

ILLINOIS MENTAL HEALTH PLANNING AND ADVISORY COUNCIL

Meeting of the Development Committee - Thursday April 30, 2020, 3:00 PM

Via Webex:

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Meeting Phone number: +1-415-655-0002 US Toll

- I. **Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order by Ronald Melka at 3:03 pm.

In attendance: Co Chairs Ron Melka and Fred Freedman; Committee members Ray Connor and Andrea Cooke; DMH staff Lee Ann Reinert and Courtney Aidich.

Absent: Nanette Larson.

- II. **Approval of Agenda:** Ray moved; Andrea seconded that the agenda was approved as presented. The vote was 3 ayes and one abstention. Motion carried.

- III. **Approval of Minutes of the October 3, 2019, Meeting:** Motion by Ray, second by Fred to approve the minutes as presented. Motion carried.

- IV. **Resignations:** Ron reported that he received no resignations since the last meeting.

- V. **Applications for new membership:** Ron reported that there is one application from Professor Christopher Joseph Stohr. Professor Stohr is a highly acclaimed Professor of Geology at Eastern Illinois University and a resident of Urbana Illinois.

He has submitted his application as the National Coordinator of Grow in Illinois. As stated in his application, The GROW In Illinois mutual help [peer-to-peer] counseling organization is run by peers recovering from mental illness. Some have been hospitalized. There are several GROW groups in Chicago [4] and downstate Illinois [7] who employ the group method, program, and friendship to help sufferers recover relationships with family and friends, return to volunteer or paid work, and personal growth to maturity.

GROW In Illinois has community, jail, and [planned] hospital groups for those recovering from mental illnesses inside and outside institutions. The GROWers report reduced need for hospitalization, reduced need for medication, and recovery from mental illness. His group would like to exchange information and learn about successful [and struggling] mental health programs, how to reduce stigma, and support those with 'problems in living.'

According to our by-laws new members are elected by the full membership at the fall meeting in November; however, the bylaws allow for the Development Committee to Recommend membership at any time to fill a vacancy. After discussion, it was the decision of the Committee to elect Prof. Stohr now rather than wait, and have him fill the unexpired term of Matt Perry. Motion by Fred to accept Prof. Stohr to fill the

unexpired Term of Matt Perry. Seconded by Ray. Ayes were unanimous. The Committee recommends that the full IMHPAC membership elect Prof. Stohr as a member.

- VI. **Recruitment:** Ron continued the discussion. At the same time we introduce any new members at the fall meeting, per our bylaws, we need to confirm whether members with expiring terms are willing to continue on IMHPAC, and vote on them as part of the annual slate at that time. We will be contacting each member whose term is expiring to confirm whether they will continue their membership. Once we confirm that, we will know how many vacancies we may have to fill. The Committee will report back to the membership the status at our next meeting.
- VII. **Public Comment:** Fred asked each member how they were holding up during the pandemic and all wished each of us well in this challenging time.
- VIII. **Adjournment:** a motion for adjournment was made by Ray, seconded by Andrea. The motion carried unanimously at 3:31 pm.