

**LYONS TOWNSHIP MENTAL HEALTH COMMISSION
REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES
April 17, 2023**

The Regular Board Meeting was held on Monday, April 17, 2023 at BEDS Plus Care, Inc., Summit Service Center, 7666 W. 63rd St, Summit, IL 60501. Meeting was called to order at 6:04 p.m. by Anthony Przeklasa.

President Anthony Przeklasa asked for the Roll Call.

Commissioner(s) Present: Anthony Przeklasa, Rev. Jeffrey Clemons, Sophia Mallis, Hon. Russell Hartigan, William Seith, Elyse Hoffenberg, and Lou Gale.

Commissioner(s) on Phone: None.

Commissioner(s) Absent: Al Dorobiala.

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

Agency Director(s) Present: Alan Morales, The LeaderShop; Angela Curran, Pillars Community Health; Tina Rounds, BEDS Plus Care, Inc.; Desiree Scully, Aging Care Connections; and Bill Dwyer, Helping Hand.

Guest(s) Present: Brian Miller, Attorney, Del Galdo Law Group, LLC.

Guest(s) on Phone: Diane Farina White, Community Support Services.

AMENDMENTS/APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

A **MOTION** was made by Mallis and seconded by Seith to approve the Agenda. Ayes: Unanimous. Nays: None. Hearing no Nays, the Agenda was approved.

REVIEW/APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

The Minutes of the Board Meeting held on March 20, 2023 were reviewed.

A **MOTION** was made by Seith and seconded by Hoffenberg to approve the Minutes of March 20, 2023. Roll Call: William Seith, Elyse Hoffenberg, Anthony Przeklasa, Jeffrey Clemons, Sophia Mallis, Russell Hartigan, and Lou Gale. Ayes: Unanimous. Nays: None. Hearing no Nays, the Minutes were approved.

[Steve Palmer joined the meeting at 6:18 p.m.]

PRESENTATION BY BEDS PLUS CARE, INC.

Tina Rounds, Executive Director, gave a wonderful presentation on their programs and services offered. As always, the Commissioners are thankful for BEDS Plus Care, Inc.'s presentation and impact on our community.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

Ron reported that he started site visits. Some of the Commissioners have and will accompany him. The Special Meeting of the Whole will take place on May 15, 2023 at 5:30 p.m. and the

Regular Board Meeting will be on May 22, 2023 at 5:30 p.m. Ron visited and toured Pillars' new administrative office. The Loft at Eight Corners officially opened on March 13.

On April 28, Aging Care Connections is kicking off Aging Well Month in May with a GEM (Gong the Extra Miles) award celebration. Rev. Jeffrey Clemons and Kiwanis Club's Deb Strus were nominated. April 22 is National Drug Take Back Day and the Coalition will be at the LaGrange Police Department from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. They are also presenting a *Hidden in Place Sight: Secret Life of a Teen* at West Region 40.

Ron was in Springfield with the state association. The first day was on property tax and P-Tell training. HB0475 which was amended by Representative Didech's revisions. He presented it as adding statements of Open Meetings Act and FOIA. He had also put a clause at the end that will allow community mental health boards the authority to set their own levy, without it set by the local government. ACMHAI is working with Didech to clear the language. At this point they do not support it as it is. He and Commissioners Przeklasa and Hon. Hartigan attended Community Support Services' gala and it was a successful event.

AGENCY REPORTS:

Alan Morales, The LeaderShop reported that their biggest fundraiser of the year, Party 4 Youth event is Thursday, April 27.

Bill Dwyer, Helping Hand reported that Autism Awareness was April 2. They had about 20-30 families show up and learn about autism, and what it feels like having autism. They hired a family therapist for their outpatient clinic. It is not for the people with disabilities, it is for the families because divorce is high, and siblings are resentful when there is a person with a disability in their family. Their gala is on April 28.

They are almost done with the strategic plan. Their number one pillar is Protect and Grow. They want to grow the organization while protecting what they currently have. Community outreach is important and has grown it to 65 they have done this year. Their marquee quality - they have a self-reliance program where they teach the young adults how to be alone for an hour or weekend. They won the Best Place to Work and Volunteer in the Chicagoland area due to environment, pay, training, and best place to volunteer, including for boards. They teach Board members how to be a board member.

