

Adult Inpatient Committee Meeting Minutes
Illinois Mental Health Planning and Advisory Council

February 22, 2021

Co-Chairs:

Dennis Hopkins, Psy.D.

Andrea Cooke, Ph.D.

Present: Patty Johnstone, Shirley Davis, Andrea Cooke, Dennis Hopkins, Sid Weissman, and James Kellerman.

The meeting was called to order at 11:03 am by Andrea Cooke.

Sid Weissman informed the committee that he had finalized the letter to Director Albert that was presented at the January 2021 IMHPAC meeting requesting that DMH find a way to make available the number of mental health beds in Illinois on an ongoing basis. The letter was both emailed and sent by U.S. mail to Director Albert and a copy was sent to Governor Pritzker by U.S. mail.

Dennis Hopkins expressed concern that there are no consequences for hospitals not giving the correct numbers of staffed beds they have available to avoid taking patients who either are on Medicaid or have no insurance at all.

Sid Weismann stated that perhaps the state of Illinois could make hospitals live up to the part of their contract's charity provision to help give incentive to them to accurately report staffed bed numbers.

There was also discussion about the new 988 number being set up by the federal government to aid people in a mental health crisis which will be implemented here in Illinois. This new number will connect callers to local help near them. A small part of the money to set up the 988 number in the states is coming from SAMSHA. The rest of the money must come from the states.

Dennis Hopkins also expressed concern that there need to be advocates for people caught up in the justice system who have mental health issues. Right now the Department of Corrections is expected to provide mental health services and they are not really equipped to do this. People with mental health problems should not end up in the justice system.

Meeting adjourned at 11:48 am.