

Note: These minutes are not official until approved by the Health & Human Services Committee at a subsequent meeting. Please refer to the meeting minutes when these minutes are approved to obtain any changes to these minutes.

HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF AUGUST 5, 2013

The Health & Human Services Committee of the DeKalb County Board met on Monday, August 5, 2013 at 6:30pm in the Administration Building's Conference Room East. Vice-Chairman Jeff Whelan called the meeting to order. Members present were John Emerson, Marc Johnson, Jeff Metzger, and Drek Tyson. Chairman Sally DeFauw was absent. A quorum was present. Ms. Michelle LaPage of the Ben Gordon Center and County Administrator Gary Hanson were also present.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

It was moved by Mr. Metzger, seconded by Mr. Johnson, and it was carried unanimously to approve the minutes of June 3, 2013.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

It was moved by Mr. Johnson, seconded by Mr. Tyson, and it was carried unanimously to approve the agenda.

PRESENTATION ON "THE LIVINGROOM PROJECT"

Ms. Michelle LaPage of the Ben Gordon Community Mental Health Center gave a presentation of one of Ben Gordon's newest programs in the community - "The Living Room Project". The Living Room is an acute crisis respite program for adults. It is housed in a building on the south side of DeKalb, close to Barb City Manor. This program acts as an alternative to going to the emergency room of the hospital. In addition to crisis intervention, clients will find a safe non-judgmental space, support from trained peer counselors, licensed clinicians and registered nurses, assistance with problem solving, on-site intakes for Ben Gordon, linkage with referrals for emergency, and healthy refreshments!

The committee asked several follow-up questions and expressed appreciation to the Ben Gordon Center for providing this program in the community. The committee thanked Ms. LaPage for her presentation and her efforts for getting this new program off the ground.

OTHER DISCUSSION

Mr. Whelan, who is the County Board's representative on the Community Mental Health Board, gave a brief update on the Mental Health Board and reported that a new director has been selected and should be on-the-job within a month. Discussion continued about the need for in-patient mental health services within the County. Mr. Metzger suggested that it might be appropriate to visit again with Kish Health Systems about offer that service. Mr. Metzger asked Mr. Whelan to take up that issue with the Mental Health Board to see if a discussion for in-patient services could be started. Mr. Whelan said that he would do that at the next meeting.

Mr. Metzger thanked Mr. Hanson for attending the meeting and acting as Recording Secretary during the medical leave of the Board's Secretary, Mary Supple.

ADJOURNMENT

It was moved by Mr. Metzger, seconded by Mr. Tyson, and it was carried unanimously to adjourn the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Jeff Whelan, Vice Chairman

Gary Hanson, Recording Secretary

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What is The Living Room?

The Living Room is a crisis respite program, the first of its kind in Northern Illinois.

The Living Room is a comfortable, non-clinical space that offers an alternative to hospital emergency rooms for adults experiencing overwhelming symptoms due to life circumstances. The goal of the program is to provide a calm and safe environment in which guests can resolve crises without more intensive intervention.

Operated by Ben Gordon Center, The Living Room, located at 631 S. First Street in DeKalb, is open Monday through Friday from 10:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.



