

# DEKALB COUNTY COMMUNITY MENTAL HEALTH BOARD

## MINUTES OF MEETING

April 18, 2011

Approved

Board Members Present: Cynthia Luxton, Ken Ritchie, Donna Schoenfeld, Jeff Whelan,  
Gary Lothson, Eileen Dubin, Jane Dargatz, Dr. Kirts

Board Members -Excused Absence: John Rogalin

Board Members - Absent:

Other Persons Present: Bill Braksick

Office Staff Present: Kathy Ostdick

### 1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by the President, Cynthia Luxton, at 6:32 p.m.

### 2. AGENDA

*Mr. Whelan moved to approve the amended agenda; seconded by Dr. Kirts. The motion passed unanimously on a voice vote.*

### 3. INTRODUCTIONS

Introductions were made between the board members and the guests.

### 4. MINUTES

*Mr. Lothson moved to approve the amended minutes of the March 2011 Board meeting; seconded by Ms. Dubin. The motion passed unanimously on a voice vote.*

### 5. COMMUNITY INPUT

The Sheriff's Department presentation was made by Lt. Klein. Notes are attached.

### 6. CORRESPONDENCE AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Included in the binder was an FYI from the Ben Gordon Center on WRAP sessions. Ms. Ostdick shared a letter from the county congratulating her on 10 years of service with the county. Several county recycling opportunities were shared along with pictures from the DCYSB Children's Ball.

### 7. FINANCE REPORTS

*Rev. Ritchie moved to approve the April 2011 agency claims in the amount of \$144,927.76; seconded by Ms. Dubin. The motion passed unanimously on a roll call vote.*

*Rev. Ritchie moved to approve the April 2011 office claims in the amount of \$3,356.91; seconded by Dr. Kirts. The motion passed unanimously on a roll call vote.*

### 8. BOARD MEMBER ISSUES

A. Strategic plan - chart summary - tabled

## **9. OFFICE REPORT**

Rev. Ritchie shared his observations of the ACMHAI meeting in Springfield that was attended by Ms. Luxton, Ms. Ostdick and Rev. Ritchie. Rev. Ritchie stated that he felt it was a worthwhile day and that the ACMHAI organization is a good resource to 708 board directors.

Ms. Luxton discussed the office report that was included in the board binder. Ms. Luxton reported that she felt things were going well in the office and that she stops in about once a week for paper signing or follow-up on any outstanding items.

## **10. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### Executive Committee:

Ms. Luxton reported that the committee met with Jerry Murphy of Inc708 and will be following up with him in the near future. Discussions include mentoring our board, consultation, or other opportunities. Ms. Ostdick attended the Inc708 open house for their 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Ms. Luxton received the draft contract from Bob Keller regarding consultation work with several of the agencies we fund. Ms. Luxton reported that there was no new information on the Gurler Street issue and that the Gordon Center was to receive a visit from the regional director's office.

The committee also discussed the Behavioral Healthcare Taskforce report and the response letter from our board. This letter was drafted from feed back at the last board meeting. The letter states that the CMHB has read it, reviewed it, discussed it, and concluded that the information relating to the closure of the behavioral healthcare unit and the impact on county residents is insufficient to guide any action on the part of the CMHB. The board is willing to reconsider additional information if it comes before our board. Before the letter is sent, Ms. Luxton asked the board members if they were in agreement as to what they wanted conveyed to the taskforce.

Ms. Dubin shared that she understood the board wanted to say that the report did not give the board much to move on.

Dr. Kirts shared that he had fought to keep the psych unit open and felt that the social services at the hospital have done a good job with the unit closed. Dr. Kirts said his recommendations for the taskforce would have been more simplistic, maybe visited social services at Kish Hospital and asked what they think, what they felt was needed, and how the CMHB could help. Dr. Kirts felt that there isn't much more to be done at this time.

Ms. Luxton further explained that the report did not include a compiled report from social workers at the hospital as to the situation then and now or stats from referring hospitals as to the impact. Ms. Luxton also said she understood that the CMHB was possibly looking at forming a committee on its own and that Ms. Dubin had volunteered to chair that committee.

### Finance Committee:

Mr. Lothson gave the Finance Committee report. The committee discussed the Ben Gordon Center HVAC bid process timeline and progress. Also discussed were the grant applications and Bob Keller's consultation service.

### Outcomes Committee:

Dr. Kirts gave the Outcomes Committee report. The committee decided that after the start of GY12, this committee will meet quarterly. Also discussed was the overlap between the Finance Committee and the Outcomes Committee and that this will have to be teased out in the near future to avoid duplication.

Ms. Luxton told the board that there will be an Agency Directors quarterly meeting this Thursday at 8:00 a.m. Ms. Luxton and Ms. Ostidick will be attending and discussing the grant process and outcomes. If any other board members wish to attend, they are invited.

