

IMHPAC Adult Inpatient Committee Minutes
Illinois Mental Health Planning and Advisory Council
October 19, 2020

Attendees: Andrea Cooke, Shirley Davis, Patricia Johnstone

Andrea called the meeting to order at 11:05am. The group decided to revisit our previous topic of the mental health bed database. We decided to try to get help from the Mandel Legal Aid Clinic at the University of Chicago in drafting a letter to the Illinois legislature about making admissions information a mandatory process. We also talked about how the state employees that Director Knaebe appointed to our committee now don't respond to our invitations to the meeting and don't participate anymore. Patty noted that the state will weigh in on our proposals at the IMHPAC meetings but won't show up to our meetings to provide input on what is feasible. We can make recommendations, but there are no state employees to see that we are on the right track and that things are being followed through.

We want to know the new director's stand on this issue. We don't want to keep beating our heads against the wall. We need direction from the state. We should have on our committee at least one liaison from the state. Before there were four state employees on our committee.

We also talked about absenteeism from the committee of our own IMHPAC members. We discussed that we have to see what volunteer work is realistic to expect our committee members. We agreed that we would like to ask Director Albert to appoint one person from the state to be on our committee. One of our members was going to write a letter about the database to go out to some agency which might be able to help us. He has not been able to, so we want to revisit if it is a feasible thing to ask of him, given that he is so busy.

Patty said one challenge is that the state thinks we are stuck on one issue. We just want a resolution to it. Shirley said that the first order of business is to get someone from the state appointed to our committee. She said they shot down our idea, but did not offer anything in its place.

Shirley made a motion to adjourn. Patty seconded it. Andrea adjourned the meeting at 11:52am.