

**LYONS TOWNSHIP MENTAL HEALTH COMMISSION  
REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES  
March 20, 2023**

The Regular Board Meeting was held on Monday, March 20, 2023 at Township of Lyons, Community Room, 6404 Joliet Road, Countryside, Illinois, 60525. Meeting was called to order at 6:00 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, Al Dorobiala, and Steve Palmer, Elyse Hoffenberg, and Lou Gale.

Commissioner(s) on Phone: None.

Commissioner(s) Absent: None.

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

Agency Director(s) Present: Alan Morales, The LeaderShop; Diane Farina White, Community Support Services; and Bill Dwyer, Helping Hand.

Guest(s) Present: Shelly Lustrup, Associate Executive Director, NAMI Metro Suburban; Caitlyn Joycesmith, Director of Advancement, NAMI Metro Suburban; Cathy Pierson, Director of Operations, The LeaderShop.

Guest(s) on Phone: Brian Miller, Del Galdo Law Group; Angela Curran, President and CEO, Pillars Community Health; Desiree Scully, Executive Director, Aging Care Connections.

Przeklasa welcomed the new Commissioners Elyse Hoffenberg and Lou Gale and they introduced themselves.

**AMENDMENTS/APPROVAL OF AMENDED AGENDA:**

A **MOTION** was made by Palmer and seconded by Clemons to approve the Amended Agenda to include the scheduling of the May Special Meeting of the Whole under New Business. Roll Call: Steve Palmer, Jeffrey Clemons, Anthony Przeklasa, Sophia Mallis, Russell Hartigan, Al Dorobiala, Elyse Hoffenberg, and Lou Gale. Ayes: Unanimous. Nays: None. Hearing no Nays, the Amended Agenda was approved.

**REVIEW/APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

The Minutes of the Board Meeting held on February 27, 2023 were reviewed.

A **MOTION** was made by Hartigan and seconded by Palmer to approve the Minutes of February 27, 2023. Roll Call: Russell Hartigan, Steve Palmer, Anthony Przeklasa, Jeffrey Clemons, Sophia Mallis, Al Dorobiala, Elyse Hoffenberg, and Lou Gale. Ayes: Unanimous. Nays: None. Hearing no Nays, the Minutes were approved.

[William Seith joined the meeting at 6:07 p.m.]

**PRESENTATION BY THE LEADERSHIP:**

Alan Morales, Executive Director and Cathy Pierson, Director of Operations gave a wonderful presentation on their programs and services offered. As always, the Commissioners are thankful for The LeaderShop's presentation and impact on our community.

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT:**

Ron reported that Pillars Community Health's Buddy Place and the Coalition for a Drug-Free Lyons Township will host a viewing of a webinar on Supporting Children and Families Following an Overdose Death on March 21, 2023 at the Township of Lyons' Community Room at 11:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Pillars Community Health's Greg Lee and Sydney Toliver presented their mobile crisis response team program to several mental health associations across the state. On March 21, 2023, he will attend a legislative committee meeting where they are tracking over 80 bills that affect mental health and community mental health boards across the state. HB3350 is particularly concerning as Rep. Diedrich wants to add domestic violence to our three priorities. Ron is presenting on Friday as part of a state-wide panel to newly-formed mental health boards.

**AGENCY REPORTS:**

**Angela Curran, Pillars Community Health** reported that the grand opening of The Loft at 8 Corners was on March 8. The Loft is a teen mental wellness collaboration between Pillars Community Health and NAMI Metro Suburban. It was designed by teens' input, and it opened to the public on March 13.

**Desiree Scully, Aging Care Connections** reported that HB2551 to fund the Illinois Family Caregiver Act in the amount of \$6 million which would be an investment in our family caregiver program to keep older adults out of nursing homes as much as possible, and to support the caregivers who are taking care of them.

**Diane Farina, White Community Support Services** reported that they are working on expanding their partnership with Rush Nursing School to provide psychiatric assessment, in addition to the medical and residential assessments that they already provide. The VP of Programs position was filled. Their Academy has been open for 10 years this month and they will have an open house for funders.

**Bill Dwyer, Helping Hand** reported that their Outreach and Clinic program has remained open despite other organizations closing theirs. They are having a former client of theirs share her story as a past client to now a Special Education Teacher at their school and share how the program has helped her. They are half-way done with their Strategic Plan.