The Living Room

*Located on Ben Gordon Center's
Community Support Campus*

631 South First Street
DeKalb, Illinois 60115
815-756-8501

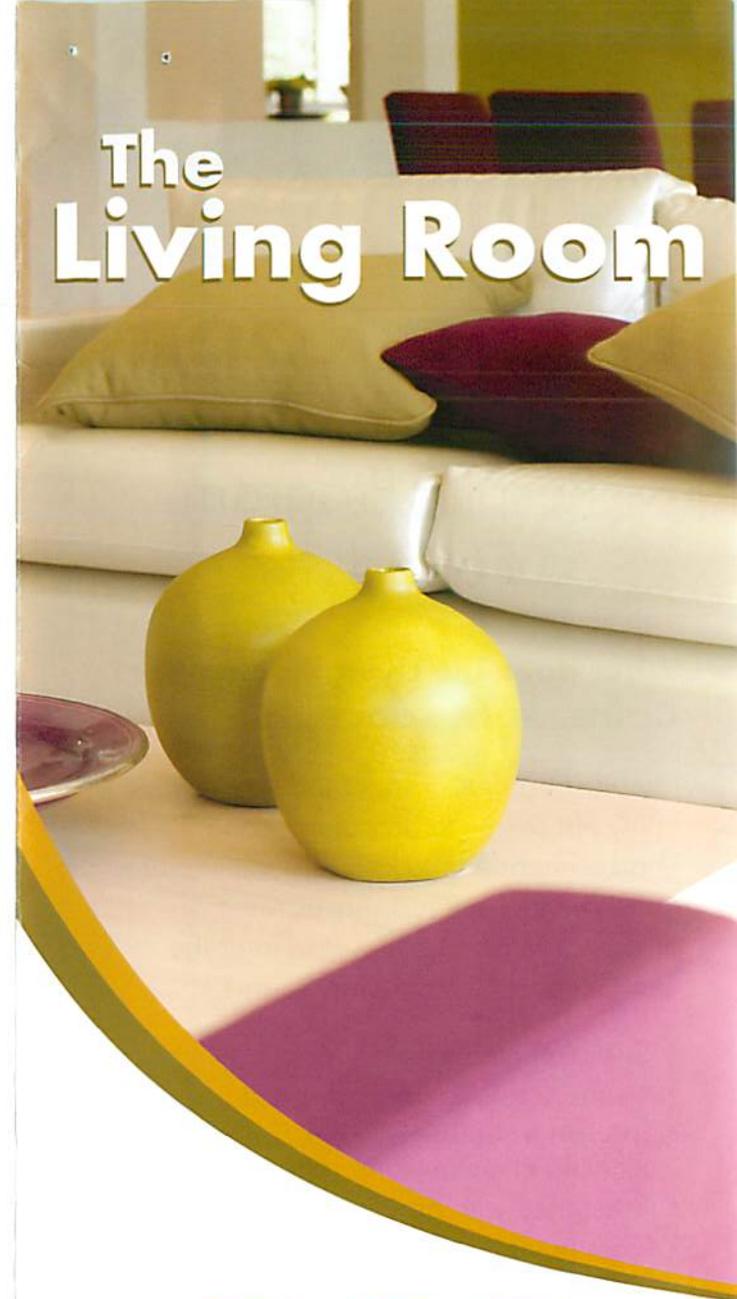
Monday through Friday
10:30 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.



12 Health Services Drive 100 Latham Street
DeKalb, IL 60115 Sandwich, IL 60548
Ph: 815.756.4875 Ph: 815.786.7544
Fx: 815.756.2944 Fx: 815.786.7580

Toll Free: 1.866.BGC.0111
www.bengordoncenter.org

The Living Room



www.bengordoncenter.org

TRUST THE EXPERTS IN BEHAVIORAL HEALTHCARE

The Living Room

An Acute Crisis Respite Program For Adults

What does The Living Room offer? *Calm, safe space...*

I am just not feeling right today, everything in my life seems to be going wrong, I wish I had someone to talk to. I don't want to go to the ER, that just makes me more anxious. Maybe I could stop in at the Ben Gordon Center Living Room??

- Crisis intervention
- A safe non-judgemental space
- Support from trained peer counselors, licensed clinicians and registered nurses
- Assistance with problem solving
- On-site intakes for Ben Gordon Center services
- Linkage with referrals for emergency housing, healthcare and food
- Healthy refreshments while in the Living Room



What can you expect when you come to The Living Room? *Practical Problem Solving...*

When you come to The Living Room, you will be greeted by a member of The Living Room program staff. A licensed therapist will assess your needs and collect preliminary information. A trained peer counselor will orient you to The Living Room and will provide you with support throughout your time here. The Living Room staff will assist you in coping with your immediate crisis. They will also provide useful resources for you to utilize.

If your circumstances cannot be resolved by the services we offer, we will refer you to other providers.

What makes The Living Room special? *Peer Support...*

Trained peer counselors with personal experience in managing crises and various life situations will provide support and mentoring with assistance from licensed staff.