

*Note: These minutes are not official until approved by the Health and 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.*

DeKalb County Government  
Sycamore, Illinois

**Health & Human Services Committee Minutes  
August 2, 2021**

The Health and Human Services Committee of the DeKalb County Board met on Monday, August 2, 2019 at 6:30 p.m. in the Legislative Center's Gathertorium in Sycamore, Illinois. Madam Chair Crawford called the meeting to order. Those Members present were Mr. Scott Campbell, Mrs. Karen Cribben, Mr. Bill Cummings, Ms. Maureen Little, Ms. Linda Slabon, and Chair Rukisha Crawford. Mr. Neill Mohammad was absent. A quorum was established with six Members present and one absent.

Others present were Deanna Cada, Jane Smith, Tracy Smith, and Mike Neuenkirchen.

**APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

**It was moved by Mr. Campbell, seconded by Mrs. Cribben and it was carried unanimously to approve the agenda as presented.**

**APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES**

**It was moved by Ms. Slabon, seconded by Mr. Cummings and it was carried unanimously to approve the minutes from the May 3, 2021 Committee Meeting.**

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

There were no public comments.

**APPROVAL OF VOLUNTARY ACTION CENTER PASS-THROUGH AGREEMENT**

Mr. Mike Neuenkirchen and Ms. Tracy Smith of Voluntary Action Center of Northern Illinois (VAC) joined the Committee to request an official Pass-Through Agreement between the County and VAC.

Mr. Mike Neuenkirchen, VP Operations, shared that for the past 20 years, VAC has provided non-urbanized public transportation services on behalf of the County of DeKalb through the auspices of the Federal 5311 and IDOT Transit Downstate Operating Assistance Program. Under this arrangement, DeKalb County is the recipient of the FTA and IDOT funding, which then passes-through those funds to VAC to operate the service. Additionally, VAC works with County Administration to assist in the administration of this program.

VAC and the County have successfully managed these transportation services for two decades with great success. However, this arrangement has been informal, conducted through a mutual understanding between the two entities.

Starting in 2021, however, IDOT is requiring 5311 grantee programs to have a formal agreement between counties and non-profit transit operators that defines roles and responsibilities between the operator and the grantee.

To that end, Mr. Neuenkirchen presented an operator agreement for the Committee's consideration. The provisions of the agreement are designed to formalize the arrangement that the County and VAC have operated under since 2001 and put them in compliance with IDOT requirements.

**Ms. Little moved to forward the Pass-Through Agreement to the full County Board recommending its approval. Mr. Campbell seconded the motion. Those voting yea were Mr. Campbell, Mrs. Cribben, Mr. Cummings, Ms. Little, Ms. Slabon, and Chair Crawford. All Members present voted yea. The motion carried unanimously by roll call vote.**

**COMMUNITY MENTAL HEALTH BOARD 2020 ANNUAL REPORT – [Link to full Report](#)**  
Community Mental Health Director Deanna Cada and Board President Jane Smith joined the Committee to present the DeKalb County Community Mental Health Board's 2020 Annual Report.

The DeKalb County Community Mental Health Board (CMHB) plans, evaluates, coordinates, and funds mental health services in DeKalb County. Areas of services include mental or emotional disorders, alcohol or drug dependence and developmental disabilities. The CMHB provides stewardship of tax payer dollars for the areas of funded service.

Ms. Cada reminded the Committee of the CMHB's important mission statement, *"Through leadership and funding, the DeKalb County Community Mental Health Board supports access to high quality behavioral healthcare services for residents of DeKalb County."*

Quarantine, social distancing, Zoom, PPE, lockdown, pandemic, Covid-19; these were the most popular words of 2020. Words that carry the weight of the world and words that we never even considered before the life-altering event that occurred in March 2020. 2020 started in an exciting way. For Grant Year 2021 (July 1, 2020-June 30, 2021) the CMHB embraced technology and moved to an online grant application system. Seven new organizations applied to the MHB for funding. Funding needs continued to exceed available funds by \$400,000 which required the MHB to make difficult funding decisions. The total Grant Year 2021 allocation was \$2,501,300.

In March, everything changed when the world was thrown into the Covid-19 Global Pandemic. The State of Illinois was ordered into lockdown on March 20, 2020 by Governor J.B. Pritzker. While some areas of the economy slowed to a crawl, other areas rose to the designation of essential and the work of the Mental Health Board became a critical support for essential behavioral healthcare services. In an effort to preserve services and support agencies the MHB hosted a number of calls with funded agencies to determine areas of need. Concerns ranged from how to connect with clients and individuals, how to ramp up for telehealth services, access to cleaning supplies and PPE, funding concerns and how to get information about services to the community. Agencies also shared their fears and anxiety about their safety and how to care for others while caring for themselves.