## **11. OLD BUSINESS**

### A. Ben Gordon Center HVAC:

The Ben Gordon Center HVAC bids were discussed. Four bids were received. The lowest bidder is also the current provider of HVAC services at the Gordon Center.

*Mr. Lothson moved to accept the bid for the five (5) rooftop HVAC units from DeKalb Mechanical for \$53,503 to be taken from line item # 7722; seconded by Dr. Kirts. The motion passed unanimously on a roll call vote.*

### B. Grant application review:

The Finance Committee submitted suggestions for awards to agencies. The board reviewed each agency request. Ms. Luxton pointed out that there are greater needs in some areas than in others as shown by the Sheriff's department presentation. Also the issue of fees for the same services but in different agency grants needs to be discussed. The Finance Committee will review the suggestions from tonight's meeting. Grant dollar amounts will be finalized at the May board meeting.

### C. Bob Keller consultation services:

Ms. Luxton reviewed the draft contract that was received from Bob Keller. After discussion, the board agreed with the contract parameters.

*Mr. Lothson moved to accept the contract from Bob Keller for consulting services up to \$5,000; seconded by Rev. Ritchie. The motion passed unanimously on a roll call vote.*

## **12. NEW BUSINESS**

### A. Review by-laws:

Every two years the by-laws should be reviewed. Dr. Kirts suggested that there may be a need for a wording change in Article VIII, D. The board members will review the by-laws and discuss at the next meeting.

### B. Retreat and meeting schedule:

Ms. Luxton discussed postponing the June 20<sup>th</sup> meeting until the 27<sup>th</sup> and also having a retreat on 7/29. The board members agreed with the dates.

Ms. Luxton pointed out that a new slate of officers needs to be discussed and asked for an ad-hoc committee to be formed for that purpose. Dr. Kirts, Ms. Schoenfeld, and Ms. Dargatz volunteered. A new slate needs to be adopted and assume responsibilities by 7/1/11.

**13. CLOSED SESSION**

*Ms. Schoenfeld moved to go into closed session at 8:55 p.m.; seconded by Ms. Dubin. The motion passed unanimously on a voice vote.*

*Mr. Whelan moved to go back into open session at 9:26 p.m.; seconded by Rev. Ritchie. The motion passed unanimously on a voice vote.*

**14. ADJOURNMENT - Next Board meeting date: 5/16/11**

The meeting was adjourned at 9:27 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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Cynthia Luxton, President

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Kathy Ostdick, Recording Secretary

# DEKALB COUNTY COMMUNITY MENTAL HEALTH BOARD

**To: Cindy Luxton, John Rogalin, Donna Schoenfeld, Eileen Dubin,  
Thomas Kirts, Ken Ritchie, Jane Dargatz, Gary Lothson, Jeff Whelan**

From: Kathy Ostdick

Date: 4/27/11

Re: Notes from the DeKalb County Sheriff's Department presentation  
to the CMHB on 4/18/11 to be included with the 4/18/11 Board meeting minutes  
(recorded and typed by Kathy Ostdick)

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## DeKalb County Sheriff's Department presentation to CMHB 4/18/11

Lt. Joyce Klein presented a verbal report with handouts. Lt. Klein described the history of the mental health board funding jail services. Originally the counseling for the jail was provided by the Ben Gordon Center through a grant from the Mental Health Board. One counselor with limited hours consisted of the program from the Ben Gordon Center and was the norm for years. Group counseling included such things as cager rage. For the jail clients, that type of program is needed because clients typically have trouble controlling anger. For years, the counselor that the jail had was Tom Serve who did a great job of relating with the inmates and talked to them in a way they understood. The inmates could not pull the wool over his eyes. One thing he taught the clients in the cager rage group was journaling, so they could learn to identify their triggers.

We now receive funding directly to the Sheriff's Department rather than through the Ben Gordon Center. The jail contracts for mental health services and is able to obtain more services because administrative costs are kept very low due to the fact that Lt. Klein helps with the administrative portion as part of her job. They now have 2 counselors, one that comes during the week and one that comes on Saturday. They also have an LCSW that oversees the counselors and the program.

One thing that is very important and valuable to the jail is the crisis assessment and evaluation and the help the jail gets in handling those types of inmates. It is important to keep a handle on situations because there is typically overcrowding in the jail. This morning when Lt. Klein came in there were 147 inmates, 50 of those were being housed elsewhere, but there were still 97 in a jail that has a capacity of 89. What happens when there is overcrowding, the inmates get anxious, like kids cooped up all winter, and counseling becomes even more vital.

The jail seems to be getting more inmates that are suicidal. Since 7/1/10 (9 months), there have been 44 inmates that have come into the jail saying they have suicidal thoughts. In that same 9 month period, there were 90 inmates with diagnoses mental illnesses. On a daily basis, the jail is dealing with these issues.

