

# Illinois Mental Health Planning and Advisory Council Minutes

November 7, 2019

## **Attendees from Council in Chicago:**

Ray Connor, Thane Dykstra, Stephanie Frank, Fred Friedman, Ron Melka, Margo Rothlisberger, Dr. Sidney Weissman

## **Attendees from Council by Telephone:**

Andrea Cooke, Sondra Frazier, Belinda Gunning, Dennis Hopkins, Tracy Hopkins, Joan Lodge, Katie Mahoney, Irene O'Neill, John Shustitzky, Christine Walker, Sarah Wiemeyer

## **Attendees from the Council in Springfield:**

Terry Carmichael, Tanya Cooley, Shirley Davis, AJ French, Lee Ann Reinert,

## **Resource Personnel:**

Lisa Betz, Diana Knaebe, Brock Dunlap, Irwin Kerzner, Brad Hughes, Dave Roberts, Meredith Kiso, Chris Stohr, Shelly Richardson

## **Call to Order:**

The Meeting was called to order by Margo Roethlisberger at 12:35 p.m. Attendance was recorded.

## **Approval of Minutes**

It was noted that there were two typos in the minutes that require correction. Ron M moved to approve the September 5, 2019 minutes with corrections. Terry Carmichael seconded the motion. Fred Friedman, AJ French, Andrea Cooke abstain, all others in favor. The Motion carries and minutes have been approved with the recommended changes.

## **Committee Reports:**

### **• Development Committee Report:**

Ron Melka mentioned that everyone should have the October 3, 2019 minutes from the meeting which reflect the recommended changes to the by-laws. Mr. Melka reported that Julius Mercer and Norwil Frial-Lopez have submitted written resignation due to extenuating circumstances. Mr. Melka then noted that elections will be held during 'New Business' as stated on the agenda.

The changes recommended to the by-laws are as follows, 1. Add mission and vision on page one. 2. Change to current edition of Robert's Rules of Order on page four. 3. We do not have a finance committee leaving DHS responsible for record keeping and issuance of checks on page 5. 4. A member with 50% unexcused absences in a year could be removed from the committee, which is subject to a ruling by the council on the last page. No other council members offered any other recommendations. Mr. Melka submitted those changes for approval. Dr. Weissman motioned to approve the revised by-laws. A vote was taken. All members are in favor without opposition or abstention. A copy of the updated by-laws will be sent to all council members as approved by the council today.

Five individuals were contacted by Ron Melka regarding continued membership with the council. John Shustitzky and Robin Dawn McGinnis' terms will expire and will not be staying on the council. Cindy Daxenbichler, Dennis Hopkins and Ron Melka would like to continue as members.

No nominations were submitted to replace Matt Perry as Co-Chair of the council. We will take nominations by the floor during elections.

Ron Melka, Fred Friedman, Ray Connor, Nanette Larson and Andrea Cooke are nominated as committee members for next year.

- **Adult Inpatient Committee Report:**

Andrea Cooke shared the report. The committee reviewed the report of the mental health beds that was given to them by Dan Rothberg. A behavioral health task force has done a study on people in need of services in relation to facilities available to them. The report will be shared with all council members and will be added to the next meeting's agenda under 'New Business'.

It was noted that any relevant documents must be forwarded to Lee Ann Reinert no later than the Monday prior to the IMHPAC meeting.

- **Justice Committee Report:**

AJ French reported that Tanya Cooley in region four and her counterpart in region 3 met with someone at the prison system and they have an individual interested in completing the WRAP facilitator training.

Trina Hedges from the Illinois Mental Health Collaborative went to a southern Illinois prison where they did a wellness training for their clinical staff. AJ pointed out that it was encouraging to see the Justice Department taking interest in recovery support.

AJ French will follow up with Chris Stohr regarding contacting the county jail for a third time to ask them to allow Gift of Voice to do WRAP classes in the jail.

There was a discussion regarding a question that Ms. French received via email asking how someone in pre-trial could get referred to Mental Health Court and how one would know their public defender is acting in their best interest. Fred Friedman shared that CIAC in Chicago presented recommendation to Mayor Lightfoot. Ron Melka pointed out that it is dependent on the county and what specialty courts are available. The Justice Committee will look at making recommendations for statewide changes in the justice system.

- **Child & Adolescent Committee Report:**

No report

Shirley Davis is interested in joining this committee.

**DMH Report:**

Tonya Cooley must resign her position on the council as she is now an employee of DMH.

All members received communications about Ethics and Sexual Harassment Training. Anyone that is not a state employee must complete both trainings. Instructions on how to set up your account and take the trainings are in the email. The trainings are recorded and Lee Ann Reinert runs a report to see who has completed the trainings. If you haven't done so already, please complete the trainings. If anyone is having a problem with the website, contact the helpline. AJ French pointed out that taking the trainings may count for CEUs in some cases. She also mentioned that a council member gets 12 CEUs every 2 years.

Lee Ann Reinert is part of a team developing a training that is scheduled to start early next year to train people on the use of the GATA (Grant Accountability and Transparency Act) system. This should enable peer run agencies to be more competitive.

The shortage of Psychiatrists at Madden was discussed. Meredith Kiss and Dr. Brad Hughes and Dave Roberts attended the meeting for resource on this subject. Currently Madden has 5 staff and 2 vacancies yet to be filled. A possible candidate will fill one of those vacancies. It was pointed out that there is a shortage of Psychiatrists not only across the state but nationally. Dr. Weissman suggests there is an internal issue at Madden that is contributing to the difficulty getting staff but noted that he was pleased to hear that steps are being taken to improve the shortage at Madden. Dr. Weissman requests new data be distributed so that the council can see what is going on currently.

**IHFS Report:**

No report

**New Business:**

There was discussion about peer operated organizations getting reimbursed for services, including WRAP classes. AJ French asked DMH to assist in encouraging or facilitating a meeting with them, peer operated organizations and managed care companies. Fred Freidman suggested a member of the council could make a motion that would be voted on in order to make a recommendation to the state. Ms. French would like more information regarding funding before making a motion.

**Election of Members:**

Members up for re-election include Cindy Daxenbichler, Dennis Hopkins and Ron Melka. Debra Sheppard would like to be voted in as a new member of the council. There were no questions, concerns or comments. A vote was taken on all members. All are in favor with no opposition or abstentions. Debra wasn't able to come to the meeting today but will be at the next meeting.

**Nomination for a consumer Co-Chair:**

AJ French nominated Shirley Davis. Shirley accepted the nomination. A vote was taken. All are in favor with no opposition or abstentions. The group welcomed Shirley as the new Co-Chair of the council.

**Development Committee Nominations:**

Ron Melka, Fred Freidman, Ray Connor, Nanette Larson and Andrea Cooke were voted on. All are in favor with no opposition or abstentions.

**Public Comment:**

Rebecca Branchill of the Illinois Dignity Coalition asked what members of the public can do to support those that experience the imbalance of availability of services between public and private insurance.

The subject of peer operated service was mentioned. This discussion will continue in the next meeting.

**Adjournment**

Motion to adjourn was made at 2:40 p.m. by Ron Melka. Motion was seconded by Ray Connor. Meeting adjourned.

**Next Meeting:** Scheduled for January 9, 2020 – 12:30 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Thane Dykstra  
IMHPAC Secretary