis to approve the Minutes of June 21, 2021 as presented. Roll Call: Steve Palmer, Sophia Mallis, Al Dorobiala, Nick Kantas, Mike Porfirio, Tony Przeklasa, and Russ Hartigan. Ayes: Unanimous. Nays: None. Hearing no Nays, the Minutes were approved.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

Ron referred to his written report found in the meeting packet. He reported that there were 45,059 units of service provided to 2,555 Lyons Township residents, which is a 53% increase in units of service and 61% increase in residents served from the same quarter a year ago at the heart of the lockdown. Pillars Community Health has interviewed for the Community Education Coordinator position under the Drug Free Coalition grant from the federal government. A candidate has been selected, but the executive committee needs to approve the hiring.

SPECIAL PRESENTATION:

Debra Verschelde, Executive Director of Aging Care Connections gave a special presentation announcing her retirement from Aging Care Connections after forty-four years and introduced Desiree Scully who will succeed her starting October 1, 2021. Debra thanked the Commissioners for their support and we all wish her the best of luck and thank her for contributions to the community and residents of Lyons Township.

Bill Seith joined meeting via Zoom at 7:10 p.m.

AGENCY REPORTS:

Bill Dwyer, Chief Executive Officer of Helping Hand Center reported their numbers are increasing – people are coming back to receive services. They participated in the LaGrange Pet Parade and had a great time. The state director came out to the agency to thank their DSP and gave gifts to staff and met their clients. Their school is 100% vaccinated, their clinic is 100% vaccinated and their agency is at 80%.

Angela Curran, President/CEO of Pillars Community Health reported that their permission to operate their COVID vaccine clinic on Calendar Avenue site has been extended by the Village of LaGrange to the end of the year. They are offering gift card incentives for people to get their vaccinations. She reported that the state put out a request for qualifications for care coordination and support organizations under a Medicaid Waiver called Pathways to Success, a program that is designed to provide more care coordination and intensive wrap around care coordination services, and some new alternative treatment for children with complex behavioral health needs. HFS divided the state into 32 different regions and staff crisis. The CSA that encompasses Lyons Township is CSA 24. The program begins next May and will provide all mobile crisis services for that CSA. There are a lot of questions and concerns about this, and they are focused on that at this time. She also reported that they are at an all-time level for position vacancies. The staffing to client ratios are very low 1 to 10, 1 to 25. They have decided to postpone their October 1st 100-year celebration to April because of COVID. They also participated in the LaGrange Pet Parade.

Alan Morales, Executive Director of The LeaderShop reported that their service hours numbers dropped because of COVID. There was a loss in participation, therefore the program managers focused on reengaging past participants rather than recruit new ones and it seems to be working. The 5K Run/Walk event has been postponed because of the pandemic. They are still at 100% vaccination at the staff level. They plan on having their annual fundraiser in April. They are making an offer next week for their Development Manager position.

Diane Farina White, President and CEO of Community Support Services reported that they are also having staffing issues in all areas within the organization. They are very short staffed. 79% of their staff is vaccinated and 100% of their residents and independent living clients are vaccinated. The academy program has been slow in opening because the Clinical Director is on maternity leave. April 9 is their event, depending on COVID. She also reported that they have three new board members. Fundraising for residential homes has been great and they have been able to upgrade the homes.

OLD BUSINESS:

None.

NEW BUSINESS:

None.

TREASURER’S REPORTS:

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

Beginning Balance as of July 31, 2021:	\$1,727,291.26
Receipts during August 2021:	\$ 6,850.54
Disbursements during August 2021:	\$ 325,696.66
Ending Balance as of August 31, 2021:	\$1,408,445.14

A **MOTION** was made by Palmer, seconded by Hartigan to approve the Treasurer Report dated September 20, 2021 as presented. Roll Call: Steve Palmer, Russ Hartigan, Al Dorobiala, Bill Seith, Sophia Mallis, Nick Kantas, Mike Porfirio, and Tony Przeklasa. Ayes: Unanimous. Nays: None. Motion Carried.

A **MOTION** was made by Parlmer, seconded by Przeklasa, to renew the First Midwest Bank CD in the amount of \$140,360.53 at First Midwest Bank. Roll Call: Steve Palmer, Tony Przeklasa, Al Dorobiala, Bill Seith, Sophia Mallis, Nick Kantas, Mike Porfirio, and Rus Hartigan. Ayes: Unanimous. Nays: None. Motion Carried.

REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MONTHLY PAYABLES:

Sophia Mallis presented the list of Twenty-Five (29) Payables totaling \$334,255.63 dated September 20, 2021.

A **MOTION** was made by Mallis and seconded by Seith to approve the Monthly Payable dated September 20, 2021 as presented. Roll Call: Sophia Mallis, Bill Seith, Al Dorobiala, Nick Kantas, Steve Palmer, Mike Porfirio, Tony Przeklasa, and Russ Hartigan. Ayes: Unanimous. Nays: None. Motion carried.

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC: NONE

ADJOURNMENT:

A **MOTION** to adjourn the meeting was made by Porfirio and seconded by Hartigan at 7:54 p.m. All in favor. Roll Call: Mike Porfirio, Russ Hartigan, Al Dorobiala, Bill Seith, Sophia Mallis, Nick Kantas, Steve Palmer, and Tony Przeklasa. Ayes: Unanimous. Nays: None. Meeting was adjourned.

Al Dorobiala, President

Sophia G. Mallis, Secretary/Treasurer