The MHB made the decision to continue funding all agencies at pre-Covid 19 levels for grant and fee-for-service payments. This allowed agencies to retain employment of critical staff members and to spend time developing new procedures and strategies on how to continue their essential work. The Board designated emergency funding and worked with agencies on how best to access and utilize those funds. MHB staff partnered with the Kishwaukee United

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Way to procure difficult to obtain cleaning supplies and PPE and delivered these critical supplies directly to the agencies' doors. The MHB provided emergency funding relief to 12 partner agencies totaling approximately \$200,000. Funded items included counseling tools and social media videos related to telementalhealth, laptops, hazard pay, technology needs, food for vulnerable populations, and general operating costs. The MHB proactively sought partnership with the Regional Office of Education to fund support services for teachers and school personnel. The MHB heard the concerns of funded agency administrators and developed a Self-Care series in partnership with Dr. Toni Tollerud to support Mental Health professionals. The MHB was involved with the creation and participation of the DeKalb County Covid 19 Relief Fund Advisory Committee, a funding consortium hosted by the DeKalb County Community Foundation. The DeKalb County COVID-19 Response Fund was a new pass-through fund created in collaboration with various local funding partners. The Fund's purpose was to be a depository for contributions in response to the effects of COVID-19 in DeKalb County. Grants distributed addressed preparedness, response, recovery, and/or rebuilding efforts as the pandemic evolved.

In an effort to support the DeKalb County community the MHB hosted "Taking Care of Ourselves & Others" A Virtual Behavioral Health Public Forum on May 14, 2020. The event had a number of local experts sharing information about self-care for youth and families, managing addiction and where to find resources and services.

In May, the entire country was impacted by civil unrest following the murder of George Floyd in Minneapolis, MN. The MHB responded to the social injustice by participating with the County of DeKalb on two Community Forums on Race Relations. The forums resulted in a number of suggestions to County Inclusion Ad-Hoc Committee, made up of MHB members and community members to inform the work of intentionally incorporating diversity, inclusion and equity into the mission and work of the MHB.

Starting in Grant Year 2020 the MHB funded a police/social worker liaison position at Ben Gordon Center, a part of Northwestern Medicine. The goal of the police/social worker liaison is to provide wrap around service to individuals/families within the community to improve quality of life. The liaison splits time between City of Sycamore Police Department (10 hours/week) and City of DeKalb Police Department (30 hours/week). The program continues to grow as both departments learn how to work with the liaison efficiently. The liaison spends time on crisis management, referrals to other services, and long-term support as needed.

Ms. Cada additionally provided status updates of the MHB's one-year and three-year goals. The Committee thanked Ms. Cada for her high-level overview and all the work she and the MHB do for the DeKalb County community.

**It was moved by Ms. Slabon, seconded by Ms. Little, and it was carried unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 7:22 p.m.**

Respectfully submitted,

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Rukisha Crawford, Chair

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Tasha Sims, Recording Secretary

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# DeKalb County Community Mental Health Board

2020 Annual Report Presentation to Health & Human Services Committee  
August 2, 2021

8/2/2021

## Thank You to Health & Human Services Committee

- The support of the Health & Human Services Committee and the Full County Board is greatly appreciated by the Board Members and Staff of the DeKalb County Community Mental Health Board.

*Thank You*

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8/2/2021

## DCCMHB Mission

Through leadership and funding, the DeKalb County Community Mental Health Board supports access to high quality behavioral healthcare services for residents of DeKalb County.



8/2/2021

## 2021 DeKalb County Community Mental Health Board Members



8/2/2021

### Highlights from 2020 – Impacts of Covid 19

- Numerous contact and Zoom Meeting with funded agencies to preserve services
- Provided PPE and Cleaning Supplies to partners agencies in conjunction with Kishwaukee United Way.
- Provided emergency funding relief to 12 partner agencies totaling approximately \$200,000 to cover counseling tools, general operating costs, food/basic needs for clients, technology for telehealth and hazard pay.
- Hosted Community Mental Health Town Hall – May 14, 2021

8/2/2021

### Highlights from 2020 – Impacts of Covid 19

- Funded Regional Office of Education to provide support services for teachers and support personnel, as well as families and students.
- Self-Care series developed and offered to behavioral healthcare professionals in partnership with Dr. Toni Tollerud.
- Partnership and participation in the DeKalb County Covid 19 Relief Fund Advisory Committee – A funding consortium hosted by the DeKalb County Community Foundation.

8/2/2021

### Highlights from 2020 – Social Justice

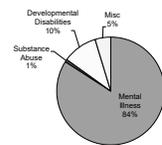
- Participated and provided logistics of two Community Forums on Race Relations for DeKalb County Board.
- Funded a police/social worker liaison position at Ben Gordon Center, part of Northwestern Medicine that benefits DeKalb & Sycamore Police Departments.
- Creation of a Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, Belonging Ad Hoc Committee of the Board.