Along with those issues, the jail deals with inmates being bound over from trial that needs to be housed at inpatient MH facilities. With the state cuts, it is more difficult to find beds for these inmates. Singer used to be the facility that took the inmates with MH issues, but their bed capacity is overcrowded. Singer feels that as long as these people have a bed (in the jail) that they can be put on a list for an open bed in Singer. Lt. Klein said that she would then have an inmate that was recommended for committal and who has been doctor certified for that diagnosis, but she has no bed to place that inmate at.

Then there is the situation that they call fit for trial. An attorney may believe that their client does not comprehend what is happening to him/her. So a court ordered evaluation is ordered, reports back to the court, and if the client is found unfit for trial, they will be remanded to the Department of Human Services. You would think that would be it but that is not how it works. Once Lt. Klein gets that order from the judge to remand to the DHS, the order is sent to DHS in Elgin. They then need to come out to do an evaluation. The problem comes back to bed space. This process used to take 2-3 weeks. It now takes over 2-3 months so these people just wait in the DeKalb County jail. There is an inmate in this situation today, 4/18/11, who received the judge's order on 12/6/10 and is still not transferred to a MH bed somewhere. Some of these situations get very difficult, psychotic behavior, feces spreading, unwilling to take medication, etc. This is what the jail deals with. Our counselors try to step in and do some type of counseling with this level of client and also try to give jail personnel suggestions on how to best handle these inmates.

This is a picture of who is in the jail. This year the jail tried to do something a little different. The jail worked out with a volunteer ministry to come in to run a program to teach dads. This ministry works in countless jail situations east of DeKalb running this program. Basically, this program teaches dads that if a dad is in jail, it is likely that a child will follow in those footsteps. This was a 10 week program and CMHB funding helped supplement it to bring it down to a real life perspective for these types of clients. There were actually 9 that graduate from this first program and received certificates. Inmates would like this program to come back and Lt. Klein got feedback from those 9 saying how helpful the program was.

Through counseling, the jail also offered an interviewing workshop. Teaching interview skills is a way to give the inmates hope and some tools to use when they get out. This also helps the inmates try to secure jobs for financial stability for themselves and their families.

Lt. Klein said that she knew that the CMHB had cut funding to agencies by 10% last. This year the county cut the Sheriff's department budget by 5%. Lt. Klein's budget comes from the county sheriff's budget. There were 4 positions eliminated as a result of that 5% cut. There was also a lot of belt tightening, no training this year, reduction in OT, not buying equipment, etc. The Sheriff has been a good supporter of the mental health programs and sees them as vital to the jail. If the CMHB funding is cut significantly or totally, there would not be a program at the jail at all. The jail clientele is certainly in need of help. Lt. Klein said that she tries to do as much as she can with no money. For instance, AA programs and GED programs.

The current counselors that the jail uses are very dedicated and the jail receives immediate response from the counselors which is needed in extreme cases like suicidal thoughts.

Lt. Klein reported that when Kishwaukee Hospital has a patient that the police bring in that is suicidal, they call the county jail and have the jail receive that patient and put them on suicide watch in the jail. Through the jail medical program, the medical director, Dr. Hess (who worked at Rosecrance for years), will see the suicidal inmates if needed.

Lt. Klein reported that since the CMHB dollars have been given directly to the jail, they have been able to add an additional counselor, which is greatly appreciated.

Ms. Luxton asked if there was a situation where the hospital gave you a client for suicide watch, would the jail be able to call the Gordon Center for assistance because she seemed to remember that they did participate. Lt. Klein replied that BGC used to participate when there needed to be a committal to Singer. What used to happen was that the inmate was taken to the hospital with 2 officers and they would wait in the waiting room for 6-8 hours or more. Lt. Klein stopped this process because two officers got hurt during one incidence because they waited so long that the inmate became violent and injured the officers.

That is when Lt. Klein contracted with Braden Counseling to come to the jail to give the certificate and BGC would come to the jail to do their part of the committal rather than going to the hospital. That worked for quite a few years until Singer insisted on full medical assessment of inmates. Sometime Singer will accept an inmate if they have been in the jail more than 24 hours, but if not then Singer needs the full medical work-up. Ms. Luxton asked if there were any BGC counselors that come to work with inmates at the jail and Lt. Klein replied no.

Ms. Luxton asked if these jail programs could get funding directly through the county. Lt. Klein replied that any jail referendums have never passed. The total Sheriff's department budget has to go for the 911 office, patrol officers, detectives, and the jail. All those critical offices are what the Sheriff has to consider when making reductions. In the 2011 county budget did not get any cuts because the need is so great at this time. If the sheriff were asked to find \$35,000 to replace the CMHB money, he would not be able to do that. He would have to let a person go, take money out of safety equipment, etc. Safety of the officers and the jail inmates is of great concern and Lt. Klein said she would hate to lose this funding.