**LYONS TOWNSHIP MENTAL HEALTH COMMISSION**

**REGULAR BOARD MEETING MINUTES**

**March 15, 2021**

The Regular Board Meeting (**ZOOM VIDEO/TELECONFERENCE MEETING)** was held on Monday, March 15, 2021 from the Lyons Township Mental Health Commissions’ Boardroom, 6404 Joliet Road, Suite 204, Countryside, Illinois, 60525. Meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m.

President Alan Dorobiala asked for the Roll Call.

Commissioners Present: Al Dorobiala, Sophia Mallis, Tony Przeklasa, and Mike Porfirio

Commissioners on Zoom: Bill Seith, Nick Kantas, and Steve Palmer

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; and Alan Morales and Cathy Pierson, The LeaderShop.

Guest(s) Present: Tiffany Nelson-Jaworski, Del Galdo Law Group, LLC.

**AMENDMENTS/APPROVAL OF AGENDA:**

**A MOTION** was made by Mallis and seconded by Przeklasa 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 February 22, 2021 were reviewed.

**A MOTION** was made by Seith and seconded by Mallis to approve the Minutes of February 22, 2021 as presented. Ayes: Bill Seith, Al Dorobiala, Sophia Mallis, Nick Kantas, Mike Porfirio, and Tony Przeklasa. Abstain: Palmer. Nays: None. Hearing no Nays. The Minutes were approved.

**THE LEADERSHOP PRESENTATION:**

Cathy Pierson, Director of Operations of The LeaderShop presented on the organization’s accommodations made to programming because of the COVID-19 pandemic. She followed her presentation with a video, but due to technical difficulties, she will email a link to the video after the meeting. As always, the Commissioners are thankful for The LeaderShop’s presentation and look forward to watching their video.

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S REPORT:**

Ron referred to his written report found in the meeting packet. Ron reported that the Agency Quarterly Reports show that 2,127 Lyons Township residents received 19,331 units of services. This is a 15% increase over the first quarter. There was a meeting of the Agency Advisory Council and a number of things were discussed. Some of the agencies have been helping one another, including Bill Dwyer with Helping Hand Center who has been working with Osco to have their staff and clients get vaccinated. He offered to assist Aging Care Connections and The LeaderShop to have their staff and clients vaccinated through Helping Hand’s partnership with Jewel-Osco. Ron reported that there are no major changes with the grant application process or forms; however, with all of the changes in program, there may be changes in program designs, levels or numbers. The next meeting of the Agency Advisory Council will be in June.

The Coalition for a Drug Free Lyons Township is putting its bylaws in order to form a 501c(3) to be more of a stable organization.

Governor Pritzker’s budget proposal for the next fiscal year includes some increases for both rates and in some cases 2% COLA increases for grants because of the minimum wage impact. 7,000 bills were introduced at the General Assembly; we are monitoring about 70. The main issue right now are two identical bills filed by Senator Stewart to remove 20% of all 708 Board levies and transfer them to their County Sheriffs for incarceration services.

[Mike Porfirio joined the meeting at 7:35 p.m.]

**AGENCY REPORTS:**

**Alan Morales, Executive Director of The LeaderShop** reported that they are working on filling the Program Director position and interviewing candidates. They are in the process of submitting grants and completed a two-year strategic plan. They are moving forward with planning next year’s operating budget.

**Bill Dwyer, Chief Executive Officer of Helping Hand Center** reported that their day program has been the slowest in terms of getting people back into the program. A couple of police departments reach out to them for training on how to better respond to calls when people with autism are involved due to recent incidences that included people with autism getting tased and pepper sprayed. Bill and Ron Melka will touch base in coordinating a Mental Health First Aid training with an autism component.

The art gallery went very well. The biggest sale they had was one of their clients doing an art-teaching class with dinner, which went for a couple thousand dollars. The gala will take place sometime in June and will be virtual. They are close to hiring a VP of HR – which has been a seven-month process – and they do have a candidate they are happy with and are in the negotiation process. Bill also clarified the numbers of clients on their waitlist are not the same clients waiting. As spots open up, people on the waitlist fill the spots and people get on the waitlist.

He had a great meeting with Memorial Foundation today in an effort to gain their support for their clinic. Their clinic will offer physical, occupational, and other therapies to clients regardless of insurance. They are seeking donors to support their clinic.

**Angela Curran, President and CEO of Pillars Community Health** reportedthat they are continuing their 100th anniversary celebration. They had their virtual kickoff event in January and yielded about $55,000. They completed and published a 35-page history of the organization that is now Pillars Community Health. About 85% of their current mental health services are telehealth. Their school-based partnerships where they have clinicians going into the schools have been successful. They are waiting to hear on the grant to be the local partner for the National Suicide Help Line. They are working with the Drug Free Coalition to see how they should structure the program and moving forward with some of the grant requirements. On the non-behavioral health side, they were one of the 700 additional national community health centers that will be participating in the Federally Qualified Healthcare Centers (FQHC) vaccine program.

**Diane Farina White, President and CEO of Community Support Services** reported that about 65% of their staff is vaccinated. They went through the CQL accreditation process last week and now have a 3-year accreditation. She provided a description of the process and comparison to the CARF accreditation process. Their virtual event will be April 9 and are finalizing the videos for it and will forward a link to the event.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

The Agency Grant Applications are due March 31, 2021.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

Ron reported that a CD is coming due and he recommends that it rolls over.

**TREASURER’S REPORTS:**

Ron noted that the Treasurer’s Report has a typographical error that reads “1.50%” interest rate on the First Midwest Bank CD with a balance of $110,722.05. The interest rate is and should read “0.15%”.

Treasurer Sophia Mallis presented the Treasurer Report for March 16, 2021 as follows:

Beginning Balance as of January 31, 2021 $1,489,257.44

Receipts during February 2021: $ 416,144.84

Disbursements during February 2021: $ 337,663.06

Ending Balance as of February 28, 2021 $1,567,739.22

**A MOTION** was made by Mallis, seconded by Przeklasa to approve the Treasurer Report dated March 15, 2021 as presented. Roll Call: Sophia Mallis, Tony Przeklasa, Al Dorobiala, Bill Seith, Nick Kantas, Steve Palmer, and Mike Porfirio. Ayes: Unanimous. Nays: None. Motion Carried.

**REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MONTHLY PAYABLES:**

Treasurer Sophia Mallis presented the list of Twenty-Four (24) Payables totaling $329,723.99 dated March 15, 2021.

**A MOTION** was made by Seith and seconded by Palmer to approve the Monthly Payable dated March 15, 2021 as presented. Roll Call: Bill Seith, Steve Palmer, Al Dorobiala, Sophia Mallis, Nick Kantas, Mike Porfirio, and Tony Przeklasa. Ayes: Unanimous. Nays: None. Motion to accept the March 15, 2021 Monthly Payable as presented.

**COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC: NONE**

**ADJOURNMENT:**

**A MOTION** to adjourn the meeting was made by Mallis and seconded by Przeklasa at 8:01 p.m. All in favor. Ayes: Unanimous. Nays: None. Meeting was adjourned.

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Al Dorobiala, President Sophia G. Mallis, Secretary/Treasurer