8/2/2021

### Grant Year 2021 – July 1, 2020 – June 30, 2021 Program Allocations of \$2,501,300.00 Funding for 50 different programs at 22 different agencies

Many programs serve more than one need. This breakout uses the primary need served in each category. The miscellaneous category includes programs such as transportation, which serves all service groups.

Mental Health	2,104,400
Substance Use Disorder	20,000
Developmental Disability	260,000
Supportive Service	<u>116,600</u>
Total	2,501,300



8/2/2021

### Community Involvement

- Association of Community Mental Health Associations of Illinois (ACMHA)
- DeKalb County Juvenile Justice Council
- DeKalb County Nonprofit Partnership
- DeKalb County Nonprofit Partnership Internship Program
- Housing Authority of County of DeKalb – Commissioner
- Many other committees, workshops and trainings

8/2/2021

### One Year Plan 2020 – 2021 Status Update

- 1) Improve access to services for 0 – 7-year-old children in DeKalb County
  - a) Determine benefits/challenges to development of a local system of care for young children.
    - i) In partnership with NIU Department of Public Health, conduct a survey of community resources and interview school administrators. COMPLETED
    - ii) Support creation or promotion of a method of access to information for parents and professionals. Review possibilities around websites, social media, mobile apps, information hubs – Summer 2020.
      1. Cost Website Creation/Social Media Creation/Support: IN PROGRESS

8/2/2021

### One Year Plan 2020 – 2021 Status Update

- a) Proactively working with partner organizations to provide quality behavioral healthcare in areas of identified need for 0 – 7-year-old children. IN PROGRESS
  - i) Develop proactive funding opportunity for organizations that engage in evidenced-based programming for youth 0-7 and/or their parents – Summer 2022.
  - ii) Support of peer mentoring models as identified through Comprehensive Needs Analysis for parents of young children – Summer 2022.
  - iii) Support of development of meaningful outcomes/goals of identified and supported programs - Spring 2022.
  - iv) Explore opportunities to impact public policy around development of a system of care model for children/adolescents in Illinois – Fall/Winter 2021.

8/2/2021

### One Year Plan 2020 – 2021 Status Update

- 1) Assist with mental health/law enforcement initiatives with DeKalb County law enforcement partners.
  - a) Support Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) training for local law enforcement partners.
    - i) Support a local CIT Training that benefits law enforcement officers from all DeKalb County law enforcement departments  
COMPLETED ONE TRAINING JANUARY 2021  
CONSIDER COMPLETED

8/2/2021

### One Year Plan 2020 – 2021 Status Update

- a) Explore and assist with development of a CIT Team/Super-utilizers group to convene on a regular basis.
  - i) Work with the BJA Stakeholders group to develop a meaningful on-going team to identify and discuss options for assistance. Opportunity to periodically provide funding for difficult super-utilizer situations Summer 2019.
- COMPLETED

8/2/2021

### One Year Plan 2020 – 2021 Status Update

- a) Develop and implement a Mental Health/Law Enforcement Grant application and process to encourage local law enforcement departments to think broadly about opportunities to support mental health initiatives of their departments
- RESULTED IN DEVELOPMENT OF FAMILY WELLNESS PROGRAM – CURRENTLY BENEFITTING SYCAMORE POLICE DEPARTMENT, DEKALB FIRE DEPT., SYCAMORE FIRE DEPT - COMPLETED**

8/2/2021

### One Year Plan 2020 – 2021 Status Update

- 1) Develop strategies to address suicide prevention/intervention/post-vention work
  - a) Explore community-wide education opportunities/program curriculums Winter 2020 – DEVELOPMENT OF QPR INITIATIVE – IN PROGRESS
  - b) Convene agency partners to develop a system of care around suicide in the community Fall 2020 – IN PROGRESS

8/2/2021

### One Year Plan 2020 – 2021 Status Update

- 1) Intentionally incorporate diversity, inclusion and equity into the mission and work of the DCCMHB.
  - a) Developing the knowledge, shared language, and shared understanding of systematic inequities. COMPLETED
  - b) Conduct a review of organizational policies, procedures and guidelines to identify and dismantle inequities. NOT STARTED
  - c) Explore and address how systematic inequities impact the work and the mission of the Board; including using an equity lens in grantmaking and processes. IN PROGRESS

8/2/2021

### Three Year Plan 2019 – 2021 Status Update

- 1) Exploration of methods to increase pool of mental health professionals such as psychiatrists, advance practice nurses, bilingual therapists, etc. available in DeKalb County.
  - a. Review existing programs utilized in other underserved areas such as loan forgiveness programs Summer 2021.
  - b. Offer professional development opportunities to build capacity in existing workforce Ongoing.

8/2/2021



Happy to answer your questions ☺

8/2/2021