**Caitlin Joycesmith, NAMI Metro Suburban** reported that they had the grand opening of The Loft at 8 Corners on March 8. The Loft is a teen mental wellness collaboration between Pillars Community Health and NAMI Metro Suburban. She added that they will meet their projected outcomes and stretch goal of 10,000 students in their Education Program by the end of the week.

**Shelly Lustrup, NAMI Metro Suburban** added that some changes will occur with The Living Room Program. The state of Illinois is changing their requirements and is requiring that living

rooms be open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year. They are in the process of working through all of what that means. They are excited to take on the new challenge.

### **OLD BUSINESS:**

#### **Agency Grant Applications**

Agency Grant Applications are due on March 31, 2023.

#### **Foundant Demonstration: Reviewing Online Applications**

Commissioners were given a step-by-step handout and a PowerPoint presentation by Jazmin Lopez, walking them through the review process. Board Commissioners were also given their log in ID and password to the online application. This was the first year of online applications. Ron thanked Jazmin for leading this effort.

Commission President Anthony Przeklasa assigned Lou Gale as liaison to Aging Care Connections and Elyse Hoffenberg as liaison to The LeaderShop.

### **NEW BUSINESS:**

#### **Old National Bank Certificate of Deposit**

A **MOTION** was made by Palmer and seconded by Hartigan to the renewal of Old National Bank's Certificate of Deposit at the rate of 4.4% for 6 months. Roll Call: Steve Palmer, Russell Hartigan, Anthony Przeklasa, Jeffrey Clemons, Sophia Mallis, William Seith, Alan Dorobiala, Elyse Hoffenberg, and Lou Gale. Ayes: Unanimous. Nays: None. Motion Carried.

#### **May Special Meeting of the Whole**

A **MOTION** was made by Mallis and seconded by Palmer to schedule the Special Meeting of the Whole to May 15, 2023 at 5:30 p.m. Roll Call: Sophia Mallis, Steve Palmer, Anthony Przeklasa, Jeffrey Clemons, Russell Hartigan, William Seith, Al Dorobiala, Elyse Hoffenberg, and Lou Gale. Ayes: Unanimous. Nays: None. Motion Carried.

#### **May Regular Board Meeting**

A **MOTION** was made by Seith and seconded by Palmer to reschedule the Regular Board Meeting of May 15, 2023 to May 22, 2023 at 5:30 p.m. Roll Call: William Seith, Steve Palmer, Anthony Przeklasa, Jeffrey Clemons, Russell Hartigan, Sophia Mallis, Al Dorobiala, Elyse Hoffenberg, and Lou Gale. Ayes: Unanimous. Nays: None. Motion Carried.

#### **Ticket Purchase to Helping Hand's 24<sup>th</sup> Annual Gala**

A **MOTION** was made by Seith and seconded by Przeklasa for the Commission to purchase no more than two (2) tickets to Helping Hand's 24<sup>th</sup> Annual Gala. Roll Call: Ayes: William Seith, Anthony Przeklasa, Jeffrey Clemons, Sophia Mallis, Russell Hartigan, Al Dorobiala, Elyse Hoffenberg, and Lou Gale. Nays: Steve Palmer. Motion Carried.

### **TREASURER'S REPORTS:**

Treasurer Sophia Mallis presented the Treasurer Report dated March 20, 2023 as follows:

Beginning Balance as of January 31, 2023:	\$2,079,524.26
Receipts during February 2023:	\$ 30,526.28
Disbursements during February 2023:	\$ 330,455.35
Ending Balance as of February 28, 2023:	\$1,779,595.19

A **MOTION** was made by Seith, seconded by Clemons to approve the Treasurer's Reports dated March 20, 2023, as presented. Roll Call: William Seith, Jeffrey Clemons, Anthony Przeklasa, Sophia Mallis, Russell Hartigan, Al Dorobiala, 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-Three (23) Payables totaling \$344,960.37 dated March 20, 2023.

A **MOTION** was made by Hartigan and seconded by Seith to approve the Monthly Payables dated March 20, 2023, as presented. Roll Call: Ayes: Russell Hartigan, William Seith, Anthony Przeklasa, Jeffrey Clemons, Sophia Mallis, Al Dorobiala, 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 7:32 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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Hon. Russell W. Hartigan  
Secretary