Desiree Scully, Aging Care Connections reported that they are gearing up for their caregiver class. They are excited to kick off Aging Well Month with their GEM awards, recognizing older adults who volunteer in the community. May is Aging Well Month, their annual celebration of older adults in our community. Community partners are collaborating to offer engaging, educational, entertaining, fun, and free programs throughout the month of May. Desiree also reported that the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency, which provided flexibilities that impacted IL Medicaid operations under the "Continuous Coverage or Continues Enrollment" as part of the "Maintenance Effort" is ending and it won't only affect older adults, but it will affect other recipients as well.

Angela Curran, Pillars Community Health reported that her staff have attended a lot of Medicaid Redetermination training. They applied for money from multiple sources from Senator Durbin, Senator Duckworth, Rep. Chuy Garcia's office for the renovations at Constance Morris House. The price of construction dramatically increased, and they also asked for funding to

expand their warehouse in Countryside. They had 29 teens register for services at The Loft at Eight Corners so far, and 20 have received services. It is a good start and will continue to grow. They are working on starting a program in late May for eighth graders as they transition into high school.

Diane Farina, White Community Support Services thanked the Commissioners who attended their annual fundraiser and reported that it was a successful event. Their staffing has improved because they were paying a nurse from Arkansas to come in for the past 6 months and how they hired a nurse and a medical facilitator.

OLD BUSINESS:

Reviewing Online Grant Applications

Commissioners were once again given a step-by-step handout walking them through the review process. Board Commissioners were also given their login ID and password to the online application.

Statement of Economic Interest Deadline is May 1, 2023

Commissioners were reminded to file their Ethics Statement by May 1, 2023. All information has been forwarded to the Commissioners via email.

NEW BUSINESS:

Ticket Purchase to The LeaderShop's Party 4 Youth Event

A **MOTION** was made by Seith and seconded by Gale for the Commission to purchase two (2) tickets to The LeaderShop's Party 4 Youth event. Roll Call: Ayes: William Seith, Lou Gale, Anthony Przeklasa, Jeffrey Clemons, Sophia Mallis, Russell Hartigan, Steve Palmer, and Elyse Hoffenberg. Nays: None. Motion Carried.

Ticket Purchase to NAMI Metro Suburban's Celebration of Hope Gala

A **MOTION** was made by Hartigan and seconded by Mallis for the Commission to purchase three (3) tickets to NAMI Metro Suburban's Celebration of Hope Gale. Roll Call: Ayes: Russell Hartigan, Sophia Mallis, Anthony Przeklasa, Jeffrey Clemons, William Seith, Steve Palmer, Elyse Hoffenberg, and Lou Gale. Nays: None. Motion Carried.

TREASURER'S REPORTS:

Treasurer Sophia Mallis presented the Treasurer Report dated April 17, 2023 as follows:

Beginning Balance as of February 28, 2023:	\$1,779,595.19
Receipts during March 2023:	\$1,067,112.54
Disbursements during March 2023:	\$ 344,983.32
Ending Balance as of March 31, 2023:	\$2,501,724.41

A **MOTION** was made by Seith, seconded by Clemons to approve the Treasurer's Reports dated April 17, 2023, as presented. Roll Call: William Seith, Jeffrey Clemons, Anthony Przeklasa, Sophia Mallis, Russell Hartigan, Steve Palmer, Elyse Hoffenberg, and Lou Gale. Ayes: Unanimous. Nays: None. Hearing no Nays, Motion Carried.

REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MONTHLY PAYABLES:

Sophia Mallis presented a list of Twenty-Four (24) Payables totaling \$336,723.26 dated April 17, 2023.

A **MOTION** was made by Hartigan and seconded by Mallis to approve the Monthly Payables dated April 17, 2023, as presented. Roll Call: Ayes: Russell Hartigan, Sophia Mallis, Anthony Przeklasa, Jeffrey Clemons, William Seith, Steve Palmer, Elyse Hoffenberg, and Lou Gale. Nays: None. Motion carried.

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC:

NONE

ADJOURNMENT:

A **MOTION** to adjourn the meeting was made at 7:09 p.m. All in favor. Ayes: Unanimous. Nays: None. Meeting was adjourned.

Anthony Przeklasa, PhD
Commission President

Hon. Russell W. Hartigan
Secretary