

From: Lynn O'Shea, IMHPAC Secretary

Sent: Tuesday, August 22, 2017 11:08 AM

To: Andrea Cooke [<mailto:amrcooke@gmail.com>]; Shustitzky, John <jwshust@gmail.com>

Cc: Ron Melka <rmelka@lyonsts.com>; aj.french@giftofvoice.com; Diana.knaebe@illinois.gov; Furnas, Joanne <Jfurnas@the-association.org>; Stead, Cheryl <Cstead@the-association.org>

Subject: Resignation & New Member and Secretary Nomination

It is with mixed emotions that I am offering my resignation from the Illinois Mental Health Council, effective December 1, 2017. I am stretched a bit too thin with the undertaking of AID's \$2.5 million Capital Campaign, continued agency growth and future retirement planning. It has been an honor to serve as a member of the IMHPAC for the past 15 years. I will certainly miss the Council, especially the engagement and commitment members bring to their Council roles.

And now for the good news! Joanne Furnas, AID's Vice President for Behavioral Health Services and I have discussed IMHPAC membership and service as Council Secretary. Joanne is very willing to fulfill both roles if elected by the Council. My Executive Assistant, Cheryl Stead, would continue to provide the Council Secretarial support she began last month; and I am willing to assist Joanne as needed during the transition process. I would hope that 60 days is sufficient for the Development Committee and Board to make a decision on Joanne's nomination/election, with upcoming Council meeting dates on September 7 and November 2. Joanne attended the last Council meeting in my place, so you likely have already had an opportunity to meet her. Let me tell you a little bit about her background.

Joanne's first career position was as a Patrol and Community Service Police Officer, responsible for DUI enforcement, Community Education and Crime prevention. After 6 years in law enforcement, Joanne spent the next decade as a Behavior Specialist working with At Risk Students in School District 33, responsible for development of Behavioral Plans, as well as student instruction, discipline and intervention. Joanne's next career move before accepting a position with AID, was as Program Coordinator for Family-Based Services at an alcohol and substance use treatment program in Aurora, where she was responsible for parent education and training services.

Joanne began her employment with AID in 2005, as the Director of Crisis & Outreach Services, and by 2015, was promoted to her current position as Vice President of Behavioral Health Services. Under her leadership, AID has expanded AID's out-patient services to more than a dozen locations including offices in the Aurora, Elgin, DeKalb and Sycamore Housing Authorities, initiated 3 Community Support Teams, increased Supported Living services assisting more than 400 individuals with serious mental illness in their own homes/apartments and 40 individuals in 24 hour supervised residential settings, initiated AID's Children & Family mental health program, and expanded Crisis services to include several Talk Lines for Teens and Adult consumers. More than 36,000 calls are received, and 32,000 Outreach calls are made each year to/by AID's extensive Crisis Line, Intervention and emergency dispatch program. Her staff work with the Kane County Mental Health Treatment Alternative Court has recently resulted in funding for a re-entry program through the Kane County Sheriff's Office. Joanne originated AID's Victim's Services program with the Aurora Police Department, which has now expanded to nearly all major cities in Kane County, with new contracts in McHenry and DuPage Counties. Dispatched through the Crisis Line, AID Victims Services staff accompany police on homicide, suicide and domestic violence calls, supporting victims while perpetrators are managed by police personnel. Joanne's commitment to consumer advocacy is among her many strengths.

Education: Master of Arts, Emergency & Disaster Management
Master of Arts, Social Work
Bachelor of Arts, Behavioral Science
Associate in Applied Science, Criminal Justice

Certifications: Critical Incident Stress Management (ICISF)
400-Hour Basic Training for Law Enforcement Officers

Community Involvement:

NAMI Board of Directors for Kane, DeKalb & Kendall Counties

Board member, Community Behavioral Health Association (CBHA)

Member of the Batavia Rotary and Aurora Exchange Club

Received Aurora YWCA's prestigious "Woman of Distinction" Award

Kidney Donor for someone who she read about in the newspaper who was in desperate need of a kidney transplant (who does that?)

Joanne is a committed, energetic, "Can-Do" person with a great sense of humor. She approaches every new opportunity with a smile and finesse. She's a mom, step mom, homeless animal rescuer, and wife to a lucky Principal of an alternative education high school near Aurora. It is with great pleasure, I am placing Joanne's name in nomination for IMHPAC membership as well as the Council Secretary. I am confident you will find her to be a great asset to the Council.

I'm happy to answer any questions you may have.

Lynn O'Shea

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